

Annual Report 2025

Highlights



BELCOLADE

THE REAL BELGIAN CHOCOLATE

 **puratos**
Food Innovation for Good

Cacao-Trace 2025 Annual Report Highlights



2025 was marked by an unprecedented increase in the cost of ingredients, particularly cocoa, with prices reaching historic levels.

Faced with these challenges, the Cacao-Trace programme stands out more than ever as a concrete response, placing farmers' wellbeing and cocoa quality at the heart of its approach. The achievements of 2025, and the 10-year anniversary of the Chocolate Bonus, highlight our continued commitment to better revenue for farmers while providing great tasting chocolate to consumers.

Alongside this our commitment to sustainable farming remains. Today, beans sourced from Africa, which accounts for 80% of the bean supply for the Cacao-Trace programme, comply 100% with the European Deforestation Regulation.

Our Impact at a glance in 2025

At the end of 2025 Cacao-Trace counted 10 active programmes

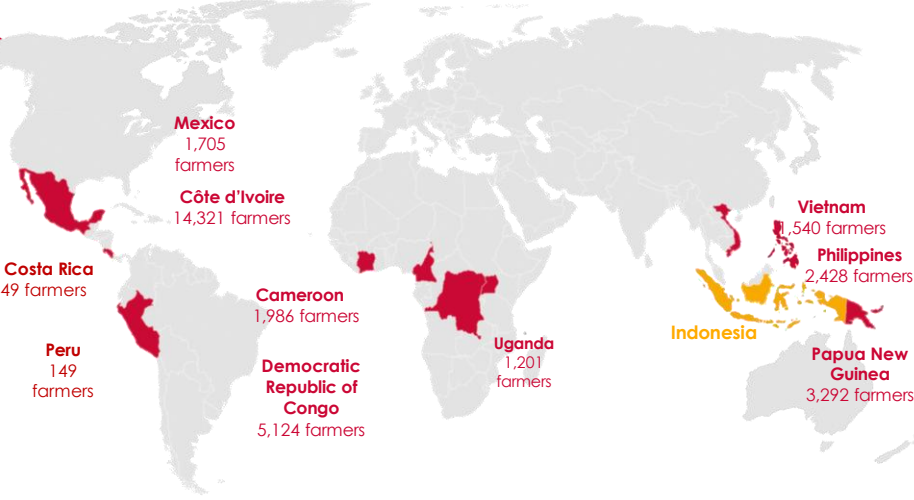
We are currently deploying the Cacao-Trace initiative in Vietnam (2014), Costa Rica (2025), Côte d'Ivoire (2015), Peru (2025), Philippines (2017), Mexico (2018), Uganda (2018) Papua New Guinea (2018), Cameroon (2020) and Congo (DRC) (2022).

GREAT TASTE ..

Post-Harvest Centres
31¹

Grinding lines
2

Reaching
31,795
farmer
families

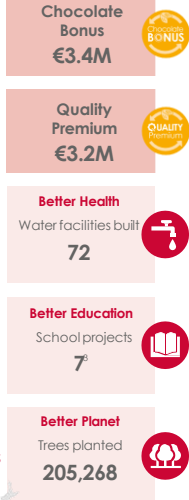


LEGEND

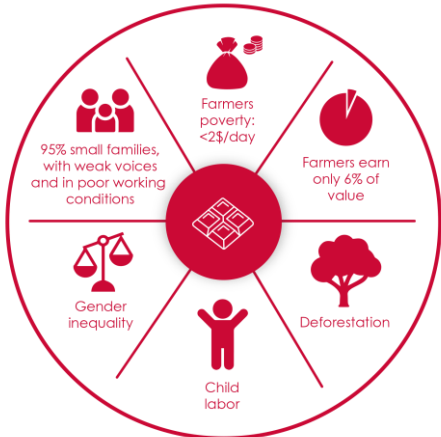
- Cacao-Trace country
- Cacao-Trace country in transition

- 1 31 post-harvest centres + 158 village fermentaries in Papua New Guinea
- 2 17 solar-powered pumps, 20 manual pumps, 35 water tanks
- 3 primary schools, 1 secondary school, extension of 1 high school, extension of 1 primary school: we also provided 10,282 school kits in Côte d'Ivoire.

... DOING GOOD



Cacao-Trace works directly with **cocoa farming communities** to address the **6 key challenges** in the cocoa supply chain.



Great Taste. Doing Good.

"At Cacao-Trace we master the fermentation process to ensure our chocolate and cocoa-based products have a Great Taste. Doing Good is our focus so Cacao-Trace farmers benefit from the value they create."

Sylvestre Awono, Group Cacao Manager at Puratos



GREAT TASTE

Cacao-Trace is the only cocoa programme working with farmers to help ensure the best tasting cocoa.



1. To select high-quality wet beans, we **collaborate with and extensively train Cacao-Trace certified farmers**, defining **good agricultural practices** to ensure yield management and bean quality.
2. We **hire and train community members** to become **professional Cacao-Trace fermentation masers**, ensuring that quality checks are carried throughout. We build **our own Post-Harvest Centres** with professional fermentation equipment.
3. **Drying** is carried out by community members who are hired and trained to become masters, ensuring that the **process is hygienic and optimised**, so that we can **develop great tasting chocolate**.
4. We ensure that our beans are **roasted** at low temperatures for longer to preserve the delicate flavours in the beans.

In 2025, Cacao-Trace expanded to two new certified countries: Peru and Costa Rica.



Dr Arthur TAPI – Africa Regional Cocoa Manager

"No sustainability program can succeed without a strong relationship with producers. This is why we invest in cooperatives to strengthen their management capacities and governance with the support of partners like ENABEL (Belgium's development agency)."



DOING GOOD: For Farmers and Communities

We reward our farmers for the high quality-beans we deliver to post-harvest centres by paying them an extra income on top to ensure that they receive living income. This creates substantial additional revenue and is **paid directly** to the farmers. In 2025, this amounted to **€3.2M**.



- For **every kg of CT** chocolate sold, we charge our customers **€ 0.10/kg** and **100% goes back to cocoa farmers**.
- This money is 100% distributed to cocoa farmers, either directly in cash (6%) or into community projects, which are decided with community members in a general assembly, (94%) depending on the countries.
- These projects focus on meeting **fundamental needs such as access to water, education and health**, as well as supporting farmers and their families in launching small businesses to increase their **income**.*
- In 2025 this amounted to **€3.4M**.



*All operation costs associated with the bonus collection and distribution are covered by Belcolade

- **100% volume commitment is delivered by a certified farmer-farm.**
- Once a farmer & farm are certified, we **commit to buying all their beans that match the Cacao-Trace standards**, without any influence of market demand such as the current market declining conditions, guaranteeing revenue.



Scovia Bilira, Cacao-Trace farmer in Uganda

"As a Cacao-Trace farmer since 2021, I really appreciate the price stability offered by this program. Thanks to the trainings, I also increased a lot my productivity."



Celebrating 10 Years of the Chocolate Bonus



Since 2016, we have **collected more than 13 million euros** through the Chocolate Bonus, and **today, more than 1,500 farmers receive the Chocolate Bonus.**

Vietnam is where the Cacao-Trace journey first began in 2014. Since 2016, cocoa farmers have been receiving the Chocolate Bonus, creating a meaningful and lasting connection between chocolate lovers and the farming communities at the very start of the value chain.

Since 2016 the Chocolate Bonus has contributed towards...



255 water infrastructures



34 school projects



3 maternity buildings



38K school kits

Creating Value for Cocoa Farmers

Beyond the financial reward itself, farmers consistently highlight the security provided by Cacao-Trace through **stable market access and reliable pricing.**

This **long-term commitment** gives them the confidence to continue investing in cocoa cultivation and to preserve their farms for future generations.

Watch the video below to hear more from our farmers in Vietnam.



DOING GOOD: For Farmers and Communities



Thank you to our Cacao-Trace Customers in the UK

You have helped to contribute to the equivalent of:

13,353

School
Kits

OR

55

Manual
Water Pumps

OR

11

Electric
Water Pumps

OR

3

Primary
Schools



Chocolate Bonus 2025: Projects Summary

Ivory coast

A collage of images representing projects in Ivory Coast, including a person in a green shirt, a water pump, and a woman in a yellow headscarf.

10k School kits
35 water pumps
4 School projects
3 women empowerment coachings

PNG

A large green water tank with the "cacao-trace" logo on its side.

35 tanks

Uganda

A young child in a pink school uniform using a manual water pump.

1 school project
1 water pump

Cameroon

A small, single-story school building with a white roof and blue walls.

1 primary school
1 secondary school

Congo

A building with a sign that reads "FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PORT OF KOUSSEROU".

Health
Feasibility study for an operation block

Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Vietnam

Two men standing in front of a large banner that reads "CHOCOLATE BONUS DISTRIBUTION". One man is holding a box of "Hội T Nông" (Hoi T Nong) chocolate.

Cash distribution

DOING GOOD: For the planet



With Cacao-Trace we fully support the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

- In line with the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), our focus has shifted to our Scope 3 carbon footprint, **and we aim to reduce our CO2 emissions by 30% by 2030**, with 19% coming from on-farm practices and 11% from agroforestry in-setting efforts.
- Since 2019, Cacao-Trace has been employing agroforestry, partnering with **PUR Projet**, to sequester carbon within the supply chains of farmers. We have **planted over 1 million trees to year to date**, planting **205,268 trees in 2025**.
- We continue to strengthen our approach and integrate new farmers into our supply chain, **ensuring full compliance with EUDR and Cacao-Trace**.

DIGITAL TRACEABILITY IS VALIDATED THROUGH:

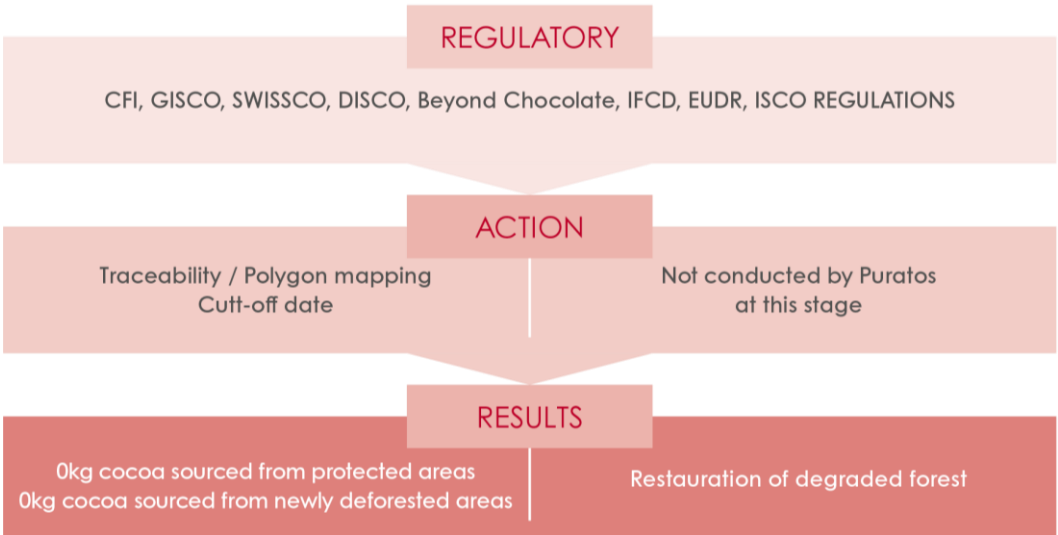
Farm-level geo-coordinates

Legal compliance documentation

Annual third-party audits under the Cacao-Trace standard

Verification against national laws, labour, environmental regulations and land use

Forest Protection



Farmer Poverty and Child Labour: Addressing Child Labour



We support transparency, disclosing and addressing the difficult truth which is that unfortunately child labour is a persistent issue in the global cocoa supply chain.

KEY INFLUENCES FOR CHILD LABOUR

What influences the likelihood of child labour?

When...	...the likelihood of child labour increased by
The child is older than 12	2.88X
The farmers marital status is cohabiting	2.59X
The farmer never went to school	1.60X
The child has dropped out of or never went to school	1.24X

How Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) Works

To help combat child labour, CLMRS is being carried out in the Ivory Coast, Papua New Guinea, Uganda, Vietnam, Mexico, Congo and Cameroon.

This includes:

- **Household profiling:** standardised digital survey of all children (under 18) in high-risk origins; unannounced farm visits are carried out as needed.
- **Identifying cases:** analysis of schooling, work status and risk factors to flag child labour or children at risk.
- **Sensitisation:** household awareness sessions on child rights and protection.
- **Remediation planning & action:** tailored support such as birth certificates school kits, scholarships, vocational training.
- **Follow-up & monitoring:** two visits (6 months & a follow up visit 6 months later) to confirm the child is out of child labour; cycle is repeated if necessary.



Farmer Poverty and Child Labour: Addressing Child Labour and Supporting Education



5 Key Actions

- 1. **Increase Household Income** by paying farmers a Quality Premium and Chocolate Bonus on top of the standard farmgate price.
- 2. **Child Rights & Protection** by implementing awareness, surveillance campaigns and a grievance mechanism alongside CLMRS.
- 3. **Child Access to Education** thanks to building school infrastructures and supporting the cost of education.
- 4. **Child Health & Safety** through investment in clean water access and health centre building.
- 5. **Stay Engaged** with long-term commitment through post-harvest centres, volume engagement, community development products and renovation projects.

How does this make a difference?

CHILD LABOR CASE MANAGEMENT

HOUSEHOLDS REGISTERED IN SYSTEM	HOUSEHOLDS VISITED IN CURRENT YEAR	CHILDREN VISITED IN CURRENT YEAR	CL CASES IDENTIFIED IN CURRENT YEAR	TOTAL ACTIVE CASES
100%	5,721	11,470	1,188	2,312
CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM REMEDIATION	CASES CLOSED IN CURRENT YEAR			
6,249	107			

In 2025, we strengthened remediation quality by expanding household profiling to newly enrolled communities, improving grievance mechanisms and deepening collaboration with local authorities and NGOs to accelerate case closure while safeguarding child rights.

Our target is to reach 30% of the households in high-risk countries per year. In 2025 our overall achievement was 23% due to starting the CLMRS approach in 2 new countries Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon.

Supporting Education: A Spotlight on the Ivory Coast



Access to education for children in cocoa growing communities is a key part of addressing child labour.

In 2025, the Chocolate Bonus supported 4 primary schools, funded **10,282 complete school kits** (books, pens, uniform and a school bag), **1 maternity building** and **3 women empowerment projects**.



André Cédric Akiapo – Educator at Affalikro 2 Secondary School

"This project is a relief for our region. The State has invested in nearby middle schools so that children do not have to move far from their parents, and you are completing this initiative with this high school...When they leave, many young people drop out, and some young girls become pregnant."

Birth Certificates

- To **continue secondary education**, **children need** to have official citizenship documents, specifically a **birth certificate** otherwise they are unable to progress beyond primary school.
- To **address this barrier**, the Next Generation Cocoa Foundation has **launched a pilot project** with the **humanitarian group Edeidi Partners**, to **provide birth certificates to 2,400 children** so that they can complete their education.

New Houses for the Teachers: 2024 project completed in 2025

- Retaining qualified teachers in local schools is a challenge as the village living conditions are far from the standards in the city.
- The community asked to use the Chocolate Bonus to find the construction of 3 housing units to provide accommodation for teachers assigned to the village.
- Thanks to this initiative, the 2025-26 school year started with 4 certified teachers.

Teacher housing in Allakouadiokro



Cacao-Trace Impact on Ivory Coast

CACAO-TRACE PROGRAM

INITIAL YEAR
2015



MASTER CT
FERMENTATION
CENTERS **11**

EXPERTS &
TRAINERS **134**

DIRECT
FULL-TIME JOBS **72**

TOTAL
INVESTMENT
IN CENTERS **€950,000**

% TRAINED
FARMERS **70%**

WOMEN
FULL-TIME JOBS **2**

CACAO-TRACE
CERTIFICATION %

2025

Basic compliance

FARMER COMMUNITY

TOTAL FARMERS
14,321

AVERAGE FARM SIZE HA
3.4

TRACEABILITY TO FARM
100%

WOMEN FARMERS
1,423

COCOA BEANS

CT VOLUME 2025
(VOLUME/MT)*** **11,834MT**

FERMENTATION
METHOD



DRYING
METHOD



VARIETY:
FORASTERO



SENSORY FLAVOUR
PROFILE CATEGORIES



% FERMENTED
IN CT CENTERS **4%**

% FERMENTATION
BY TRAINED CT
FARMERS **96%**

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MARKET *

CURRENT FARM
GATE PRICE/MT **€3,435**

MINIMUM PRICE
(APPLIED OR NOT) **YES**

* 2024/2025 campaign price converted
to Euro

CACAO-TRACE



AVERAGE FARMER
QUALITY PREMIUM
PAID/MT **€152**

CHOCOLATE
BONUS/KG **€0.10**



TOTAL
CHOCOLATE
BONUS: **2024 €2,546,916**

2025 €2,131,085

DISTRIBUTION: COMMUNITY PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

In Côte d'Ivoire, Cacao-Trace promotes agroforestry by encouraging farmers to plant shade trees to improve biodiversity, soil health, and carbon sequestration. In 2024, farmers planted 181,104 shade and cocoa trees across eight cooperatives, followed by 183,979 trees in 2025, with survival rates consistently above 83% thanks to ongoing field monitoring and financial incentives. Building on this foundation, Cacao-Trace launched an ambitious fertilizer and pruning pilot in 2025 to support yield improvement and environmental restoration. Through this program, farmers received organic fertilizers and technical coaching, with 1,000 hectares pruned and fertilized, 1,000 tons of organic fertilizer distributed, and 255 youth trained as pruning specialists. Early results show strong potential, with fertilized and pruned plots producing up to 280% more cherels than control plots. Together, the tree-planting efforts, and organic fertilizer program are helping farmers increase productivity while reducing environmental impacts.

Read the full report at www.cacaoTRACE.com



Great Taste
Doing Good

www.cacaotrace.com

Next Generation Cacao Foundation
Stoofstraat 41 - B-1000 Brussel, Belgium

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