



TRANSPARENCE CACAO

ANNUAL REPORT
2026





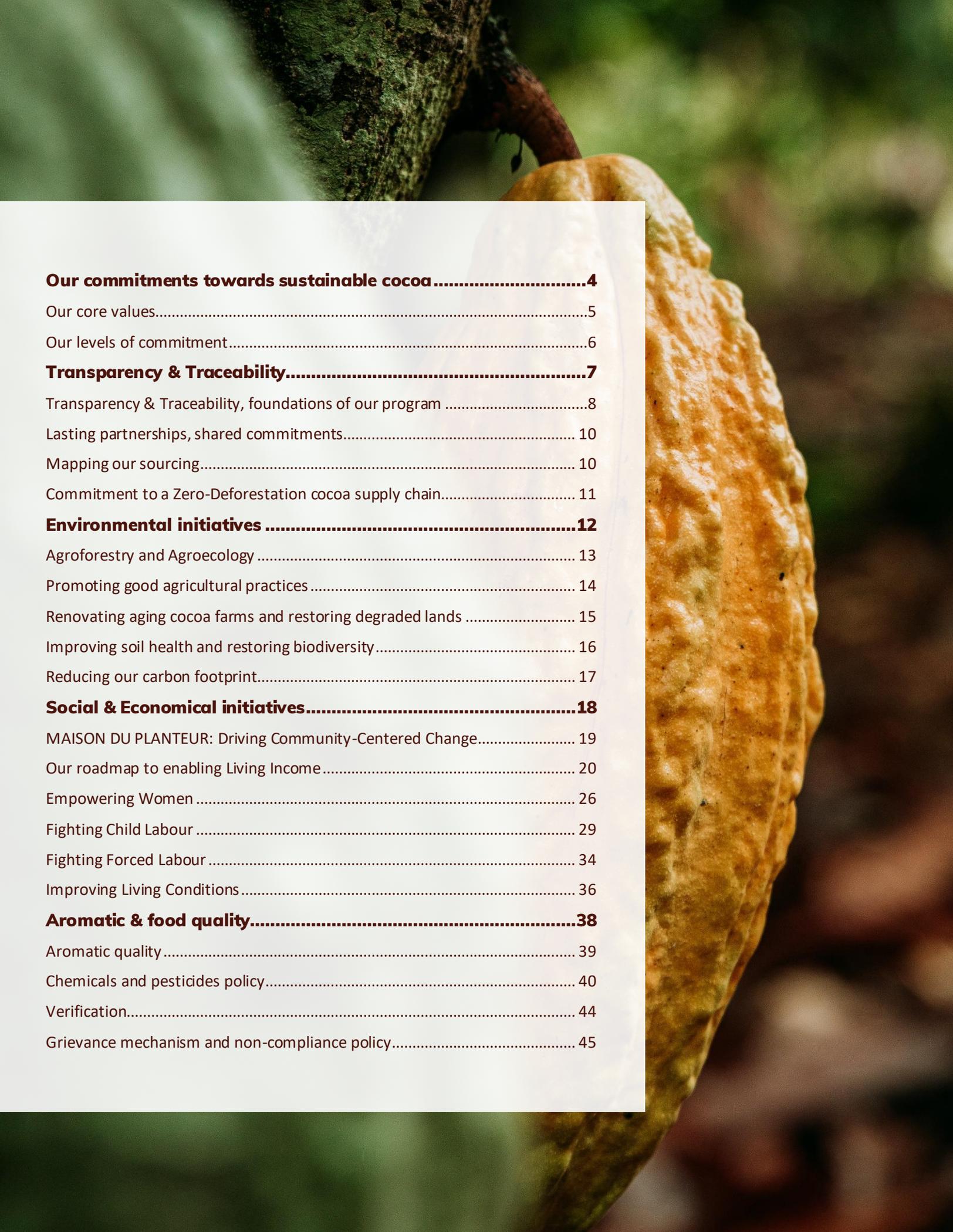
Commitments, progress and objectives towards responsible cocoa

TRANSPARENCE CACAO was founded in 2015 with the deep conviction that to create high-quality chocolate, it is essential to source more sustainable cocoa.

This means sourcing cocoa with a known origin, cocoa that has a reduced environmental impact, and cocoa that is produced in ways that allow farmers and their families to live with respect and fairness from their work. Achieving this requires working closely with farmers, addressing the needs of communities, and implementing tailored actions to ensure long-term sustainability. We aim to create a viable business case for the farmers focused on sustainability, improving the living conditions of cocoa farmers and making nature a key ally in this endeavour.

The following report presents the latest updates on TRANSPARENCE CACAO for 2025. It highlights progress across various topics and provides an outlook for the upcoming years.





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OUR COMMITMENTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE COCOA



***There is no good chocolate
without quality cocoa.***

***There is no quality cocoa
without supported farmers.***

***There are no supported
farmers without committed
companies.***

***There are no committed
companies without involved
customers.***

Our core values

Our program is built on the foundations of **TRANSPARENCY AND TRACEABILITY**, which are essential pillars of our sustainable initiatives. By knowing where our cocoa comes from and who is involved at every stage of the supply chain, we can identify risks, ensure accountability, and design targeted actions that create measurable and lasting impact.

This approach allows us to implement a wide range of impactful projects that address key sustainability issues in the cocoa sector:

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

We are committed to safeguarding forests and preserving biodiversity, recognizing that healthy ecosystems are essential for both cocoa production and the planet's well-being. Through our program, we promote sustainable agricultural practices that protect natural habitats, prevent deforestation, and restore degraded lands.

Our agroforestry initiatives support farmers to plant trees and different crops alongside their cocoa trees, which helps reduce soil erosion, improves water retention, and supports biodiversity. By prioritizing the environment, we aim to minimize the cocoa industry's carbon footprint and foster a healthier environment for future generations.

OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL COMMITMENTS

At the heart of our sustainability efforts is the improvement of farmers' livelihoods. We work actively to eradicate poverty and address social challenges such as child labour.

Our projects focus on empowering farmers by providing training in better agricultural practices, offering financial incentives, and supporting access to resources like healthcare, education, and financial services. We also support community-based initiatives that provide additional sources of income, ensuring a sustainable future for farmers and their communities.

AROMATIC AND FOOD QUALITY

Ensuring that consumers benefit from the full aromatic potential of cocoa beans is central to our quality commitment. By promoting high standards of post-harvest processing and organic cocoa production, we support cocoa that fully expresses its aromatic profile. Our work to reduce pesticide use further protects cocoa quality, the environment, and farmers' well-being, contributing to a richer chocolate experience and higher value at origin.



Our levels of commitment

TRANSPARENCY CACAO offers different levels of commitment designed to meet the diverse needs and expectations of our customers, allowing them to choose the degree of traceability, quality, and impact on key sustainability topics they wish to support in the cocoa supply chain.

REFERENCE Level: At this level, cocoa beans are produced using traditional cultivation methods. The beans are sourced in alignment with our responsible sourcing charter, which ensures they meet a standard quality base. This charter guarantees transparency and traceability, allowing us to trace the beans back to their origin, and ensuring that the cocoa is not linked to deforestation.

PREFERENCE Level: Cocoa beans at the PREFERENCE level are carefully selected and sorted at the source, ensuring complete traceability to farmers and segregation at every stage to maintain bean integrity. Farmers receive ongoing support, including training in good agricultural practices and agroforestry techniques to preserve biodiversity, enhance productivity, and generate additional income. In recognition of their efforts, PREFERENCE farmers receive a premium for their produce, incentivizing sustainable farming practices and improving their livelihoods. Community support is also provided to address critical social issues, such as combating child labour, promoting income-generating activities, and fostering financial inclusion through banking services. **The PREFERENCE level aims to contribute actively to a more sustainable and socially responsible cocoa industry.**

EXCELLENCE Level: In addition to the PREFERENCE commitments, EXCELLENCE beans undergo controlled fermentation and drying processes, in dedicated fermentation centres to preserve their full aromatic potential. Only the highest-quality beans are selected, ensuring exceptional flavour. EXCELLENCE level also applies to all organic cocoa, ensuring that the beans are produced without synthetic pesticides, further enhancing environmental sustainability. **By prioritizing both quality and sustainability, EXCELLENCE delivers the highest-quality chocolate while supporting environmental preservation and social responsibility.**

Only PREFERENCE and EXCELLENCE levels are part of our sustainability program, as they are designed to go beyond basic quality and ensure that cocoa production is addressing the environmental and social challenges cocoa sector is facing. These levels focus on creating long-term value for partner cooperatives and farmers, by promoting traceability, ethical farming practices, and community support.

REFERENCE level is designed to serve as an entry point for customers who are beginning their journey toward more sustainable sourcing practices, however we strongly encourage our customers to create more impact by joining the sustainability program at least at the PREFERENCE level.



TRANSPARENCY & TRACEABILITY

Transparency & traceability are the foundation of our sourcing model.

By knowing where our cocoa comes from and who is involved at every stage, we identify risks, ensure compliance, and work with our partners to deliver meaningful and lasting impact.



Transparency & Traceability, foundations of our program

At TRANSPARENCE CACAO, transparency and traceability form the cornerstone of our cocoa sourcing program. Our strategy is built on a fully integrated supply chain, giving us complete control over every step of the sourcing process. This approach, combined with our strong presence on the ground, enables us to work directly with Farmers and cooperatives in all the countries where we operate, fostering strong relationships and hands-on collaboration.

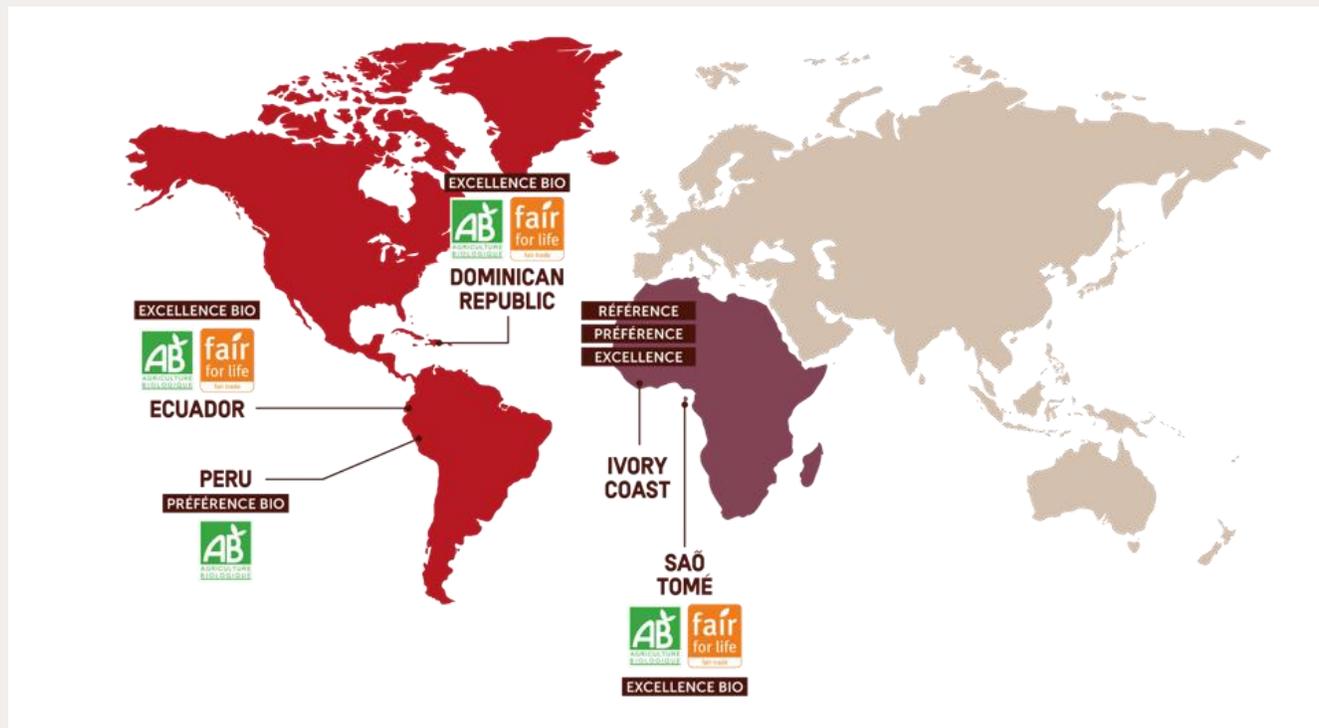
Central to our approach is a fully segregated system at the farmer level, which ensures full visibility across the supply chain. This segregation allows us to maintain the integrity, sustainability, and quality of every cocoa bean, from the farm all the way to our customers, and underpins all our social, environmental, and quality initiatives.

Limited number of sourcing countries with tailored support on the ground

What truly sets TRANSPARENCE CACAO apart is our daily, close collaboration with cooperatives, farmers, and their communities.

We have deliberately chosen to source cocoa from a limited number of countries—five in total, including four where we mainly source organic cocoa—to ensure we can implement our programs properly on the ground and give the right focus to each origin. This approach allows us to adapt our support to the specific social, economic, and environmental challenges of each country. (Based on our 2025 sourcing data, cocoa sourced from São Tomé is 100% organic. The proportion of organic cocoa by origin is 99% in Peru, 73% in Ecuador, and 75% in the Dominican Republic.)

By embedding transparency at the heart of our operations, we maintain continuous dialogue with cooperatives, providing real-time support and the flexibility to adjust our approach as needs evolve.





SOUTH AMERICAN SOURCING

Peru, Ecuador, Dominican Republic

In South America, we operate in three sourcing countries where we have established long-term partner cooperatives, some with partnerships exceeding 20 years. We work to strengthen their capacity, professionalize their operations, and empower their teams.

Our support includes setting up foundational structures that enable cooperatives to receive tailored assistance, implement sustainability programs effectively, and better serve their farmers. This approach ensures that our interventions are strategic, sustainable, and capable of building resilient cocoa communities over the long term.

WEST AFRICAN SOURCING

Côte d'Ivoire, Sao Tomé Príncipe

Our strategic focus on Côte d'Ivoire, the world's largest cocoa origin, reflects our commitment to where impact is most needed. Facing the greatest human rights, economic, social, and environmental challenges in our sourcing regions, TRANSPARENCY CACAO established a dedicated CSR team on the ground in the early 2000s. Today, over 30 employees work directly with local cocoa communities, providing hands-on support in sustainability, social engagement, and quality improvement while building long-term resilience.



Lasting partnerships, shared commitments

TRANSPARENCE CACAO engages in **multi-year agreements with cooperatives**, underpinning sustained support for cooperative development, farmer training, and implementation of impactful sustainability programs. These long-term partnerships provide continuity and reinforce the capacity of farmers to meet environmental, social, and quality standards.

We make **annual sourcing commitments**, providing both farmers and cooperatives with predictability and confidence. By clearly defining volumes and supply expectations, we enable cooperatives to plan effectively while guaranteeing a stable, traceable, and sustainable cocoa supply for our customers. These partnerships enable ongoing collaboration, informed decision-making, and adaptive approaches tailored to local circumstances.

Mapping our sourcing

Full traceability back to cooperatives and farmers

Traceability and transparency are core prerequisites of our program and form the foundation for the effective implementation of all our sustainability initiatives. As part of this ongoing commitment, we publish each year a comprehensive and updated list of our partner cooperatives across our five origin countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and São Tomé. The 2025 list of partner cooperatives can be found [here](#).

This approach is supported by the continuous registration and updating of all farmers linked to our cooperatives, ensuring a fully integrated and segregated cocoa sourcing model over time.

By maintaining this system, **TRANSPARENCE CACAO ensures that 100% of its cocoa remains traceable back to cooperatives and farmers**, safeguarding the integrity of our supply chain and supporting long-term, trust-based partnerships with farming communities.

Full mapping of Cocoa plots

A key component of our traceability efforts is the mapping of cocoa plots, which we maintain as a core prerequisite of our sourcing model. **TRANSPARENCE CACAO has ensured that 100% of plots across all origin countries are georeferenced**, using GPS technology to provide precise and reliable data for sourcing and quality control.

This georeferencing is supported by advanced digital traceability systems, with Côte d'Ivoire cocoa tracked through Farmforce and Latin American cocoa through Trusty. This approach ensures accurate traceability, even in remote areas, and allows synchronization to be completed later, maintaining compliance with traceability requirements. By mapping every plot and integrating digital verification, we can trace the origin of every bean, foster accountability and transparency throughout the supply chain, and demonstrate compliance with regulations on deforestation, including the European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

GPS mapping and digital tracking are continually updated as new farmers join the program, ensuring the integrity of our traceability framework is maintained over time.



Commitment to a Zero-Deforestation cocoa supply chain

At TRANSPARENCE CACAO, **full traceability and the fight against deforestation have long been guiding principles**. We are convinced that a sustainable cocoa sector depends on concrete, collective action on the ground. This commitment led us, through our founder Cémoi, to become a **pioneering member of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative (CFI) in 2017**, and to publicly reinforce our [deforestation-free pledge](#) in 2018.

Selecting Our Suppliers

We work with suppliers who share our sustainability goals. Our process begins with a thorough audit, comparing farmers' GPS data with forest areas to confirm that no deforestation occurs. Suppliers who meet our TRANSPARENCE CACAO standard formally commit to our sustainability charter, ensuring alignment throughout the supply chain.

Verifying Our Impact

We continuously verify the effectiveness of our actions. In 2021, we began independent verification of our GPS mapping data, and **in 2024, we completed full satellite verification across all partner cooperatives**. Our digital tools connect cooperatives, and farmers, enabling real-time monitoring, traceability, and risk-based action. By maintaining and updating this system, we ensure our cocoa supply remains free from deforestation.

Transforming Rural Areas

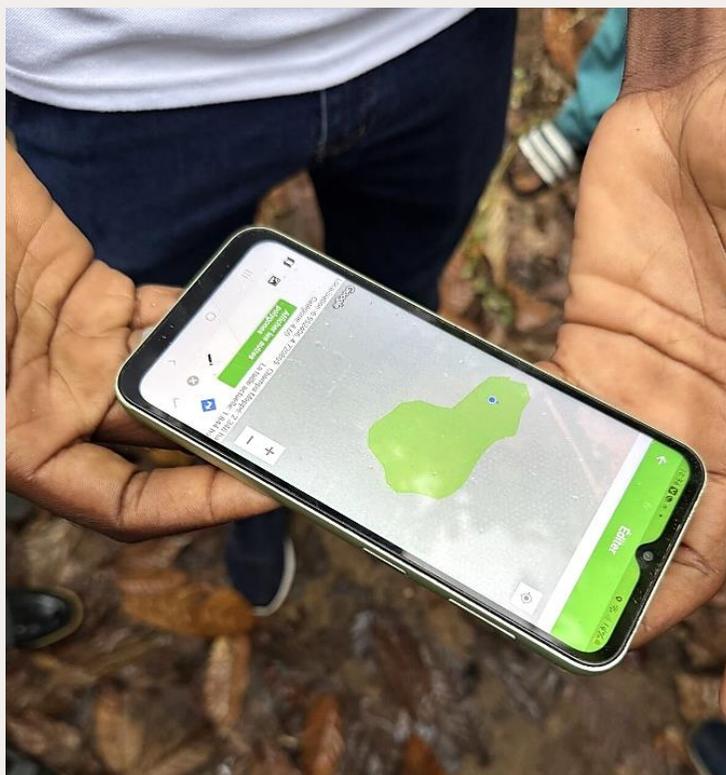
Our work goes beyond sourcing cocoa sustainably. We implement training programs to educate farmers on good agricultural practices, raise awareness of deforestation and climate impacts, and support initiatives such as agroforestry and diversification to enhance livelihoods. These efforts empower farmers to make environmentally conscious decisions while improving economic resilience.

Deforestation Risk Identification and Remediation

If deforestation is detected, the farmer is immediately notified, and ongoing transactions are suspended. Income-generating initiatives on compliant plots continue to safeguard livelihoods. Investigations determine the causes of deforestation, and corrective actions—such as awareness campaigns or reforestation—are implemented. Business relationships are reinstated only when compliance with our sustainability standard is confirmed.

Response to EUDR Postponement

We deeply regret the recent postponement of the EUDR, as we believe full supply chain traceability and deforestation prevention are **non-negotiable prerequisites for sustainable cocoa sourcing**. TRANSPARENCE CACAO has already completed the geolocation of all plots and verified the absence of deforestation in all countries of origin. We will maintain this commitment regardless of new regulatory timelines, demonstrating that [responsible sourcing and high performance go hand in hand](#).



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Protecting the planet starts with action.

By restoring ecosystems, promoting agroforestry, and reducing our carbon footprint, we work alongside farmers to protect the planet and build a resilient future for cocoa.

Agroforestry and Agroecology

Since 2015, TRANSPARENCE CACAO has promoted agroforestry and agroecology as central pillars of sustainable cocoa production, combining environmental restoration, biodiversity conservation, and income diversification to build resilient farms and stronger livelihoods across all origin countries.

Agroforestry, the first model implemented, is an ecologically based, dynamic system that integrates trees into cocoa farms to diversify production, enhance resilience, and deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits. Cocoa is cultivated alongside timber, fruit, and leguminous trees, providing shade, improving soil fertility, reducing erosion, supplying renewable wood and food resources, and generating additional income for farmers.

Agroecology complements this approach by focusing on conservation and restoration, improving soil health, strengthening biodiversity, and enhancing ecosystem services. Together, these approaches support sustainable, climate-resilient cocoa systems. In South America, participatory co-design with farmers, supported by ICRAF/World Agroforestry, ensures that systems are adapted to local conditions and individual farm strategies.

TRANSPARENCE CACAO adapts these models to the maturity and readiness of each origin.



In Côte d'Ivoire, efforts focus on rolling out agroforestry, with five tailored models ([find here](#)) offering guidance on species selection and shade management, including native species, minimum tree density, and multi-species integration. In 2025, 62% of cocoa sourcing was produced under agroforestry (vs. 43% in 2024) representing 70 789 farmers and 208 609 hectares, with the target to reach 100% coverage by 2030.



In more mature origins such as São Tomé, Ecuador, Peru, and the Dominican Republic, 83% of our cocoa sourcing is already under agroforestry, with the target to reach 100% coverage by 2030. In those countries farmers implement advanced agroecological systems ([can be found here](#)) with complex shade management, soil restoration, biodiversity conservation, and integrated ecosystem services.

Cocoa production is constrained by low productivity per hectare and unsustainable farming systems. Aging plantations, lack of shade at plot level, and diseases such as Swollen Shoot Virus (CSSVD) result in yields often below 400kg/ha in Côte d'Ivoire, increasing risks of expansion into forests and of environmental degradation.

To address these challenges, TRANSPARENCE CACAO promotes the adoption of **good agricultural and environmental practices**, alongside **cocoa plot rehabilitation** and **initiatives to restore soil health and biodiversity**. Combined with participatory agroforestry and agroecology models, these actions aim to boost yields and incomes, reduce forest pressure, and contribute to long-term climate mitigation.

Promoting good agricultural practices

TRANSPARENCE CACAO strengthens farmer-level coaching on good agricultural practices (GAP), agroecology, and agroforestry through participatory plot diagnostics and tailored action plans covering pruning, rehabilitation, soil fertility, shade management, and crop diversification.

Since 2018, agroforestry has been a core pillar of our GAP strategy in Côte d'Ivoire, supported by a technical manual and five context-specific models to enhance yields, incomes, and environmental performance. Between 2018 and 2024, we established over 150 demonstration plots, trained 84 nursery workers, created 50 nurseries, and distributed more than 2.35 million seedlings, including 632,789 in 2025 alone.

From 2023, a partnership with Mangrove reinforced support for cooperatives, improving yields and diversifying income sources. Within this project, 42 cooperatives and 5,625 farmers received individualized coaching (including 10 new cooperatives and additional 2,425 farmers in 2025). First results show that among coached farmers, 96% have adopted pruning practices and 66% have integrated complementary tree species in their plot. This project will be expanded to 10 additional cooperatives for 2026.

Capacity building at the cooperative level remains crucial. In collaboration with ICRAF, ECOTIERRA, and Mangrove, 53 cooperatives have trained field officers, supported by environmental committees overseeing agroforestry and nursery activities. Since 2021, awareness campaigns with SODEFOR and the Ministry of Water and Forests have reached leaders from 58 cooperatives and over 3,500 farmers.

2025 coaching achievements:

- 10 new cooperatives onboarded
- 2 425 new farmers (incl. 8% of women) received training & coaching on entrepreneurship, revenue management, diversification, GAP
- 472 new farmers plans established (for a total of 1 772 plans since the start)
- 1,116 plots diagnosed representing 2020 ha
- Support on planting 4 801 trees on farm and on geolocating 12 237 agroforestry trees
- 7 436 wild tree saplings preserved from being cut by farmers



Renovating aging cocoa farms and restoring degraded lands

Aging cocoa farms and degraded soils are common challenges across all our sourcing origins. To ensure long-term productivity, resilience, and environmental sustainability, TRANSPARENCE CACAO implements targeted renovation and restoration programs, combining agroforestry, soil regeneration, and biodiversity conservation. These initiatives are tailored to each country's context and ecological needs, strengthening yields while promoting sustainable landscapes. In 2025, 2347 hectares of cocoa fields were renovated across all origins.

In São Tomé and Príncipe, we partner with CECAB, a cooperative representing over 3,000 farmers, on a long-term renovation program. Over the past decade, more than 1,000 hectares of older farms have been rehabilitated using agroforestry practices, and recent collaborations with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project added 18,000 shade trees across 17 species to enhance biodiversity and farm resilience. In 2025, 44 500 crafted seedlings were distributed to farmers.



In the Dominican Republic, a renovation program launched in 2023 with CONACADO focuses on revitalizing older cocoa farms through increased plant density and integrated agroforestry systems. This approach boosts cocoa yields, restores soil health, and enhances biodiversity, contributing to long-term sustainability. In 2025, 35 183 plant seedlings were distributed to farmers.



In Peru and Ecuador, degraded soils and fragile forest ecosystems require regeneration-focused interventions. Through the Agro-ecological Regenerative Cocoa initiative, in partnership with Alliance Biodiversity CIAT and World Agroforestry, we promote agroforestry practices that restore degraded land, establish cocoa within ecological corridors, and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services. In 2025, 523 hectares of farms were renovated and 49 344 grafted plants were distributed to farmers.



For more details on our agroforestry strategies across Côte d'Ivoire and South America, see the October 2023 Tropenbos publication, [Cocoa Agroforestry in West Africa: Experiences from the Private Sector and Opportunities for Collaborative Action.](#)



Improving soil health and restoring biodiversity

As part of its environmental strategy, TRANSPARENCE CACAO supports initiatives that improve soil health, strengthen farm resilience, and promote biodiversity across all sourcing origins. Healthy soils are a cornerstone of sustainable cocoa production, supporting productivity, climate resilience, and long-term ecosystem balance.

In South America, TRANSPARENCE CACAO works with regional programs to scale agroecological solutions that reduce reliance on synthetic inputs. In 2025, farmers in Peru received 16382 liters of bioles, while 75 t of biochar and 678 t of compost were produced through more than 1,869 individual and communal composting units, supporting soil fertility and organic matter regeneration. In Ecuador, 1,083 liters of bioles were distributed, enhancing soil structure and biological activity. Knowledge exchange is also promoted across origins, with technical teams training farmers in practices such as Bokashi production and cocoa quality assessment. By 2025, a total of 523 hectares of degraded land had been restored, including 224 hectares reforested in Peru and 100 hectares in Ecuador.

In Côte d'Ivoire, TRANSPARENCE CACAO is further strengthening its soil-focused approach through participation in the **CACAOFOREST initiative (2025–2028)**, which places soil restoration and agroforestry at the heart of resilient cocoa systems. Further details on this project are presented in the section below.

Promotion of natural fertilizers also remains a key priority, further supporting sustainable farm management.

Additional details on these actions are presented in the Aromatic quality chapter [here](#).

Restoring soil health through participation in CACAO FOREST project in Côte d'Ivoire

TRANSPARENCE CACAO, through its founder Cémoi, participates in the CACAO FOREST project (2025–2028), a multi-partner initiative supporting soil restoration and the long-term sustainability of cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire. Building on a first phase in the Dominican Republic, the project responds to declining soil fertility and aging cocoa plantations.

CACAOFOREST combines agroforestry, participatory soil diagnostics, and farmer-led agroecological practices. It supports the integration of forest trees, rehabilitation of old cocoa plots, and the testing of soil restoration solutions adapted to local conditions.

Over three years, the project will support 150 farmers in agroforestry transition, 150 in cocoa rehabilitation, and 30 in soil restoration practices, while developing practical soil diagnostic tools and training 100 agricultural advisors.

By regenerating soil fertility and strengthening farm resilience, CACAO FOREST contributes to sustainable yield improvement and reduced pressure on surrounding ecosystems.

More information on this project can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



Reducing our carbon footprint

Reducing TRANSPARENCE CACAO's carbon footprint is a growing priority across all origins. To support this ambition, we have launched an extensive initiative to measure and better understand our greenhouse gas emissions, with carbon footprint assessments being conducted across each sourcing origin. This work provides a robust baseline to guide future reduction efforts and track progress over time.

Our commitments to zero deforestation, the promotion of agroforestry, our support to improving yields and a progressive reduction in pesticide use are key structural levers to lower emissions while strengthening ecosystem resilience. By enhancing carbon storage in soils and trees, improving farm practices, and preserving forested landscapes, these actions contribute directly to climate mitigation.

More details on our Pesticide strategy can be found on Aromatic quality chapter [here](#).



To accelerate agroforestry and decarbonization at the landscape level, TRANSPARENCE CACAO will participate in a wide-scale **agroforestry and carbon project** led by Adryada and Agromap, as part of the “**Karidja**” **forest restoration initiative** in the Haut Sassandra region of Côte d'Ivoire. This large-scale effort aims to regenerate degraded forest areas and create long-term climate and biodiversity benefits, with a target of restoring **70,000 hectares of forest over 50 years** and developing **34,000 hectares of dynamic, permanent agroforestry**.

As a first step, together with aDryada and other partners we will participate in the **baseline study** to map cocoa dynamics in and around the forest, evaluate potential agroforestry models, design economic plans for non-cocoa products, and calculate carbon stocks. Building on this assessment, a **long-term action plan** will be developed to support cocoa farmers transitioning out of the protected area and implement a wide-scale agroforestry program, delivering both environmental benefits and enhanced carbon sequestration.

More information on this wide-scale project can be found in [here](#).

Together, these actions reflect TRANSPARENCE CACAO's commitment to embedding climate considerations into its sourcing model and contributing to more resilient, low-carbon cocoa landscapes.



SOCIAL & ECONOMICAL INITIATIVES



Our commitment goes beyond high-quality, traceable cocoa. We strive to improve the lives of the people who grow it. Guided by fairness, and shared progress, we work towards a better quality of life for all.

MAISON DU PLANTEUR: Driving Community-Centred Change



As part of our roadmap, the “MAISON DU PLANTEUR” play a vital role in Côte d'Ivoire in improving the lives of cocoa farmers. In 2021, we transformed our eight fermentation centres into dynamic hubs offering training and a variety of social and economic activities for local communities. This initiative aims to **revolutionize local development**, making it truly **community driven**.

Each MAISON DU PLANTEUR hosts a **Sustainability Committee** composed of key community members, such as the village chief, school principal, doctor, nurse, and others. This committee designs and proposes projects that directly address the community’s needs. By involving local stakeholders at every step, we ensure initiatives are **relevant, supported, and sustainable**.

Every year, TRANSPARENCE CACAO selects and finances these projects to tackle the most pressing social and economic challenges. In 2025, **42 proposed by Maison du Planteur committees** out of which **29** were implemented across our communities, focusing on areas such as **child labour prevention, literacy, women’s empowerment, and income-generating activities**.

Examples of our Maison du Planteur activities can be found in the following sections:

Activities to support
Living income

Activities to help fight
Child labour

Activities to support
Women

Activities to support
Health

Our roadmap to enabling Living Income

At the heart of our vision lies the belief that a living income is a fundamental human right.

This principle serves as our guiding light, and for this reason, we are committed to enabling all cocoa farmers in our TRANSPARENCE CACAO program towards living income by 2030.



Living income is a 360° challenge that can only be addressed by tackling its root causes across both social and economic dimensions.

It requires **strong cooperatives**, with dedicated budgets and capabilities to support farmers in implementing sustainability actions. It also depends on **resilient farmers**, who receive fairer prices for their cocoa through premiums and are supported to improve yields, reduce production costs, and diversify their sources of income. Finally, achieving living income relies on **strong communities**, able to keep children in school, empower women, and ensure access to essential services such as healthcare and clean water.

To turn this vision into reality, we have defined a **time-bound action plan**, continuously refined as new insights emerge. Since the program began in 2015, we have rolled out targeted initiatives to support fairer and more stable farmer incomes throughout the year, reducing vulnerability during lean periods. Our ambition is clear: to make living income a concrete and lasting reality for cocoa farming families.



Better knowledge for stronger impact

To ensure our program delivers a positive and measurable impact for cocoa farmers, we regularly conduct surveys to assess household incomes and the living income gap.

In 2023 and 2024, we strengthened our approach by launching two in-depth studies to estimate farmers' incomes and compare our results with established benchmarks, including the [Living Income Community of Practice](#) and the ANKER methodology.

In Côte d'Ivoire, we partnered with Trust International to conduct a household income survey across two cooperatives using the Anker methodology, as defined by the Global Living Wage Coalition. The 2023 baseline study covered 200 TRANSPARENCE CACAO farmers and a control group of 100 farmers outside our sustainability program. This assessment was updated in 2024 with a larger sample of 300 TRANSPARENCE CACAO farmers.

In parallel, household income surveys were conducted within four additional cooperatives sourcing under the TRANSPARENCE CACAO REFERENCE and PREFERENCE models. These studies were carried out with Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA), using our digital data collection tools and the Anker methodology.

Key findings:

- TRANSPARENCE CACAO farmers reported an average monthly income of 170,698 FCFA in 2024, compared with 165,889 FCFA in the 2023 baseline control group
- TRANSPARENCE CACAO farmers exceeded on average 2025 ANKER living income reference (143,236 FCFA), though significant disparities persist
- The 2023 baseline showed that 38% of farmers remained below the living income threshold
- Women represented 7% of total sample but 14% of the lowest income group, vs. 3% in higher income groups
- Age showed no significant link to income, while education did: only 16% of the lowest income group had at least secondary education, compared with over 30% in the highest income group



Based on these findings, we have refined our strategy to support farmers in reaching a living income by 2030. This includes strengthened coaching on yield improvement and cost reduction, as well as an increased focus on income-generating activities. Our detailed action plan is presented in the following sections.



Purchasing Practices

At the core of our policy is our commitment to enabling fair remuneration to farmers, guaranteeing they receive a better price for their cocoa.

To bridge the gap between government-set farmgate prices and the Living Income Reference Price (LIRP), we establish premiums that go beyond mere sustenance.

Our approach to living income is built on two essential and complementary foundations.

On the one hand, **strong cooperatives are critical to sustainably support farmers**. This is why **100% of the cocoa sourced through TRANSPARENCE CACAO is purchased with a premium paid to cooperatives**, providing them with dedicated budgets to accompany farmers, implement sustainability actions, and strengthen their services over time.

On the other hand, **stronger farmers also mean they receive a better price for their cocoa**. To help close the gap between government-set farmgate prices and the LIRP, we apply farmer-level premiums that go beyond basic income support. Across all origin countries, and in addition to cooperative premiums, **100% of our PREFERENCE and EXCELLENCE cocoa is purchased with a premium paid directly to farmers**.

In 2025, **71% of our volumes within Transparence Cacao were bought with a farmer premium**, representing a **10-point increase compared to 2024**.

Beyond paying premium prices to cooperatives and farmers, our extensive efforts—outlined in the following sections—support partner cooperatives and farmers daily. These efforts include promoting better agricultural practices, improving yields, supporting diversification, and reducing production costs. Together, they help enable farmers to move toward achieving a living income.

Risk sharing and retailer's engagement

We actively engage our retail partners to encourage sourcing models that integrate living income premiums and related initiatives. Expanding the number of retailers supporting the TRANSPARENCE CACAO PREFERENCE and EXCELLENCE levels is essential to scaling impact and improving farmers' livelihoods in a durable way. This collective engagement strengthens the economic resilience of farming communities and contributes to a more sustainable cocoa supply chain.

In parallel, **we prioritize risk-sharing with farmers by building long-term, stable commercial relationships**. As part of TRANSPARENCE CACAO, **we commit to three to five-year contracts with cooperatives, with volumes agreed annually by both parties before the start of harvest season**.

We also support PREFERENCE and EXCELLENCE volumes with advance payments ensuring that cooperatives receive the needed capital upfront to support farmers along the harvest period. These long-term partnerships provide greater visibility, reduce exposure to market volatility, and support farmers and cooperatives in planning and investing overtime.



Yield Improvement

Increasing cocoa yields is essential to improving farmers' incomes, but the pathways to achieving this vary by region. We tailor our approach to each country's realities.

In South America, plantations are already established under agroforestry systems, and the key challenge is renovating aging cocoa farms to unlock higher yields.

In Côte d'Ivoire, where cocoa represents nearly 80% of household revenue, the priority is to support farmers in transitioning from full-sun monoculture to agroforestry systems that can sustainably boost productivity.

In South America, yield improvements are being driven by renovation of aging cocoa plantations. **In 2025, we rehabilitated 2,347 hectares** across these origins. This work includes replanting old or unproductive trees, improving soil health, and introducing resilient varieties better suited to local conditions, enabling farmers to significantly strengthen their long-term production potential.

Early results already confirm the effectiveness of this strategy. **In Ecuador, average cocoa yields increased from 1,308 kg to 1,517 kg between 2021 and 2023**; a clear indication that renovated farms are more vigorous, more resilient, and capable of delivering sustainably higher productivity.



In Côte d'Ivoire, "Cacao Ami des Forêts" project, implemented with three cooperatives and 2,937 farmers, demonstrates the impact of sustained, supervised interventions. **Supported plots achieved an average 50% yield increase, with 40% of farmers reaching 1T/ha.**

However, the 2024 living income study highlights that low yields remain a structural issue across the wider supply base, with the 300 farmers surveyed averaging only 500 kg/ha. This underscores the need to scale targeted support.

To address this challenge, TRANSPARENCE CACAO provides tailored, farmer-level coaching on agroforestry and good agricultural practices, combining plot diagnostics, rehabilitation, pruning, shade management, and crop diversification. This approach strengthens resilience, enhances productivity, and contributes to sustainable income growth.



More information on our initiative to drive yields improvement can be found in our Environmental chapter [here](#).



Costs Reduction & Access to Services

Reduction of production costs

In parallel to yield improvement, TRANSPARENCE CACAO focuses on reducing production costs by limiting reliance on external inputs and labour-intensive practices, while maintaining productivity.

Building on the 2024 pilot phase, **pruning and application brigades were expanded in 2025**, covering **95% of partner cooperatives**. These brigades provide specialized services that reduce labour costs and physical workload for farmers, improve the quality and consistency of farm maintenance, and lower health and safety risks. They also create local employment opportunities and support more systematic adoption of good agricultural practices.

At farm level, we continued to promote **alternatives to chemical pesticides** and the use of **natural fertilizers**, notably through waste valorisation. Farmers are encouraged to produce compost using cocoa pods and other agricultural or horticultural by-products.

More information on our initiatives to promote natural fertilizers can be found in Aromatic Quality chapter [here](#).

2025 achievements

As part of the income monitoring conducted in 2025, we assessed farmers' production costs using the ANKER methodology and compared results with previous years. On average, production costs represent 16% of farmers' gross cocoa revenue and show a **significant decrease, falling from 447,761 FCFA in 2023 to 391,586 FCFA in 2024**. This reduction reflects the impact of targeted support measures implemented across the supply chain.



Access to financial services

Alongside cost-reduction efforts, we continue to strengthen farmers' access to financial services. Through financial management training and support to open bank or mobile money accounts, farmers are better equipped to manage income flows throughout the year and respond to unforeseen needs. This combined approach reinforces farmers' economic resilience and complements efforts to improve net income through lower production costs.

In Côte d'Ivoire in 2025, our partner cooperatives supported 15,676 farmers in gaining access to digital payment services, for a total of 23,855 farmers accompanied since 2021. Cocoa payments are made to farmers via mobile applications such as Mobile Money or Axit, with easy access to a savings feature directly within the app and receiving of payments free of charge.



Income Diversification

We believe income diversification is essential to strengthen farmers' resilience and reduce dependence on cocoa, but significant challenges remain. According to our 2025 living income study (ANKER methodology), additional **income sources grew by 10% compared with the previous year among our sampled TRANSPARENCE CACAO farmers, but still only account for 18% of farmers' total income**. This underscores the need to scale diversification efforts, ensuring they align with farmers' preferences, local market opportunities, and the logistical constraints of remote areas. To tackle these challenges, our strategy focuses on two complementary pathways: agroforestry and income-generating activities (IGAs).

Agroforestry

Agroforestry remains a cornerstone of diversification, allowing farmers to produce additional crops alongside cocoa on the same plot. Activities include training, distribution of trees, establishment of nurseries, and demonstration plots. In 2025, **62% of our farmers adopted agroforestry practices**, contributing to both income diversification and ecological resilience.

More information on our Agroforestry initiatives can be found in our Environmental chapter [here](#).

Beyond cocoa, we support IGAs for farmers and their spouses, promoting gender equality and financial stability, particularly during lean months. **Since 2021, 15,241 individuals (including 11,268 women, 74% of participants) benefited from IGA supported by TRANSPARENCE CACAO to diversify household income**. In 2025, 5,859 new farmers were on-boarded including 78% of women.

More information on our Women empowerment initiatives can be found in our social chapter [here](#).

2026 Pilot: Scaling IGA Support in Remote Areas

In 2026, TRANSPARENCE CACAO, with support from Cémoi and GIZ, is launching a pilot project to boost income diversification and strengthen community resilience in remote cocoa-growing areas. Targeting 16 cooperatives and 2,000 producers, the project focuses on youth and women while improving agricultural services, sustainable farming practices, and rural entrepreneurship. The pilot is built around three core pillars:

1. **Improving agricultural and social services** in cocoa-supplying communities, including the creation of **10 Maisons du Planteur** to centralize support and resources.
2. **Strengthening producer capacities**, with **1,500 smallholders** trained on Good Agricultural Practices, regenerative agriculture, and agroforestry, and **1,000 hectares** transitioned into agroforestry systems.
3. **Promoting rural entrepreneurship**, supporting **250 individual and collective entrepreneurs**—60% youth and 50% women—through training, equipment, and business coaching, while strengthening **20 youth associations** to sustain local enterprise development.

By professionalizing **200 rural entrepreneurs** and equipping community groups such as AVECs, women's cooperatives, and youth organizations, the pilot **aims to establish a replicable model** that enhances livelihoods and supports long-term economic diversification across cocoa communities.



Empowering Women

Our belief is that empowering women through education and entrepreneurship is one of the most effective ways to drive change in the cocoa sector.

By investing in women, we are investing in a brighter, more sustainable future for the entire cocoa sector.



In rural cocoa-producing areas, women are key contributors to agricultural production and household livelihoods, representing an estimated 40–50% of the agricultural workforce. They play a central role in food security, income generation, and community resilience. Yet despite this essential contribution, women remain structurally disadvantaged. They rarely hold land ownership under the rural land code and face limited access to productive resources such as credit, agricultural inputs, technical training, healthcare, and information.

These constraints restrict their ability to fully engage in profitable activities and are reflected in cooperative governance, where women are under-represented in decision-making roles, limiting their influence over premium management and investment choices.

To address these inequalities, TRANSPARENCE CACAO focuses on strengthening women’s leadership, skills, and financial autonomy through access to education, targeted trainings, income-generating activities, and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA). By increasing women’s incomes and economic independence, we aim to enhance their bargaining power within households and cooperatives, strengthen community resilience, and contribute to reducing persistent structural inequalities.



Women's Empowerment and Inclusive Development

At TRANSPARENCE CACAO, women's empowerment is central to building resilient households, inclusive cooperatives, and sustainable cocoa landscapes. Across all our initiatives—from agroforestry and good agricultural practices to yield improvement, cost reduction, and living income programs—we deliberately prioritize the inclusion of women, ensuring they benefit from and actively participate in every stage. Women were specifically included in our living income study and are key targets in our Cocoa Forest initiative and related sustainability projects. We also support dedicated income-generating activities (IGAs) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to strengthen financial autonomy.

Through MAISON DU PLANTEUR, we provide a structured three-year cycle of support for women, including group IGAs, savings mechanisms, and capacity-building in literacy, entrepreneurship, and financial and social awareness. Coaching helps women optimize their activities, reduce costs, improve market access, and leverage synergies between individual and collective initiatives, progressively building financial independence.

Measurable impact and growing leadership

Women are the primary beneficiaries of our interventions: since 2021, 11,268 participants (74% of all IGA beneficiaries) were women, and 775 VSLAs served 22,482 members, including 18,718 women (83%). These programs not only support economic empowerment but also strengthen women's leadership and influence within their communities.

Beyond economic empowerment, significant progress has been made with 1 192 women holding roles that influence decisions within their communities and farmer groups, accounting for **26%** of leadership positions when combining cooperative, IGA, and VSLA structures.

Looking specifically at cooperative leadership, women hold **12%** of positions, with strong differences by origin. In Côte d'Ivoire, **295 women** hold cooperative positions versus 3,100 men, representing **9.5%** of leadership roles. In South America, **122 women** hold positions out of 406 cooperative members (**30%**), with Peru being the most advanced at 47 women out of 138 members (**34%**) holding leadership roles.

Beyond formal cooperative positions, women play a pivotal role in driving change through **Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)**. In 2025, **775 women leaders** across these structures influenced 5,839 participants in IGAs and 8,155 participants in VSLAs, demonstrating the broader impact of women's leadership on their communities.

Living income Activities (Côte d'Ivoire)	2025 REACH			2021-2025 COMBINED REACH		
	Total Participants	Of which Women	% of Women	Total Participants	Of which Women	% of Women
Agroforestry trainings	14 183	3 070	22%	95 283	9 558	10%
Agroforestry implementation	32 186	3 251	10%	68 432	6 150	9%
IGA	5 859	4 362	78%	15 241	11 268	74%
VSLA	8 155	6 439	78%	22 482	18 718	83%
Banking support	7 497	2 255	30%	15 676	2 909	18%



MAISON DU PLANTEUR activities to support women

MAISON DU PLANTEUR centres also play a key role in empowering women within cocoa-growing communities. In 2025, activities focused on literacy, financial inclusion, and income-generating initiatives to strengthen women's autonomy and resilience. Here below is a summary of 2025 activities:



Education

Literacy remains a cornerstone of our approach. By supporting alphabetization through MAISON DU PLANTEUR, we equip women with foundational skills to participate more fully in the cocoa value chain and manage their economic activities.

Since 2022, 786 women have benefited from literacy courses in Côte d'Ivoire, including 237 new women in 2025.



Income generating activities

MAISON DU PLANTEUR centres support women's entrepreneurship through income-generating activities that add value to local resources.

In Baba, 32 women were trained and equipped to process cassava into products such as attiéké and placali paste, reducing post-harvest losses and generating sustainable income.

In Etiénnékro, a new group of women formed an IGA in 2025 to process tomatoes into sauces and pastes, creating further economic opportunities within their community.



Women's economic empowerment is also a key human rights lever in cocoa-growing communities. Poverty, low productivity, and limited access to basic infrastructure can push families to rely on unpaid child labour, while poor water, hygiene, and sanitation further strain households.

By strengthening women's incomes and financial autonomy, TRANSPARENCE CACAO reduces reliance on child labour, supports savings through VSLAs, and enables investment in education, health, and living conditions. Combined with community-based child protection and essential services, this integrated approach safeguards children's rights and reduces vulnerabilities to both child and forced labour.

This systemic link between women's empowerment, living income, and human rights underpins the actions described in the following chapters on child and forced labour. Over the next five years, TRANSPARENCE CACAO will continue to strengthen this model, scaling economic empowerment, financial inclusion, and essential services as core pillars of our human rights strategy to create a more equitable, child-labour-free cocoa sector.



Fighting against Child Labour

Commitment to eliminating child labour

TRANSPARENCE CACAO is firmly committed to a zero-tolerance policy against child labour, as we believe it has no place in our cocoa supply chain.

What is a child and what is child labour? According to the International Labor Organisation (ILO) Conventions 138 and 182, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), childhood ends at the age of 18, marking the transition to adulthood.

ILO Convention N°138 defines different minimum age for various types of employment: 13 years for light work, 15 years for regular work, and 18 years for hazardous work. Countries may set higher ages, or in the case of developing countries, a slightly lower age.

ILO Convention N°182 further identifies hazardous work as one of the four worst forms of child labour (WFCL).



TRANSPARENCE CACAO places the fight against child labour at the core of its sourcing practices. All partner cooperatives formally commit to our policies prohibiting child and forced labour, and adherence to these commitments is verified annually through both internal and external audits to ensure accountability.

Focus on the highest-risk origin: Côte d'Ivoire.

Child labour risks differ across cocoa origins, with **Côte d'Ivoire representing the highest-risk context**. Our sustained local presence allows us to implement targeted interventions that address child labour and promote access to education. These include awareness-raising among farmers, distribution of school supplies, funding for a local teacher, and support for obtaining children's birth certificates—critical steps to protect children and strengthen community education infrastructure.



Raise Awareness and improve Child identification

TRANSPARENCE CACAO, together with its founder CÉMOI, has a long-standing partnership with International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) to implement the Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) and report annual child labour cases (aggregated report available [here](#)). Our field actions are guided by ICI's framework and guidelines (available [here](#)).

We take a wide-scale approach to combating child labour by engaging all partner cooperatives. The first step focuses on raising awareness among cooperatives, farmers, and communities. Using the CLMRS methodology developed by ICI, we have trained **83 cooperatives since 2022 (including 16 new ones in 2025)**.

Awareness alone is a prerequisite but not sufficient to assess and remediate individual cases. For this reason, we aim to ensure that all PREFERENCE and EXCELLENCE cooperatives operate a CLMRS or equivalent system. In 2025, 85% of our cooperatives had such a system in place, compared with 64% in 2024.

This strengthened sensitization, combined with long-term engagement with cooperatives, has significantly improved case identification on the ground. As a result, 7.629 children were identified and supported through remediation measures in 2025.

Reinforce CLMRS or equivalents

While these efforts have been critical, proper identification of at-risk children remains a challenge, highlighting the need for more in-depth approaches. To address this, we launched a **three-year project** founded by *the Fund against Child Labour (FBK), as part of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and in commission of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs* to strengthen child labour identification and remediation systems, improve data collection, and support targeted interventions at the cooperative and community level. Results and action plans can be found below.

In 2023, Phase A of this project was implemented across 2,200 farmers in 50+ villages, in partnership with Afrique Secours Assistance (ASA), using a bottom-up approach to understand and address the key challenges and engage communities.

Key actions included awareness sessions, school kit distributions, and early efforts to strengthen Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS). The findings highlighted the need for tailored interventions, stronger monitoring, and more effective remediation strategies. The study also underscored the crucial role of women's empowerment in supporting household income and reducing child labour risks.

Key learnings from phase A:

- No active child labour cases were identified, but **96 children (7–17 years) were at risk**, with **78% attending school** and most assisting parents during school vacations.
- **Poverty was a primary driver**, as families struggle to meet financial needs, impacting children's ability to attend school.
- Awareness of child labour issues was limited: while communities estimated high prevalence, only **20% recognized existing protection initiatives**.
- Structural constraints, such as insufficient schools, long walking distances, under-resourced canteens, and missing birth certificates, further hindered access to education.
- Monitoring challenges, including misunderstandings and limited field time. Cooperatives face constraints in expertise and resources despite awareness sessions and school kit distributions.



Building on the insights and foundations established during Phase A, Phase B was launched in February 2025 with Afrique Secours Assistance (ASA) to deepen child labour identification and reinforce remediation efforts. Expanding from four to nine cooperatives over a 30-month period, the phase began with preparatory work including equipping the project team, training field assistants, and designing tailored communication and awareness tools.

Between May and June 2025, **mass awareness campaigns reached 3,580 producers** through participatory community events such as football matches, cooking contests, and visual storytelling to illustrate the risks and consequences of child labour. Pre-surveys had highlighted persistent gaps in farmers' understanding, confirming the importance of these targeted approaches. By the end of the year, around 30% of producers had been reached by sensitization activities, exceeding the 25% target, and the 93 cooperative employees trained on child labour and child rights contributed to a visible improvement in producers' understanding and greater local ownership of anti-child labour messages.

Assessment of cooperative CLMRS systems revealed that **while most cooperatives had monitoring mechanisms in place, standardized data collection and year-round follow-up were still limited**. To address these gaps, the project developed the *Children First* plan, which included the creation of nine **Espaces Amis des Enfants (EAE)** and eight bridge classes to provide safe learning environments for at-risk children. Seven of the nine cooperatives now operate active monitoring systems, and recommendations were formulated to enhance seasonal adaptation of awareness campaigns and focus remediation efforts on high-risk groups such as out-of-school children, orphans, boys, and eldest siblings.

Phase B also **integrated women's empowerment as a key component to strengthen household income and reduce child labour risks**. Over the course of the year, 270 women were trained to create nine VSLAs, with starter kits and initial funds provided. By the end of 2025, 15 VSLAs were operational—160% of the target and 145 microcredits were granted, more than triple the planned 68 microcredits. These initiatives have significantly improved women's financial resilience and autonomy while reinforcing social dialogue and community solidarity.

Overall, the interventions of Phase B have led to substantial results: mass sensitization reached 30% of producers, exceeding targets; 15 VSLAs were operational (160% of the planned nine); and 145 microcredits were disbursed (213% of the target), demonstrating strong progress in behaviour change, child labour monitoring, and household income improvement. The long-term objective is to leverage these learnings across all TRANSPARENCE CACAO cooperatives, ensuring a more robust and sustainable child-labour-free supply chain.

The long-term objective is to leverage the learnings from these nine cooperatives to **strengthen CLMRS across all TRANSPARENCE CACAO cooperatives**, ensuring a more robust and sustainable child-labour-free supply chain.



MAISON DU PLANTEUR activities to help fight child labour

Beyond reinforcing child labour identification and remediation systems, our **MAISON DU PLANTEUR** centres play a central role in supporting children and families, facilitating **birth registration**, providing **after-school support** and supporting health and well-being. Here below is a summary of 2025 activities:



Extra-Support Classes & Birth certificates

Reinforcement classes at MAISON DU PLANTEUR provide tailored educational support outside school hours. Tutors work with children twice a week over five months, improving exam outcomes and ensuring continued schooling. This initiative has shown strong results, surpassing regional and national benchmarks.

All fifth-grade students in participating communities are included, reaching **1,000 students in 2023, 3,821 cumulatively in 2024, and 5,113 in 2025**

5th GRADE EXAM RESULTS 2025 (%)	TOUIH		NIAFOUTA		BEREBY		PAULY		WAGANA		SONGAN		DIANGOBO		KOKOLILIE	
	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy
MAISON DU PLANTEUR	95,8	93,6	100	100	88,3	89,7	89,3	60,3	100	100	95,4	97,1	100	100	93,8	80,4
	95,7		100		88,9		74,8		100		96,2		100		87,1	
Regional results	74,4		84,9		70,7		70,7		90,9		88,8		78		79,5	

In remote areas of Côte d'Ivoire, lack of legal documentation can prevent children from continuing education beyond fifth grade, increasing the risk of child labour. Since 2022, TRANSPARENCE CACAO has supported communities in registering children, benefitting **375 students** over three years. Following the 2024 government simplification of birth registration procedures, we have adapted our approach, actively informing parents through targeted communications via our partner cooperatives.



Renovating Touih primary school

Beginning of 2025, TRANSPARENCE CACAO financed the rehabilitation of Touih Primary School, in the San Pedro region of Côte d'Ivoire. The project focused on eliminating structural risks, improving classroom conditions, and creating a more welcoming learning environment. As a result, the school's four classrooms were fully restored, ensuring a safer and more conducive setting for education in this rural area.





School Canteen

In 2023, we initiated a support to school canteens in two MAISON DU PLANTEUR (Songan and Bereby), benefiting 1,125 children who received meals for four months. In 2024, the initiative will expand to MAISON DU PLANTEUR in Pauly, reaching an additional 200 children.

In 2025, nearly 1,000 kg of food supplies were distributed across different region. In the West, the MAISON DU PLANTEUR of Pauly and Touih supported school canteens benefiting 600 children; in the Central & East area, the MAISON DU PLANTEUR of Wagana and Songa received supplies for 500 children. We are planning to scale those initiatives to all MAISON DU PLANTEUR starting 2026.



Health and Gender campaigns

Maison du Planteur also offer educational sensitizations and various activities aimed at promoting healthy behaviours, prevent drug abuse, and encourage responsible sexual and reproductive health choices, ensuring students can successfully continue their education. Through MAISON DU PLANTEUR, 2,476 students were sensitized on these issues in 2023-2024.

In 2025, the program was further strengthened with a dedicated gender-awareness campaign, reaching 300 people from Niafouta community. We will deploy this initiative in 2026 targeting Cémoi Côte d'Ivoire headquarters as well as progressive roll our across all other Maison du Planteur, with the long-term aim to equip young people with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions and to foster a culture of respect and equality



Christmas celebrations

Supporting children goes beyond education and health—it also means creating moments of joy and celebration.

In 2023 and 2024, holiday events in Bereby and Touih brought festive experiences to 300 children through games, performances, and gifts. **In 2025, the program was extended to Divo, reaching an additional 200 children.** These celebrations not only create lasting memories but also foster a stronger sense of community among children and their families.



Fighting Forced Labour

Commitment to eliminating forced labour

TRANSPARENCE CACAO is dedicated to preventing forced labour and slavery, recognizing them as serious human rights violations that undermine sustainable and ethical supply chains.

What are forced labour and slavery?

Forced Labor as defined by ILO Convention N°29 (1930), refers to work exacted under the threat of punishment and carried out without a person's free and informed consent. It may involve deception about working conditions or coercion through physical, psychological, or verbal threats, including situations where fear is created by seeing others being forced to work.

Slavery is a system of exploitation based on coercion and violence. According to the 1926 Geneva Convention, it exists when powers associated with ownership are exercised over an individual. Slavery often overlaps with human trafficking, which involves the recruitment, movement, or harbouring of people through force, threats, fraud, abuse of power, or exploitation of vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation.



TRANSPARENCE CACAO treats the prevention of forced labour as a fundamental part of its sourcing practices. All partner cooperatives formally commit to policies prohibiting forced labour, and compliance is verified annually through internal and external audits. This ensures accountability and reinforces our commitment to ethical and responsible cocoa production.



Findings from our on-the-ground study

In 2024, we conducted a comprehensive study in two cooperatives to assess risks and strengthen our action plan. The study combined quantitative surveys of 300 participants—including producers, women, and cooperative members—with qualitative focus groups and interviews with local authorities, cooperative leaders, and human rights focal points. This participatory approach allowed for a thorough understanding of the risk factors related to forced labour and slavery, guided by ARS-1000 standards and Ivorian legal frameworks.

Key risks identified included limited capacity among cooperative leaders and technical staff to manage risks, economic hardship among farmers, weak regulation and oversight, gaps in certification transparency, precarious labour conditions on farms, absence of complaint mechanisms, and insufficient community structures to monitor human rights. Based on these findings, recommendations were made to define clear risk management expectations, establish permanent risk evaluation structures, raise awareness and provide training for communities, and implement effective complaint mechanisms.

Our action plan

Building on these learnings, we have strengthened our prevention, mitigation, and remediation measures. This includes expanding awareness-raising campaigns, promoting the use of formal worker–employer contracts, improving access to complaints channels, and implementing tailored remediation whenever risks or violations are identified.

We also apply a responsible non-disengagement protocol. In confirmed cases, we conduct fair and documented investigations and prioritize remediation. Disengagement is used only at the individual farmer level and only when absolutely necessary, ensuring that cooperatives are not penalized.

We are also supporting capacity building within cooperatives. In 2025, a targeted workshop for 16 cooperative leaders and technical staff was held to build knowledge on international standards, Ivorian legal requirements, risk assessment, root causes of forced labour, stakeholder collaboration, and preventive action planning. This initiative enabled us, for the first time, to identify workers at risk in western Côte d'Ivoire and to successfully remediate all cases.

Through these efforts, TRANSPARENCE CACAO continues to strengthen its policies, systems, and community engagement to proactively prevent forced labour and ensure ethical, responsible cocoa sourcing.



Improving living conditions

TRANSPARENCE CACAO recognizes that good health and safe living conditions are essential for farmers and their families. We prioritize access to healthcare, nutrition, clean water, and basic infrastructure to enhance well-being, productivity, and overall quality of life across cocoa-growing communities.

Côte d'Ivoire's national health planning (PAN) places access to quality healthcare, disease prevention, and improved living conditions at the centre of efforts to enhance population well-being. Building on the National Health Development Plan (PNDS), TRANSPARENCE CACAO aims to amplify health impact at the local level through targeted community initiatives.

Our approach focuses on improving access to essential healthcare, strengthening maternal and child health, promoting nutrition, and supporting broader health coverage, while also addressing critical living conditions such as access to safe water, sanitation, and supportive infrastructure.

Health care

In our South American origins, our program supports farmers' access to healthcare and protection against health-related financial shocks through a set of targeted social support measures implemented at community level. Social safety nets have been implemented for farmers and their families in the event of health issues. These include access to essential medicines in case of illness, support for ophthalmological care such as eye examinations and corrective glasses, and financial assistance for funerals, including the purchase of coffins, to reduce the economic burden on households.

Our program allocates a significant share of its premium to social support initiatives for cooperative members and their families. In 2024, a total of USD 83,701.27 was used to support members in terms of health, increasing to USD 98,677.58 in 2025, reflecting a strengthened investment in healthcare access and well-being. Additionally, in 2025, 441 health and safety support cases were completed in Latin America.

In Côte d'Ivoire, expanding health coverage is essential to ensuring that vulnerable rural populations can access the services they need. In 2025, our health strategy focused on improving access to care, strengthening workplace safety, and supporting nutrition across our 16 partner cooperatives.

In partnership with AXA, we carried out a needs-assessment survey with 320 producers to better understand farmers' expectations regarding health insurance. The findings confirmed a strong demand for affordable and reliable coverage. AXA was therefore mandated to design a tailored health-insurance product that aligns with producers' real needs in terms of cost and protection.



MAISON DU PLANTEUR activities to support health

Through initiatives such as the *Caravane Santé*, we continue to bring health services closer to farmers and their families. Sensitization campaigns address priority issues including drug prevention and early pregnancies, while nutrition is reinforced through income-generating activities, diversification of food sources, support to school canteens, and community-level improvements in access to drinking water.

See more details about our actions towards Nutrition can be found in Social Chapter [here](#).



Caravane Santé

One key initiative we have been deploying for 4 years to provide better access to health services to our communities, is the CARAVANE SANTE initiative in partnership with Caravane Santé Afrique (CSA). This mobile health service that has been visiting remote farming communities, with the objective to run yearly screening, prevention, and raise awareness about chronic and viral diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, HIV and viral hepatitis B and C. This initiative aims to help improve the living conditions of TRANSPARENCE CACAO partner farmers and local communities. **Since 2022, 2,443 individuals benefited from this service, including 584 in 2025.**



Access to water

Improving access to safe water remains a key pillar of our community support strategy. Investments in water points, sanitation, and basic infrastructure reduce disease risks, enhance hygiene, and strengthen household resilience in cocoa-growing communities. Renovated pumps and improved facilities help ensure that families can rely on clean, accessible water every day.

Beyond access, TRANSPARENCE CACAO recognizes water as a precious resource that must be protected across the entire cocoa value chain. We work with farmers and cooperatives to safeguard water quality through training on responsible agrochemical use, waste management, and sustainable farming practices. These commitments are embedded in the TRANSPARENCE CACAO Standard, ensuring that water stewardship is integrated into all supply-chain activities.

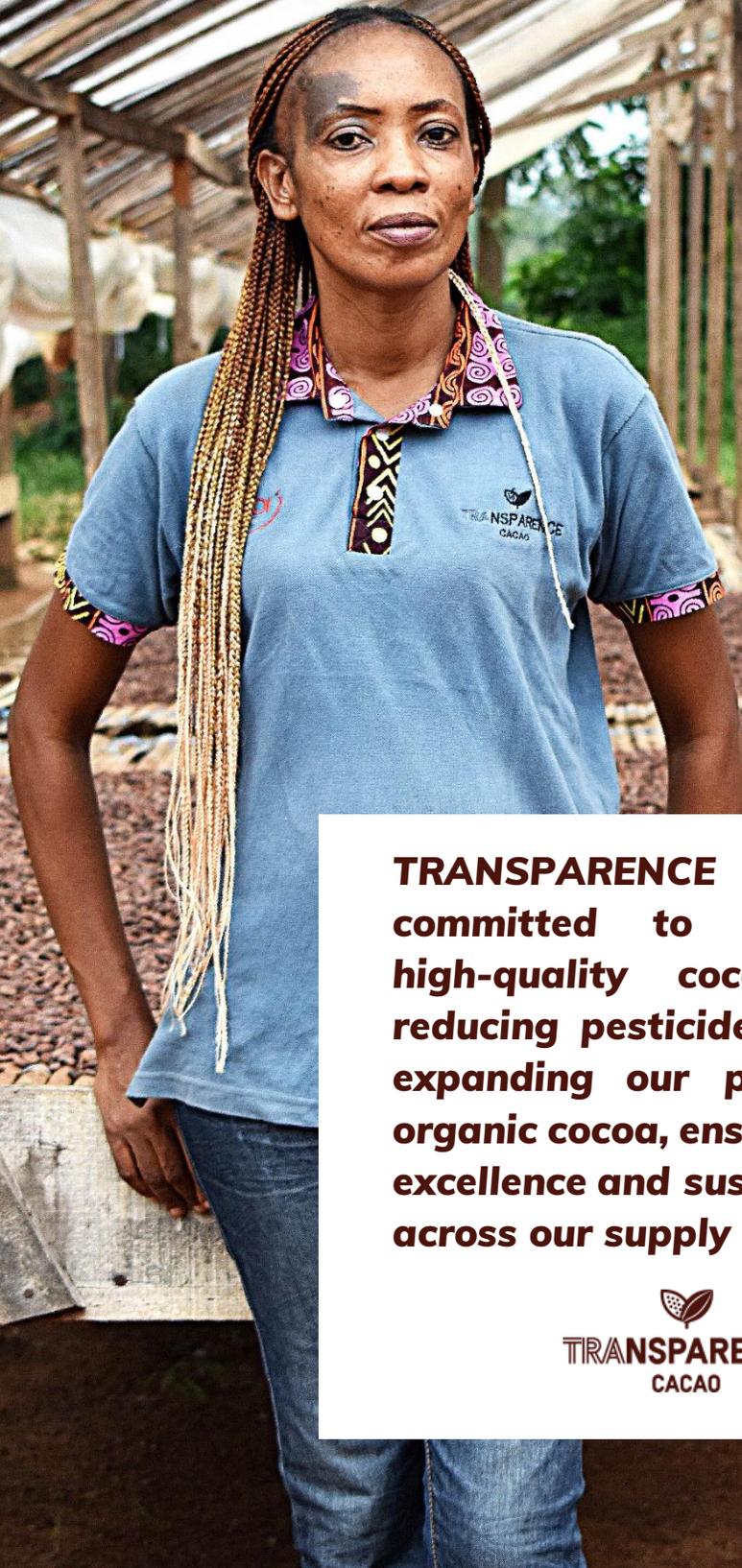


Renovating water pumps

In 2024, we renovated two water pumps in Touih village, restoring safe drinking water access for 1,600 inhabitants. In 2025, two additional water pumps were renovated in Pauly community. These pumps are the community's primary water source, and their rehabilitation reduces health risks for families who previously relied on distant or unsafe alternatives. This investment significantly improves daily living conditions and strengthens the overall resilience of the village.



AROMATIC & FOOD QUALITY



TRANSPARENCE CACAO is committed to producing high-quality cocoa while reducing pesticide use, and expanding our pledge for organic cocoa, ensuring both excellence and sustainability across our supply chain.



Aromatic quality

High-quality cocoa is central to TRANSPARENCE CACAO's mission, both to delight consumers and to help farmers maximize their revenues.

Our **PREFERENCE** farmers and cooperatives receive in-depth training on post-harvest best practices, covering every step from proper fermentation techniques to effective drying, hygiene, and contamination prevention. This training ensures that farmers understand how each stage influences flavour and aroma, while also reducing losses and enhancing the overall market value of their cocoa.

By applying these practices, farmers not only improve bean quality but also increase their income and strengthen the sustainability of their operations.



For **EXCELLENCE**, freshly harvested wet cocoa beans are sourced directly from farmers and carefully processed in specialized fermentation centres under controlled conditions.

The beans are then dried on solar beds, preserving optimal moisture, protecting against mold and contaminants, and allowing the full flavour potential to develop. By combining rigorous post-harvest methods, continuous monitoring, and dedicated support, TRANSPARENCE CACAO ensures that farmers produce cocoa of the highest standard while strengthening the sustainability and profitability of the supply chain.



Chemicals and pesticides policy

Through TRANSPARENCE CACAO, we aim to minimize the use of pesticides by promoting good agricultural and environmental practices. We prioritize the safety of farmers and communities, ensuring that children, pregnant women, and those with respiratory conditions are never involved in handling chemicals. Compliance with these safeguards is verified annually through internal and external audits.

Integrated farming practices are at the core of our approach, emphasizing pruning, field maintenance, and other agronomic techniques that naturally limit pests and diseases. Chemical inputs are used only as a last resort, while natural fertilizers are promoted for their environmental benefits, cost-effectiveness, and local availability, supporting both sustainable production and resilient farms.

Strict adherence to regulations and international standards

Our approach is grounded in **full compliance with European pesticide regulations**, including Regulation (EC) No. **396/2005** on maximum residue levels and the amendments to **Council Directive 91/414/EEC**. All our activities and products meet applicable quality and food safety requirements, in line with our commitments to customers.

We also align our practices with **recognized international certification standards such as Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance**, which include [Fairtrade requirements on listed active substances](#) and [Rainforest integrated pest management](#) and [highly hazardous pesticides](#).

Commitments to organic cocoa in South American origins and Sao Tomé

In the end the best chemical and pesticides policy is not to use chemicals nor pesticides at all.

We are proud of the collaboration with the four cocoa origins (Ecuador, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and São Tomé and Príncipe) out of which all cocoa sourced is organic certified, in addition to being part of TRANSPARENCE CACAO.



These volumes comply with relevant standards, including:

Rainforest Alliance 2020 Standard (Annex S07 on pesticide management)

Fairtrade Hazardous Material List, both aligned with FAO/WHO guidelines on hazardous pesticides.

Reduction use and reduction strategy in Côte d'Ivoire

To strengthen safe and sustainable pesticide management, TRANSPARENCE CACAO has conducted multiple studies and implemented corrective measures across partner cooperatives. A **2023 study** in two cooperatives highlighted gaps in input management, limited support for members, and literacy challenges that hinder farmers' ability to read labels and technical instructions. While farmers understand pesticide risks, economic pressures often outweigh health and environmental considerations. In these cooperatives, 94% of farmers used application brigades, and 70% of applicators wore the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), though 74% reported that equipment was not always in good condition.

To broaden our knowledge, a **2025 survey of 434 producers across 35 cooperatives** was launched. This confirmed that **all producers use pesticides**, primarily for pest control, with 77% relying on applicators, 20% applying themselves, and 3% involving family members. Cooperatives supply products in 65% of cases, while the remainder are purchased independently. At farmers' level, training gaps persist, as 58% of producers reported receiving no training, and improper disposal remains a concern. At the cooperative level, 95% have measures to limit pesticide use, including Good Agricultural Practices and applicator brigades; 76% promote natural fertilizers, and 94% implement ecosystem protection measures, such as buffer zones, vegetative barriers, and environmental training.

Based on these insights, a **reinforced pesticide management system** has been piloted, combining clear policies, farm development plans, formalized farmer commitments, coordinated input supply, and systematic monitoring. Complementary actions include expanded awareness campaigns, strengthened application brigades, and provision of protective equipment, ensuring that pesticide use is both safe and effective and minimizes environmental impacts.

Awareness raising

Raising awareness and providing training on pesticide safety, integrated pest management (IPM), and health practices is a core part of our sustainability efforts.

We developed a visual guidebook highlighting best agricultural practices and banned agrochemicals, designed to support farmers with limited literacy by showing product images, names, and active ingredients.

Each year, we conduct training sessions to equip cooperative staff and farmers with the knowledge and skills to handle pesticides safely, protect the environment, and reduce health risks. **In 2024 and 2025, 100% of our partner cooperatives participated in these sessions.**

Pesticide management is fully integrated into our internal audits, with regular checks on storage, handling, and compliance. Any non-compliance triggers targeted corrective actions and training, supported by our traceability system, which quickly identifies the cooperative concerned if prohibited agrochemicals are detected or thresholds exceeded.

This allows for focused follow-up and tailored training on the specific issue, reinforcing good practices and ensuring continuous improvement across our supply chain.



Application brigades in Côte d'Ivoire

In 2024, we deployed **pruning and application brigades across 94 cooperatives** to optimize pesticide use through more efficient and controlled practices. These trained teams apply only **authorized products**, following best-use recommendations, helping reduce overall reliance on chemical pesticides while improving farm management.

The brigades are made up of trained teams familiar with the authorized pesticide list and best-use recommendations, ensuring that only necessary and approved products are applied efficiently. This approach improves agricultural practices while reducing overall reliance on pesticides.

They also play a key role in **reducing health risks** for farmers. TRANSPARENCE CACAO provides application teams with **personal protective equipment (PPE)** and regular training on good agricultural practices, safe handling, proper application of chemicals, and farm health and safety.



In 2025, application brigades supported 39,419 farmers, strengthening safe and responsible pesticide use across our supply chain.

Promotion of natural alternatives

Reducing dependence on chemical inputs also means **promoting natural alternatives**, which help restore soil health, improve fertility, and lower production costs.

In **South America**, where **100% of cocoa is organically certified**, farmers continue to benefit from support on natural fertilizer initiatives, including on-farm training to produce **efficient microorganisms** and to distribute thousands of liters of bioles. Beyond strengthening the long-term resilience of cocoa farms, these initiatives provide **learnings we aim to replicate in Côte d'Ivoire**.

More information on Soil health initiatives can be found in our Environmental chapter [here](#).

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, where cocoa farmers are more dependent on chemical inputs, we are actively promoting natural alternatives and deploying **compost production units**. We are also conducting research in partnership with students from **ESA Agriculture School** to explore ways to valorise **cassava by-products from IGAs** into natural herbicides.

In **2025, 93 partner cooperatives** now implement actions to limit pesticide use, and **76 cooperatives** have established compost units, with around **40% of farmers** using organic matter produced on farm, contributing to lower input costs and improved soil fertility.



Health & Safety

In 2025, we continued expanding our Health & Safety program, building on the pilot launched in 2022 and the adoption of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) system by 10 cooperatives by 2024. With the support of our technical partner TG GROUP, **the OHS system was extended to 10 additional cooperatives, bringing the total to 20 cooperatives covered by TRANSPARENCE CACAO. Our objective is to reach 10 more cooperatives by 2026.**

The rollout followed a structured approach, starting with risk assessments across all cooperative activities, followed by the reinforcement of an OHS policy through on-site training, practical exercises, and continuous coaching. Practical actions—such as sanitation days, emergency drills, and awareness campaigns—helped embed safe working practices and hygiene.

Health & Safety committees were established in each participating cooperative, bringing together cooperative management and farmers to ensure shared responsibility. Supported by TG GROUP, these committees carried out diagnostics and implemented tailored action plans to address identified gaps and improve working conditions. Activities emphasized both staff and community engagement, with a strong focus on prevention, safe handling of equipment and chemicals, and the promotion of a lasting health and safety culture within cooperatives.

To ensure long-term effectiveness, a monitoring and follow-up system supports compliance, continuous improvement, and the promotion of a lasting health and safety culture within cooperatives.



2025 Key achievements:

- 13,981 people reached through awareness campaigns: 7,983 farmers, 5,881 community members, 117 cooperative staff
- 46 staff members trained in first aid, fire safety, and OHS practices
- 9 out of 10 cooperatives completed annual management reviews and established core OHS procedures
- 4 accidents with work stoppage, with corrective measures applied

Verification

Seriousness of Our Approach

Our commitment to excellence is embodied in the TRANSPARENCE CACAO (PREFERENCE & EXCELLENCE) standard, comprising 174 requirements organized into four pillars: traceability & transparency, the quality of life of farmers (encompassing our measures against child labour and the implementation of our strategy for achieving a decent income), the environmental quality (addressing deforestation and embracing agroforestry practices), and finally, aromatic and food quality (covering pesticide management and post-harvest best practices).

This standard has undergone a thorough comparison with existing international norms such as ISO 34101 and ARS (in 2020 by Bureau Veritas). The analyses revealed a significant alignment of requirements, underscoring the seriousness of the TRANSPARENCE CACAO initiative.

Audits

Our EXCELLENCE organic supply chains are certified Fair For Life, with some also holding Fairtrade certification.

All cooperatives in Cote d'Ivoire go through an annual internal audit with respect to our TRANSPARENCE CACAO standard.

In addition, our PREFERENCE cooperatives undergo annual external verifications (conducted by Bureau Veritas) based on our TRANSPARENCE CACAO standard.

The verification cycle spans three years, involving all PREFERENCE cooperatives and includes a sampling of representative farmers.

Our remaining REFERENCE cooperatives undergo both internal and external audits when seeking certification (Rainforest Alliance - 22%, Fairtrade - 11%).

More information available here [Fr]:

<https://www.bureauveritas.fr/magazine/cemioi-chocolats-responsables>



Grievance mechanism and non-compliance policy

TRANSPARENCE CACAO Standards establish clear expectations for environmental stewardship, human rights, and responsible cocoa production, ensuring a supply chain that is ethical, sustainable, and compliant with regulatory and certification requirements.

Our approach focuses on key priorities: preventing deforestation and forest degradation, safeguarding resources, promoting responsible agrochemical use, preserving biodiversity and natural habitats, supporting crop diversification, ensuring proper waste management, and upholding the rights and well-being of farmers and communities.

These standards apply to all partners across our supply chain, reinforced through monitoring, training, and grievance mechanisms to address non-compliance and continuously improve performance.

The following priorities guide our approach and apply to all partners across our supply chain:

- Preventing deforestation and forest degradation
- Protecting water from contamination
- Ensuring the responsible and reduced use of agrochemicals
- Preserving natural habitats and biodiversity, including promoting crop diversification within cocoa farms
- Promoting proper waste management
- Conserving water resources and preventing wastage
- Upholding the rights and well-being of farmers and workers, including fair labour practices
- Protecting children from child labour and all forms of exploitation
- Ensuring access to grievance mechanisms and remediation for affected communities

Any stakeholder wishing to raise concerns, ask questions, or seek guidance is invited to contact us via our website:

www.transparency-cacao.com/contact/





For more information,
visit our website

www.transparence-cacao.com



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