



# The Cocoa Snapshot 2023-2024

*Improving the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and their communities*



## *What is Cocoa Horizons?*

Cocoa is grown predominantly in tropical regions by smallholder farmers. Its cultivation often faces challenges such as low productivity, environmental degradation, and socio-economic vulnerabilities among farming communities. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that promotes sustainability while securing a reliable cocoa supply chain.

In 2015, Barry Callebaut established the Cocoa Horizons Foundation with the vision to drive cocoa farmer prosperity while fostering deforestation-free cocoa production and safeguarding human rights.

The program operates across seven countries and is implemented by Barry Callebaut entities. In Côte d'Ivoire, Cocoa Horizons also collaborates with Touton, Sucden, and ETG. These partnerships strengthen efforts to secure cocoa bean volumes while promoting a shared commitment to sustainability.

**Impact and transparency** are at the core of our activities; that's why through our annual audited report, we share how the funds are spent to achieve tangible results for farming communities.

## *How do we drive change?*

To drive change, we leverage collaboration and innovation by:

- Working with **experts and pioneering partners** to build on our collective strengths;
- Leveraging data and innovative solutions to **measure our impact and increase our efficiency**;
- Targeting the Foundation's expenditure towards the most needed **activities**;
- Leveraging our **boots on the ground** interacting directly with farmers to learn and promote necessary changes;
- Helping **drive demand** for sustainable cocoa by enabling our brand partners to engage with their consumers.

To access the all our reports, follow this link:

<https://www.cocoahorizons.org/reports>



By partnering with Cocoa Horizons, you support the UN Sustainable Development Goals:  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>

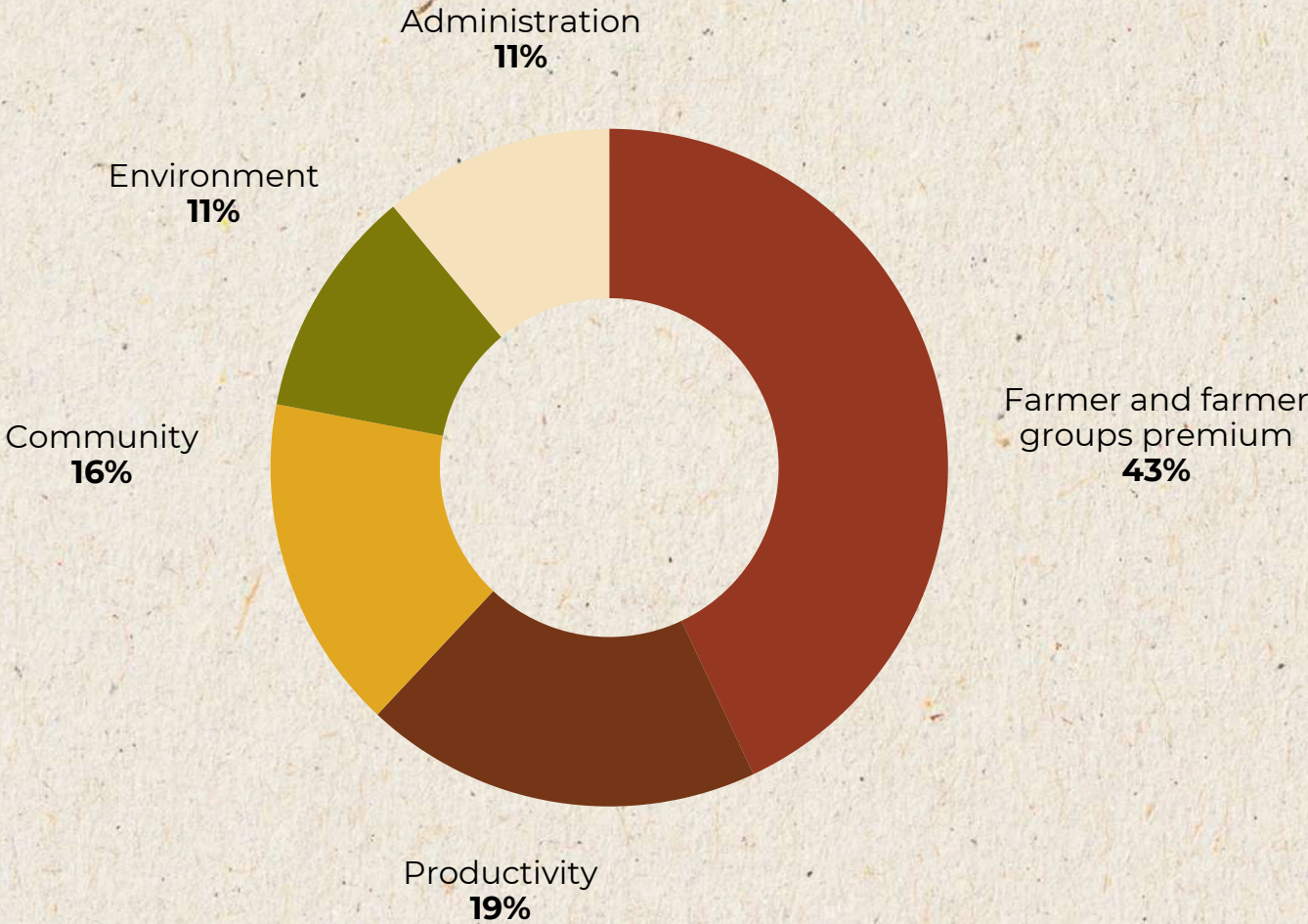


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# Our 2023/24 financial journey

(in CHF)

## Income allocations\*



Cocoa Horizons  
Program income

43,513,872

We only fund activities that support the Cocoa Horizons Foundation’s purpose, that’s why we invest in the areas of productivity, community, and environment in addition to farmer premiums.

This section provides details on the amount of income and expenses for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

- Our activities were funded by a combination of:
- Funds received from customers who pay a premium when purchasing Horizons cocoa and chocolate products;
  - A CHF 4 million donation from Barry Callebaut;
  - Unspent balances brought forward from the 2022/23 fiscal year.

The activities are implemented by Barry Callebaut employees and other partners.

Disclaimer: Premiums paid to farmers and farmer groups are based upon the volume of beans sourced, whilst expenditure in relation to the other areas is performed at the discretion of the Cocoa Horizons Foundation.

Cocoa Horizons  
Income expenses

45,169,769

Farmer and farmer groups premium

19,435,722

Productivity expenses

8,705,600

Community expenses

7,269,374

Environment expenses

4,776,237

Administrative expenses

4,982,836

\*Actual allocations may vary by +/- 5-10% based on local conditions and situational specifics.

# Key Global Highlights

## Traceability and Compliance

Expanding Traceability: 211,201 farmers delivered cocoa with full data, representing 91% of farmers delivering to Cocoa Horizons, bringing us closer to achieving 100% traceability by 2025.

## Farmer Productivity and Support

Pre-Harvest Interventions: The number of farmers supported with pre-harvest activities more than doubled, reaching 35,877 farmers, providing essential inputs like pruning and fertilizer application.

## Environmental Progress

PES Incentives: Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) incentivizes farmers to care for shade trees by providing financial rewards for successful tree maintenance. In 2024, CHF 720,817 was distributed to farmers - a 453% increase - rewarding them for successful tree care and carbon removals.

## Human Rights Development

Child Protection Efforts: New approach piloted with the Farm Observation Surveys to enhance child safeguarding systems, aligning with global human rights standards.

### TRACEABILITY

91%

farmers delivered cocoa with full data\*

### PROSPERING FARMERS

68%

cocoa farmers above the WB International poverty line of US2,15/day\*

### EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

95%

farmer groups in our direct supply chain covered by our child labor monitoring and/or remediation activities\*

### THRIVING NATURE

88%

cocoa demonstrated not to be contributing to deforestation\*

272k

tons of carbon removals achieved (in CO2e)

\* 100% by December 31, 2025

# The farmers behind Cocoa Horizons

To better understand the 356,011 farmers we work with and their daily realities, we leverage homemade surveys and detailed studies conducted in collaboration with Agri-Logic. These studies provide valuable insights into the socio-economic conditions of farming communities and the challenges they face. This data ensures that our initiatives are closely aligned with the needs of farmers, enabling tailored interventions that effectively address their priorities.

## KEY DATA AND FACTS

356,011

COH farmers

231,518

farmers delivering cocoa

325

farmer groups delivering

49

average age\*

91%

of farmers delivering with full data

8.2

average size of household\*

16%

of women farmers in sustainability programs

5.89 Ha

average farm size\*

68%

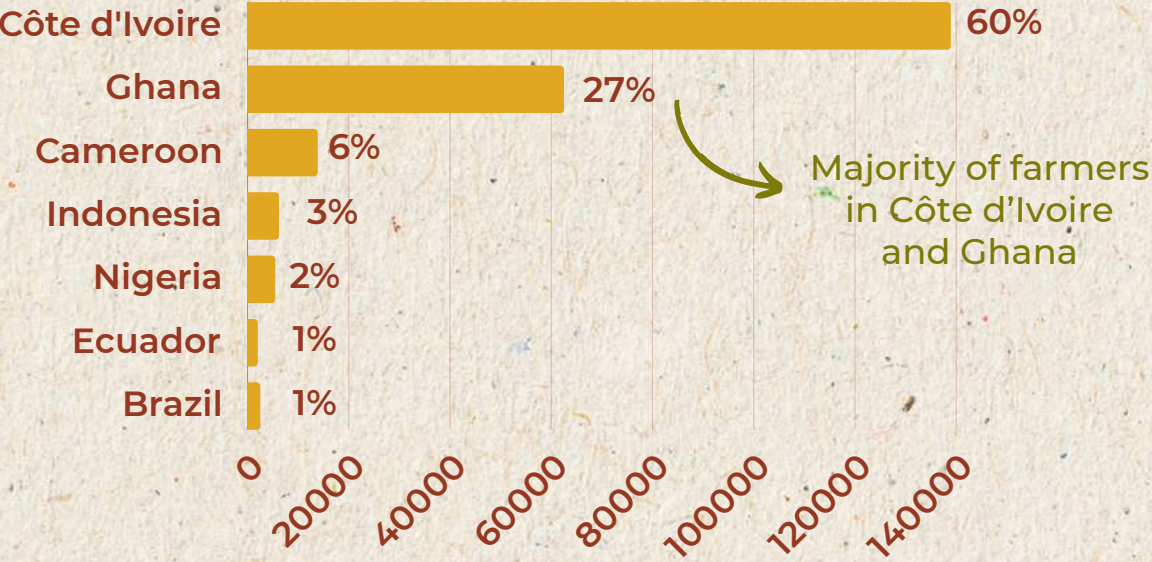
of cocoa farmers above the WB International poverty line of USD 2,15/day

63%

farm area dedicated to cocoa\*

33%

of available hours per household is dedicated to cocoa



\* Farmer in Côte d'Ivoire, based on Farmer Field Book 2022-2023

# Our Commitments to Sustainable Cocoa

To address the challenges and achieve real progress, the Cocoa Horizons' solutions-based approach focuses on three areas:

## Productivity

Improving cocoa productivity is key to raising farmer incomes and creating a sustainable cocoa sector. Cocoa Horizons is committed to empowering farmers through tailored interventions that enhance farm performance and long-term resilience.

**By 2025, all Cocoa Horizons farmers will be above the poverty line.**

**By 2030, Cocoa Horizons will be based on a transformative cocoa farming model that will support living income.**

## Community

Cocoa Horizons empowers cocoa farming communities to lead child protection and human rights efforts. Aligned with UNICEF's child-centered framework, this approach integrates supply chain accountability with community-driven systems to deliver lasting, sustainable change.

**By 2025, all Cocoa Horizons supply chain will be covered by Human Rights Due Diligence, remediating all child labor cases identified.**

**By 2030, targeted Cocoa Horizons communities will have a systems-strengthening model to protect and promote child rights.**

## Environment

Cocoa Horizons is committed to creating a deforestation-free cocoa supply chain and fostering climate-resilient ecosystems. By integrating traceability systems, agroforestry initiatives, and sustainable land-use practices, we aim to protect forests, enrich biodiversity, and support cocoa-growing communities.

**By 2025, Cocoa Horizons will be deforestation free and forest positive.**

**Cocoa Horizons through low carbon farming practices will support its partners to reach Net Zero by 2050.**



# Prospering Farmers

## A Path to Poverty Reduction

Season 2023/24 brought significant challenges, as a combination of weather and climate factors led to a cocoa bean shortage, pushing prices to record levels. In response, the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana increased farm-gate prices to CFA 1,500/kg and GHS 33.12/kg, respectively. While these adjustments provided some financial relief, cocoa farmers in West Africa continue to face incomes that are too low to ensure long-term economic security.

Our data shows that poverty reduction is driven by three key factors: yield, farm size, and price. This year's farm-gate price increases illustrated how pricing mechanisms can support income growth, but additional efforts are needed to create lasting economic resilience.

To enhance the accuracy of our reporting, we have revised our methodology and now use the OECD modified scale to calculate household size, replacing the previously used OECD equivalence scale. This framework better reflects the resource needs of adults and children.

Despite these challenges, 259,971 farmers in the Cocoa Horizons program

surpassed the World Bank's International Poverty Line in 2024 - a 54% improvement from the previous year.

Lifting farmers above the poverty line is an important milestone, but it is only the beginning. By 2030, Cocoa Horizons aims to establish a farming model that enables a living income, ensuring that cocoa farmers have the resources to support their families, invest in their farms, and build sustainable livelihoods beyond subsistence.

## Transformative Services Driving Change

In 2024, Cocoa Horizons supported over 145,000 farmers - a 15% increase - through initiatives like Farm Business Plans and Productivity Packages. These programs provide strategic guidance, tools, and resources to optimize yields and improve farm management. Pre-harvest interventions, including pruning and pest control, covered 40,153 hectares - a 140% growth - helping farmers improve productivity.

- Professional labor groups: Delivered pruning and fertilizer application services, significantly improving yields and creating job opportunities for local workers.

- Farm Business Plans: Provided customized strategies to optimize farm potential and increase productivity.
- Agroforestry initiatives: Farmers planted shade trees to enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, diversify incomes, and capture carbon, contributing to climate change mitigation.
- Soil management: Distributed fertilizers to support effective nutrient management, optimizing yields and ensuring long-term soil health.
- High-yield planting materials: Delivered pest-resistant cocoa varieties to rejuvenate aging farms and ensure long-term productivity.
- Income diversification opportunities: Enabled farmers to engage in alternative livelihoods, reducing dependency on cocoa and strengthening resilience.

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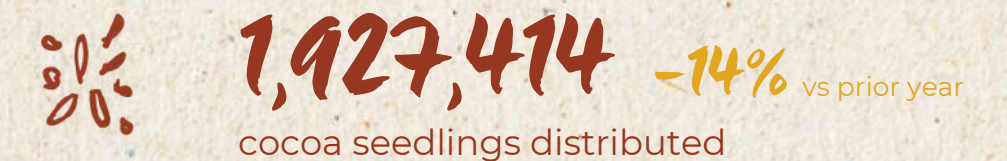
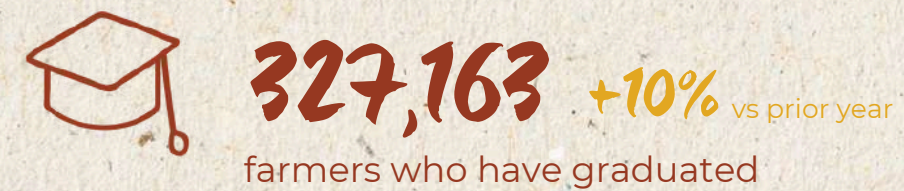
*Cocoa farming has been my livelihood for over 20 years, but challenges with productivity held me back. Through Cocoa Horizons's pruning services and training on fertilizer application, my farm's productivity has increased by over 75% in just three years. These interventions have helped how I farm and provided greater financial support for my family.*

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Ogunleye Modupe  
Olubunmi,  
cocoa farmer in the  
Onipan community,  
Akure, Nigeria

# Prospering Farmers



# Empowered Communities

## Advancing Child Protection Systems

In 2023/24, Cocoa Horizons refined its child labor monitoring approach, shifting towards prevention and systemic responses. This transition included piloting new tools, such as farm observation surveys, and moving away from household surveys that required one-on-one interviews with children, aligning with child safeguarding best practices.

A key update in our methodology was redefining how remediated cases are measured. Analyzing over 300,000 surveys, we found that while 33% of children were considered out of child labor after six months, this dropped to 9% after 12 months. Based on this, we are piloting a one-visit versus two-visit follow-up approach in some regions to further refine the effectiveness of remediation efforts. We now assess remediation 12-18 months after the initial intervention, ensuring more accurate reporting and lasting impact. This updated methodology applies only to the current fiscal year and will not be used for retrospective calculations.

As a result of these changes, in 2024, the number of child labor cases identified decreased by 72%, while remediated cases increased by 145%. These shifts

reflect our evolving strategy - placing greater emphasis on prevention, response coordination, and long-term solutions to child rights violations.

## Building Resilient Livelihoods

Supporting diverse income opportunities is central to fostering community resilience. In 2024, Cocoa Horizons' Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) continued to grow:

- Expanded reach: 1,953 VSLAs established, a 56% increase.
- Women's leadership: Nearly 70% of members are women, strengthening household stability and driving women empowerment.
- Savings and reinvestment: CHF 3,3 million saved, with CHF 2 million reinvested in education and household needs.

## Collaborating for Change

Partnerships with governments, NGOs, and research organizations amplify our impact. These collaborations support teacher training, infrastructure development, and parental engagement to enhance education quality in cocoa-growing communities.

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*This year marks a significant milestone as we, in collaboration with our NGO partners, began implementing our new human rights strategy. Herein our focus is on protecting child rights and addressing key human rights challenges in cocoa communities. We shifted from individual child interviews to prevention and response, aligning with safeguarding principles and strengthening local systems. While progress is ongoing and it is a learning journey, this forward-thinking approach reflects our commitment to fostering sustainable, lasting change for children and their communities.*



Selina Binder,  
Global Human Rights Lead,  
Barry Callebaut

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# Empowered Communities



**95%** **-4%** vs prior year

of farmer groups in our direct supply chain covered by our child labor monitoring and/or remediation activities



**290** **+3%** vs prior year

farmer groups in our direct supply chain covered by child labor monitoring and remediation activities



**12,445** **-72%** vs prior year

child labor cases identified



**33,492** **-40%** vs prior year

child labor cases under remediation



**22,916** **+145%** vs prior year

child labor cases remediated



**1,953** **+56%** vs prior year

VSLAs established or functioning



**69.2%** **0%** vs prior year

of VSLA members are women



**CHF 3,3 million** **+166%** vs prior year

total amount saved through VSLAs



**CHF 2 million** **+201%** vs prior year

total amount loaned through VSLAs

# Thriving Nature

## Driving Forest Protection and Compliance

Forest protection efforts include off-farm ecosystem safeguarding and on-farm practices like shade management to enhance biodiversity and mitigate climate impacts. These measures are vital as we align with evolving regulatory requirements, including preparations for the EU Deforestation-Free Regulation (EUDR).

## Scaling Agroforestry Solutions

Agroforestry plays a pivotal role in fostering climate resilience and environmental stewardship. Cocoa Horizons has continued to expand and incentivize sustainable farming practices through targeted interventions:

- Expanded agroforestry systems: Added 30,343 hectares in 2024 - a 115% increase —reducing deforestation pressure and enhancing biodiversity.
- Shade tree distribution: Provided 2.7 million shade tree seedlings, improving soil health, carbon sequestration, and income diversification.

- Incentivizing sustainable practices: Distributed CHF 720,817 through the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program, rewarding farmers for maintaining trees and removing carbon.

## Strengthening Climate Resilience

By actively managing 43,614 hectares of agroforestry—up 159%—Cocoa Horizons ensures tree survival and maximizes climate benefits. These efforts integrate into our robust due diligence systems, safeguarding forests while supporting cocoa-growing communities in building resilience against environmental challenges.

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*As a forest ranger in the Agbo Forest Reserve, I've witnessed the transformative impact of Cocoa Horizons' support. Their commitment to reforestation is rejuvenating 300 hectares of forest over five years, enhancing local biodiversity and climate conditions. This initiative not only benefits the environment but also creates jobs for our community, ensuring that farming and conservation go hand in hand for a sustainable future.*

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Captain N'guessan  
Emmanuel, Agbo 2 Forest  
Reserve, Kouadiokro,  
Côte d'Ivoire



# Thriving Nature



**88%** **+47%** vs prior year  
cocoa demonstrated not to be contributing to deforestation



**84%** **+7%** vs prior year  
of plots with a polygon map



**2,711,622** **-1%** vs prior year  
shade tree seedlings distributed to farmers



**43,614** **+159%** vs prior year  
hectares of agroforestry under management (established and maintained)



**41,110** **-59%** vs prior year  
tree seedlings distributed off-farm for restoration purposes



**30,343** **+115%** vs prior year  
hectares of agroforestry established



**14,641** **+496%** vs prior year  
farmers receiving PES



**272,809** **+62%** vs prior year  
tons of carbon removals achieved through agroforestry