

## Together for lasting Impact: ALDI and Storck advancing ECAMOM through shared commitment



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collect cocoa beans | © Mohamed Aly Diabate / Fairtrade / Fairpicture

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ALDI, ECAMOM and Fairtrade

## **List of Abbreviations**

**CCC** Conseil du Café-Cacao

**CLMRS** Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System

**ECAMOM** Cooperative Society of Modern Eco-farmers of Méagui (also known as "ECAMOM")

**EUDR** European Union Deforestation Regulation

FTA Fairtrade Africa
GA General Assembly

GAP Good Agricultural Practices

ICI International Cocoa Initiative

ICCO International Cocoa Organization

**IGA** Income Generating Activity

MEL Monitoring, Evaluation, and LearningMT Metric Ton (also plural: Metric Tons)SPO Small-scale Producer Organisation

ToC Theory of Change
ToTs Training of Trainers
UN United Nations
USD United States Dollar

VSLA Village Savings and Loan AssociationWACP West Africa Cocoa Programme

**XOF** West African CFA franc



## Key Highlights of the 2023/24 season



Total membership stands at

3,806 members



## Cocoa Yield:

Cocoa production reached

404 kg/ha

this season



## Cocoa Production Area:

The total cocoa production area is

16.41 (thousand hectares)

## Fairtrade Cocoa Sales:

Fairtrade cocoa sales amounted to

1,802 metric tons



## Training Participants:

A total of 14,874 participants

attended ECAMOM training sessions



## Non-Fairtrade Cocoa Sales:

Non-Fairtrade cocoa sales amounted to

2,753 metric tons





Generated

432,015 USD

to support cooperative development and community projects

## Child Labour Reduction:



Child labour cases decreased by

63%

compared to 2021/2022 season

## **EUDR Compliance:**



49%

of member farms are now polygon mapped

## Village Savings and Loan Associations:



ECAMOM established 49 VSLA groups, of which

**70%** of members are women

## Good Agricultural Practices:



On average, each member adopted

## 4 different

Good Agricultural Practices

## Village Savings and Loan Associations:



40% of VSLA funds

-32,053 EUR-

were disbursed to **211** members

## 1. Introduction

## **Introduction to Monitoring Report**

ECAMOM has made progress in recent seasons, achieving several successes that have contributed to its growth and development. Efforts to improve the management and sustainability of cooperative have been effective, with continued investment in farm management techniques, educational infrastructure, and provision of social services to members and communities in the cocoa growing areas. These efforts reflect the commitment to enhancing the well-being of the cooperative members and fostering long-term sustainability.

Despite the progress made, the cooperative is currently facing a decline in cocoa production due to several factors. The rising cost of inputs, exacerbated by the ongoing war in Ukraine, has made essential supplies inaccessible. Climate change and the effects of El Niño have exacerbated the spread of

pests and diseases, leading to lower production levels. Ageing and diseased trees, coupled with underinvestment in the cocoa sector, as well as lack of interest from younger generations, have also contributed to low productivity levels.

Another challenge has been the non-prefinancing of purchase contracts, which has made it difficult for the cooperative to execute contracts, as a lack of funds has hindered the ability to make necessary purchases.

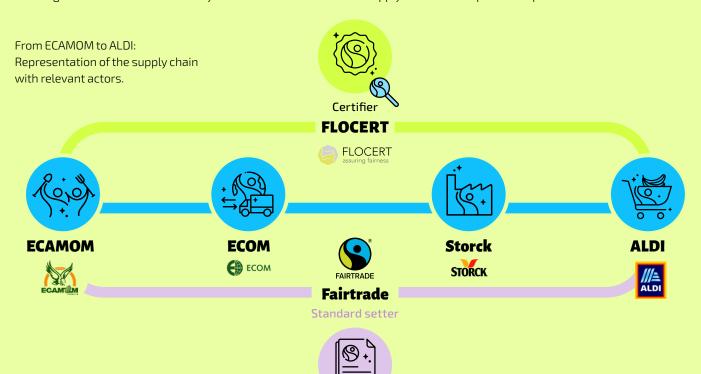
The European Union Deforestation Regulation has added to the burden of the cooperative's as it requires adjustments in the cooperative's operations to ensure compliance. Nonetheless, we remain committed to ensuring deforestation-free cocoa.

Lastly, the cooperative has experienced challenges with member loyalty due to strong competition from other cooperatives in the region. As a result, members often prefer to sell their cocoa to competitors, which affects the cooperative's ability to maintain its production levels.

This third monitoring report highlights the progress made on key indicators and focuses on the strategic collaboration between ALDI, Fairtrade and ECAMOM. To enhance the accuracy of our reporting, we have updated our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework, ensuring it more effectively aligns with the partnership and our collective objectives. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the current status of ECAMOM, its farmers and communities, and to promote a long-term partnership between all stakeholders.

## **Key stakeholders**

The diagram below illustrates the key stakeholders involved in the supply chain and the partnership.





### **About ECAMOM:**

The Cooperative Society of Modern Eco-farmers of Méagui (aka ECAMOM) was founded in 2006. It is located in south-western Côte d'Ivoire. ECAMOM received its producer Fairtrade certification in 2014, which was a crucial step for the cooperative in terms of professionalising its internal structures and gaining further market access. Since 2020 ECAMOM is also certified as a Fairtrade trader for cocoa..



### **ALDI South:**

The ALDI SOUTH Group (aka: ALDI) is a global food retail company and operates in eleven countries on four continents and employs around 182,000 members of staff. ALDI offers between 1,484 and 1,835 core range products in more than 6,900 stores worldwide. Its focus on the essentials and the use of the discount principle has made ALDI the leading international retailer it is today. Simplicity, consistency and responsibility are core values of ALDI. ALDI assumes responsibility towards customers, business partners, employees, the community, and the environment.



### **ECOM & Storck:**

Storck and ECOM are considered supply chain partners and are linked to the project in the sense that the cocoa sourced is exported by ECOM and imported by Storck. Both play a crucial role with regards to the integrity of the supply chain and may be informed about the project's progress and development with the purpose to foster the business relationship.



### Fairtrade:

Fairtrade Germany coordinates the joint monitoring project with ALDI and ECAMOM, working in close collaboration with the regional Fairtrade West Africa team. Data collection, analysis and report production are managed by the Global Impact Team at Fairtrade International.



### **FLOCERT:**

The certification and assurance organization FLOCERT manages data validation and assurance.

## Project Spotlight: "ALDI's and Storck's Commitment to Growth"

ECAMOM plays a key role in supporting producers and contributing to the country's economy. However, the cocoa sector faces numerous challenges such as climate change, gender inequality, child and forced labour, financial exclusion, and inadequate farm management systems. To address these challenges and achieve sustainable progress, ECAMOM together with Aldi SÜD KG and August Storck KG in collaboration with Fairtrade Africa and Fairtrade Germany have launched a comprehensive project that focuses on the implementation of key initiatives aimed at empowering women, eradicating child labour, enhancing financial inclusion, and strengthening traceability to meet emerging regulatory standards.

The project includes several components aimed at fostering growth and sustainability within the sector. The Women's School of Leadership will empower women by providing leadership training, financial management skills, promoting gender equality and encouraging women to take on leadership roles. The Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) will address child labour in cocoa farming by providing a system for identifying and remediating child labour cases, ensuring children have access to education and safe environments. The Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) will promote financial inclusion, allowing farmers, especially women, to access financial services, invest in their farms, and reduce their reliance on cooperatives for credit.

Additionally, the Polygon Mapping for Farm Management component will employ new technologies to create polygon maps that accurately depict the boundaries and characteristics of each farm. This data-driven approach will enable more effective farm management, resource allocation, and environmental conservation. This will ensure that the cooperative is compliant with the revised Fairtrade Standards, the European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the requirements of African Regional Standards (ARS-1000 series). Moreover, it would further help to improve the traceability systems of the cooperative as the cooperative can confidently trace the source of cocoa of its members.

Overall, the project aims to build a more resilient and inclusive cocoa industry by addressing key social, financial, and environmental issues.

# Increasing influence of external and contextual factors

## Introduction to the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

Theory of Change The ECAMOM Theory of Change (ToC) outlines the activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts resulting from the partnership between ECAMOM and ALDI. Formulated in 2024 after a review of the previous monitoring framework and consultations with key stakeholders, the ToC is centered around building resilient cooperatives that have a strong production base and a long-term sourcing relationship with ALDI, while also supporting thriving cocoa-growing communities. The overarching goal is to ensure that cooperatives are resilient with robust production based, long-term sourcing with ALDI and a thriving cocoa growing communities.

In the medium term, the objective is to create cooperatives that are democratic, inclusive, and committed to sustainable practices. In the short term, the focus is on making cooperatives efficient, sustainable enterprises that provide value to their members by enhancing their skills and knowledge. Key outputs in this regard include customized training programmemes, strengthened governance, and proactive actions on child labour and environmental issues. Additionally, the creation of Village Savings and Loan Associations plays a crucial role in supporting entrepreneurial activities and providing financial stability to cooperative members.

To achieve the desired change, the project is focused on building the cooperatives' capacity in key areas such as organizational development, adherence to Fairtrade standards, and addressing social issues like women's empowerment, child labour prevention, and financial inclusion. These targeted actions aim to help cooperatives develop into strong, productive, and socially responsible entities, ensuring long-term sustainability and positive community impact.

## **Impact**

A resilient cooperative with a robust production base, long-term sourcing relationship with ALDI, and thriving cocoa-growing communities

## Mediumterm outcome

Cooperative members perceive ECAMOM as democratic and inclusive, and embrace sustainable environmental and social practices in cocoa production

## Shortterm outcome

Cooperative is sustainable, and efficient enterprise that delivers value to its members and fosters the improvement of their knowledge and skills

## Outputs

Cooperative has training programmes in place that are tailored to meet the needs of members

Cooperative governance structures are strengthened through tailored training and support

Cooperative take action to address child labour & environmental issues, and ensure gender inclusion

VSLAs
established
serving as a
source of
credit for
entrepreneurial
activities

## Interventions

Capacity strengthening for ECAMOM staff and members on organizational development, Fairtrade standards, and key thematic areas including GAPs, women empowerment, child labour, environmental sustainability (e.g., deforestation), and financial inclusion



**Data sources** In alignment with the ToC, monitoring indicators were developed to cover key areas such as productivity, economic empowerment, capacity building, democracy, and gender inclusion. Data for the 2023/24 cocoa season (October 2023 to September 2024) were collected through customized online surveys targeting the second-grade cooperative and each of the ten first-grade cooperatives in the ALDI Fairtrade supply chain. Additionally, this report incorporates secondary data from household and cooperative surveys commissioned by Fairtrade International under its West Africa Cocoa Programme (WACP)1.

**Data validation** After completing the data collection, cleaning, and preliminary analysis, FLOCERT conducted an on-site assessment between November and December 2024. This step was essential to validate the accuracy of the reported data and to uphold the integrity of the final report. The data used in the report were primarily submitted by cooperatives via an online questionnaire, drawing largely from their internal management systems.

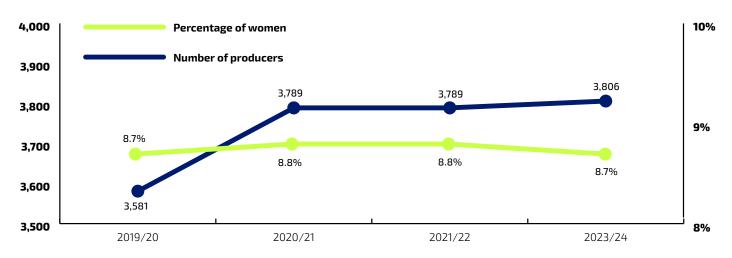


<sup>1</sup> The West Africa Cocoa Programme (WACP) seeks to build strong and resilient Small-scale Producer Organisations that are responsive to their members' and their business partners' needs. It covers Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Sierra Leone. Core services include providing basic certification advisory support to all Small-scale Producer Organisations targeted under WACP by training them on Fairtrade Standards through workshops. Additionally, strategic support is offered to select SPOs, such as ECAMOM, including extra training modules designed to enhance performance beyond mere compliance with the Standards. Importantly, WACP serves as the foundation of projects implemented in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (CDI), ensuring that cocoa-producing communities in these countries benefit from the sustainable and inclusive practices promoted by Fairtrade.

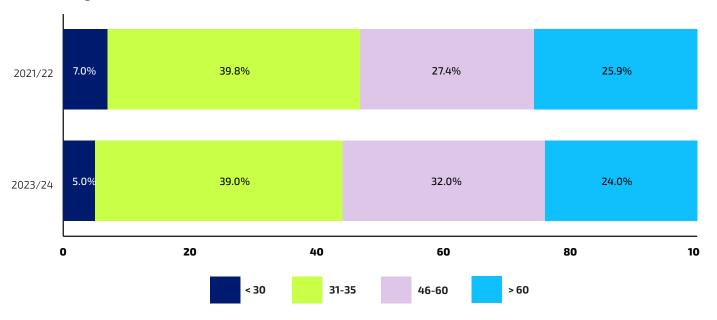
## 2. Membership and Production Profile

## Cooperative and member profile

### **Number of members**



## **Age distribution of ECAMOM members**

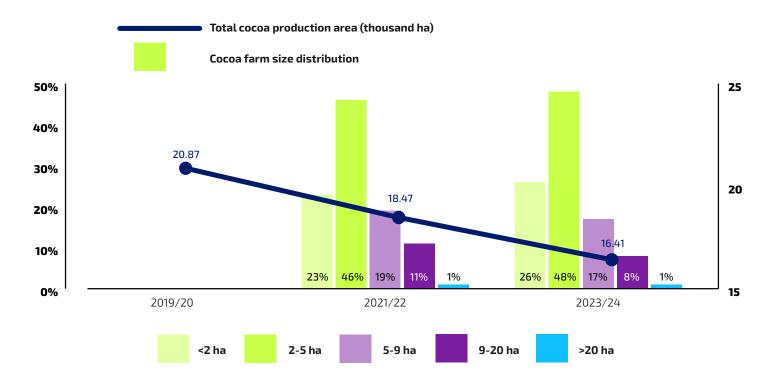


The total number of producers has increased slightly since the last monitoring report, from 3,581 in the 2019/20 cocoa season to 3,806 in the 2023/24 season. The proportion of female producers reduced marginally by a percentage point, from 8.8% in 2021/22 to 8.7% in the 2023/24 season.

The data also points to an aging membership within the cooperative. Only 5% of current members are under the age of 30—typically considered the youth demographic in the context of agricultural development—while 39% fall between the ages of 30 and 45, and a notable 56% are aged 46 and above.

To address this trend, ECAMOM is working towards bringing more younger people in the cooperative. The cooperative through collaboration with Fairtrade Africa under the West Africa Cocoa Programme is focussing on providing tailor-made training and interventions that make cocoa farming more attractive and sustainable for younger members.

## ECAMOM's total production area



In comparison to the 2021/22 season, the total production area in 2023/24 decreased by 11.1%, reaching 16.41 thousand hectares.

In terms of cocoa farm size distribution the 2023/24 shows a slight shift in the farm size categories within the cooperatives. About 74% of farms are now less than 5 hectares, an increase of 5% compared to 2021/22 season. This suggests an increasing concentration of smallholder farms within the cooperative.

This decline could be attributed to several factors. The cocoa swollen shoot disease has led to the loss of farms, significantly affecting the production area. Furthermore, much of the data on

production area reported for the previous years were based on estimates, but the ongoing GIS and geolocation mapping excercise have resulted in more accurate farm-level data. Another contributing factor is the withdrawal of plantations larger than 30 hectares, driven by Fairtrade requirements.



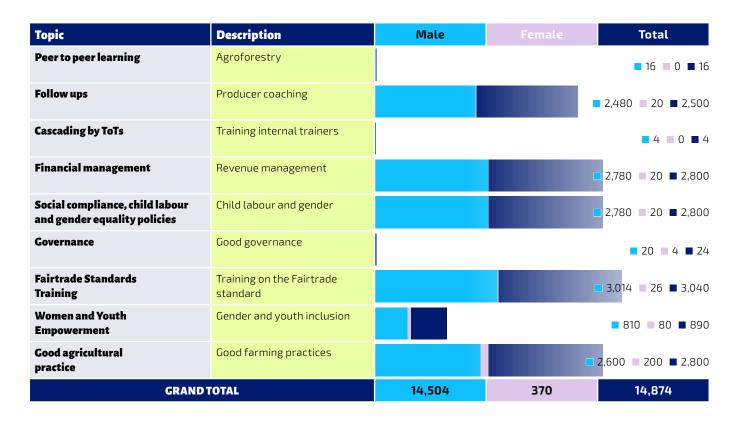
Kouassi Affoué Angèle, 52 years old, producer, member of ECAMOM cooperative and mother of 5 children. Collects cocoa pods with a piece of timber from a cocoa tree.



## 3. Capacity Building and Economic Empowerment

## **Providing quality training for ECAMOM members**

## Number and types of trainings provided by ECAMOM to members



ECAMOM organized a series of training sessions on different topics to equip members with important skills and knowledge, using various approaches such as peer-to-peer learning and cascade training through trainers. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, such as financial management, specifically revenue management, and social compliance, child labour, and gender equality policies, which emphasize child labour and gender awareness. Additionally, training on Governance was offered to promote good governance practices, as well as sessions on Fairtrade standard requirements. Members also received trainings on Women and Youth

Empowerment with a focus on gender and youth inclusion.

The Good Agricultural Practices training conducted by ECAMOM covered essential sustainable farming techniques to improve cocoa production. Key topics included pruning of cocoa trees to maintain tree health, pest and disease management to control cocoa pests and diseases, shade management to optimize tree growth, and cocoa harvesting and pod breaking to enhance the quality of harvested beans. These sessions have enabled farmers to acquire the skills they need to increase productivity and income and reduce environmental degradation.

As part of its broader capacity-building efforts, Fairtrade Africa complemented these initiatives through the West Africa Cocoa Programme —the foundation for all Fairtrade cocoa interventions in the region. Under this programme, 10 training sessions were delivered to ECAMOM staff and members, covering areas such as social compliance and child labour, financial management, Fairtrade standards, and the Women's School of Leadership. A total of 232 members, comprising 162 men and 70 women, participated in these sessions.

## **Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices by Members**



The monitoring data also shows that all ECAMOM members have adopted one or more of the different Good Agricultural Practices. The most widely adopted practices were weed management

and harvest techniques, followed by pest and disease management, and soil health management. In contrast, adoption of practices related to soil protection, pruning, and shade management was noticeably lower, indicating the need for targeted interventions to increase uptake in these areas.

## Pictures of some of the training sessions

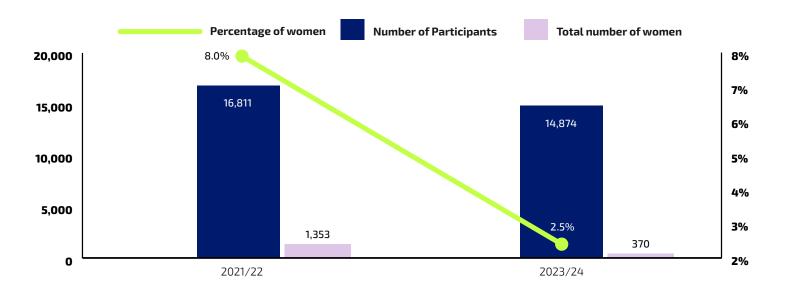
Photo on the right: Members of the cooperative take part in a training session on allergens aimed at raising awareness and strengthening food safety knowledge. • Photo below: Members of the cooperative participate in a training session on Good Agricultural Practices at PAPEDI, aimed at strengthening sustainable cocoa farming techniques.







## Total number of participants in all training sessions



The data shows a notable decline in both overall and female participation in training sessions between 2021/22 and 2023/24. Total participants decreased from 16,811 to 14,874, while the number of female participants

dropped sharply from 1,353 (8%) to 370 (2.5%). This represents not only fewer women in absolute terms but also a significant decline in their proportional representation. The sharp drop in women's participation may be

linked to persistent cultural barriers and gender norms that limit women's involvement in cocoa farming and cooperative activities.



## **Promoting Financial Inclusion and Delivering Value to Members**

## Number of Village Savings and Loan Associations set up



## **VSLA Savings and Loan Beneficiaries**



Supporting alternative income-generating activities is key to fostering economic resilience and stability among households in the cocoa growing communities. During the season 2023/24, ECAMOM established 49 VSLA groups, of which around 70% of members are women.

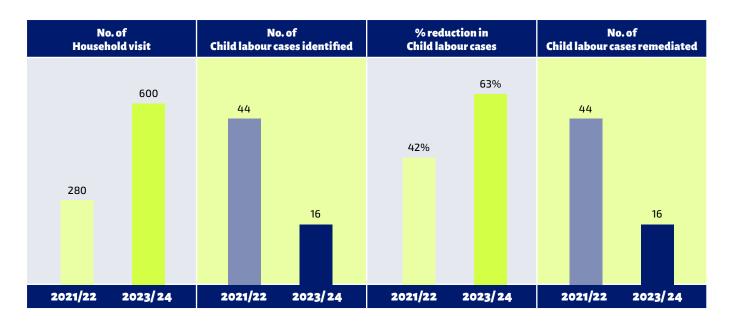
In terms of total savings, the monitoring data also shows that out of 82,424 Euro accumulated, nearly 40% were disbursed to 211 VSLA members. The VSLA initiative not only supports the economic empowerment of farmers, particularly women, but also strengthens their ability to invest in their cocoa

farms and other income-generating activities, thereby contributing to the overall stability of their livelihoods. The focus on women is particularly important as it ensures gender inclusivity and empowerment in areas traditionally dominated by men.

## 4. Human Rights, Environment, and Inclusivity

## **Tackling Child Labour**

## Child labour prevalence and remediation



The prevention and elimination of child labour is an important issue and a requirement in the Fairtrade standards. ECAMOM has developed a Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS), which is a valuable tool for ensuring social traceability and combating child labour in cocoa supply. Through household visits and data collection involving 600 households in 2023/24, the CLMRS identified 16 child labor cases, a reduction of approximately 63% compared to 2021/22. All

cases were successfully remediated, including children who had dropped out of school to work on family farms or carry heavy loads.

As part of its remediation efforts, ECAMOM supported the issuance of 59 supplementary court judgments (jugements supplétifs)— legal rulings that provide official civil status documents for children who were never formally registered at birth. These judgments enabled children without birth certifi-

cates to meet administrative requirements and sit for the Sixième (secondary school entrance) exam.

Additionally, 7 households received support through income-generating activities, with each household receiving 99,500 CFA francs. These households were specifically selected because they had more than three school-age children who were not enrolled in school.



## Number of children benefitting from educational materials

	Number of beneficiaries				
Type of Intervention	Male	Female	Total		
Distribution of School materials (textbooks, pens, etc.)	400	245	645		
Distribution of school bags	400	245	645		

The cooperative also provided school materials to children in the cocoa growing communities. A total of 645 children benefited from receiving school materials such as textbooks, pens, and other essential supplies.

Additionally, 645 children also received school bags. This effort has not only improved school attendance and completion rates within these communities but also reduced the financial burden on families and ensured that children are well equipped for school.

**Photos:** A group of students who benefited from infrastructure and school kits and bags thanks to the ECAMOM cooperative.





## **Promoting Environmental Sustainability**

## Number of shade tree seedlings supplied to members



## Percentage of farms that are polygon mapped

No. of polygon mapped farms

in 2023/24: 1,864

Percentage of polygon mapped farms

in 2023/24: 49%



ECAMOM focuses on promoting agroforestry practices to enhance shade coverage, and overall sustainable land use. In 2023/24 season, the cooperative supplied 6,000 shade tree seedlings to its members. This initiative is aimed at enhancing biodiversity, improving soil health, diversifying incomes, contributing to climate change mitigation.

Building on its environmental efforts, ECAMOM has also made significant strides in farm mapping for traceability and regulatory compliance. To date, 49% of farms under the cooperative—totaling 1,864—have been polygon-mapped. This is a crucial step toward meeting the EUDR requirements and improving transparency across the cocoa supply chain.

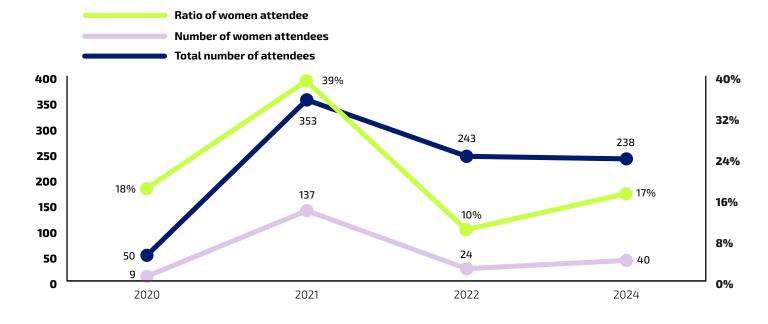
Beyond agroforestry and mapping, ECAMOM is actively pursuing a broader sustainability agenda within the cocoa sector. With support from the Conseil du Café-Cacao of Côte d'Ivoire, the cooperative provides members with access to less harmful pesticides and fertilizers. It has also facilitated training sessions on environmental conservation and

climate change to increase members' awareness and encourage the adoption of climate-smart practices.

In collaboration with partners such as Fairtrade and Trust Africa, ECAMOM is engaged in conservation and climate initiatives, including tree planting, energy-saving projects, and environmental co-benefit schemes. The cooperative has also developed tools such as climate risk assessments, suitability maps, and adaptation plans to proactively address the growing challenges of climate change.

## Strengthening Cooperative Governance and Promoting Inclusivity

## **Attendance and Female Participation in General Assembly Meetings**

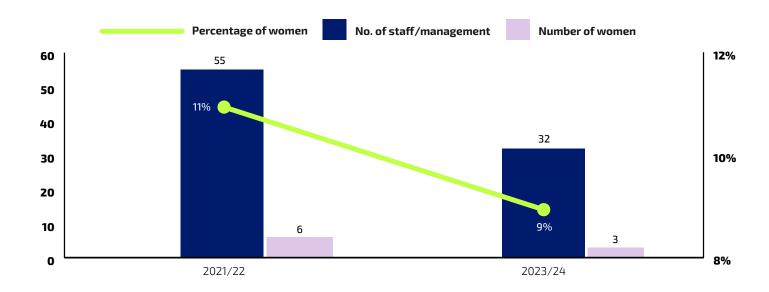


Attendance at the General Assembly meeting decreased from 353 to 238 participants compared to the 2021/22 season, albeit a slight improvement in the proportion of women attendees by 17%.

The low participation of women can partly be attributed to the fact that women are often more occupied with household chores, which prevents them from attending these meetings. However, ECAMOM has an inclusive and transparent engagement process with its members, following its democratic by-laws. This process ensures

clear and inclusive participation in defining, approving, and reporting on projects funded by the Fairtrade Premium. Working with Fairtrade Africa and other stakeholders, we will continue to build the capacity of women to enable them actively to participate in decision-making processes

## Percentage of women in managerial positions



In the 2023/24 cocoa season a total of 3 women held managerial positions within the cooperative, representing 9% of the managerial roles, despite a reduction in overall staff and management compared to the 2021/22 season. While this highlights the representation of women in leadership positions, it suggests that there is still room for

growth in achieving gender equality in leadership within the cooperative.

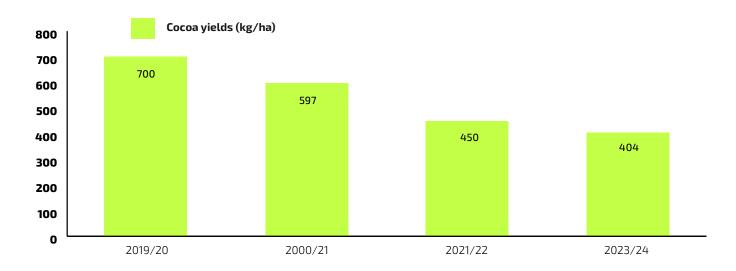
The cooperative acknowledges this challenge and is actively working to promote gender inclusivity, ensuring women have equal opportunities to assume leadership roles. In particular, a new project developed in partnership

with ALDI aims to expand the Women's Leadership School Programme within the cooperative to equip women with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to encourage more women to take on leadership roles, thereby bridging gender gaps and fostering a more inclusive cocoa cooperative.

## 5. Fairtrade Sales and Premium Use

## Robust production base and sustained Fairtrade sales

## Average cocoa yield (kg/ha) as measured by the cooperative



Over the past cocoa seasons, the average cocoa yield has decreased significantly, dropping from 700 kg/ha in 2019/20 to 404 kg/ha in 2023/24. This decline in production can be attributed to several factors, including the changing climatic patterns and ageing cocoa trees, and rising fertilizer costs.

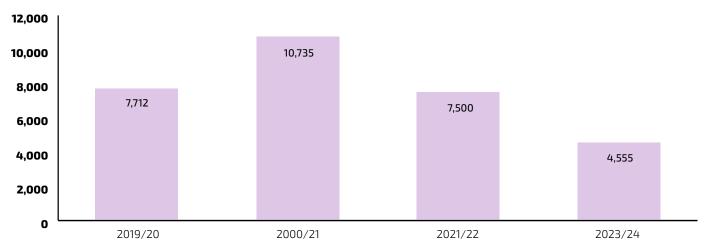
In particular, the 2023/24 season was severely impacted by extremely heavy rains in June and July, which significant-

ly contributed to production losses. The increase in humidity from the rains facilitated the spread of pests, like black pod disease, and caused cocoa flowers to fall, contributing to tree stress that resulted in the loss of fruit. Moreover, the continued spread of the swollen shoot virus further exacerbated the situation. These factors have led to irrecoverable losses, impacting producers regardless of their farming practices.

ECAMOM has taken steps to address the decline in cocoa production.

The cooperative distributed improved cocoa seedlings to members, enabling the renewal of 100 hectares of plantations. Additionally, 65,000 kg of organic fertilizer was provided to members to help rejuvenate and fertilize their cocoa plots, aiming to boost production and mitigate the challenges posed by climate change and aging farms.

## Volumes of cocoa purchased by ECAMOM from its members (in MT)

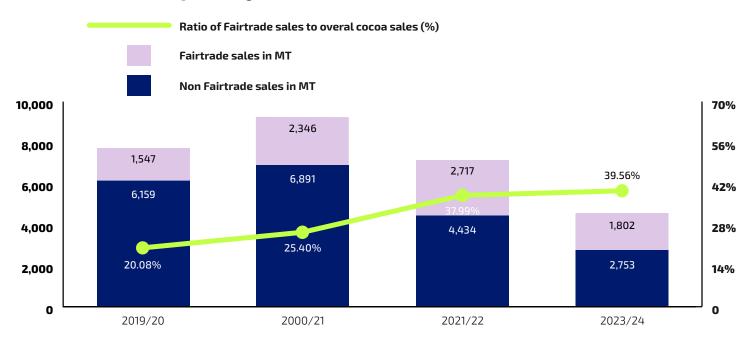


Due to the low production over the past couple of seasons, the volumes of cocoa purchased by ECAMOM from its

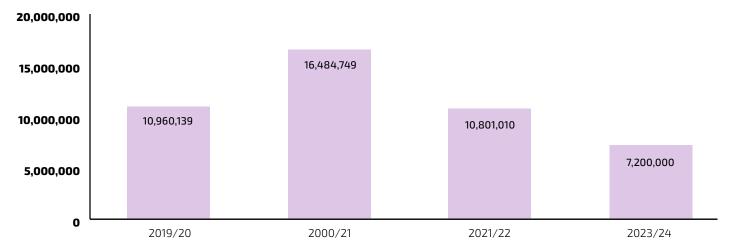
members have fluctuated significantly, dropping from 10,735 MT in 2020/21 to 4,555 MT in 2023/24 season. This trend

highlights the need for measures to stabilize cocoa production and ensure a more consistent supply from members.

## Amount and percentage of cocoa sold on Fairtrade and non-Fairtrade terms



## Cocoa sales revenue in USD



The 2023/24 monitoring data reveal a 36% decline in the volumes of cocoa sold by ECAMOM compared to the 2021/22 season. Specifically, Fairtrade cocoa sales decreased from 2,717 MT to 1,802 MT, representing a drop of about 33.7%. Thus, only 49% of the 3,766 MT

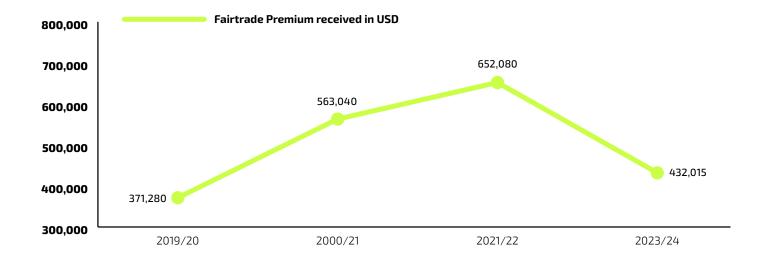
contracted for Fairtrade cocoa was delivered.

Also, non-Fairtrade sales saw a decrease from 4,434 MT to 2,753 MT, a decline of about 38%. This overall reduction in sales volumes is largely

due to the trend of low cocoa production experienced over the years as a result of climate change and increased cost of inputs, which makes it difficult for members to fully implement Good Agricultural Practices on their farms.

## Fairtrade premium use and Projects

## **Total amount of Fairtrade Premium received**



Fairtrade Premium declined by 33.8% from USD 652,080 in the 2021/22 season to USD 432,015 in the 2023/24 season. This substantial drop reflects a decrease in the amount of Fairtrade cocoa sold or changes in market conditions affecting the premium payments.

## Number of projects financed by Fairtrade premium per category

Description of the Project	Premium Category	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure (XOF)	% of total FT Premium
Distribution of part of the bonus to members	Direct payment of Fairtrade Premium to members	2,730	157,540,040	26.4%
Improvement of the living environment	Investment in commu- nity infrastructure		28,000,000	4.69%
Subdivision of two villages	Investment in commu- nity infrastructure	1,000	7,000,000	1.17%
Construction of a drinking water borehole	Community infrastructure	3,500	35,000,000	5.86%
Construction of a processing unit	Production - Facilities and infrastructure within the organization - Processing facilities	3,806	22 000 000	3.68%
Purchase and distribu- tion of school kits	School uniforms and school equipment (books etc)	645	13,647,100	2.28%
Health insurance for workers	Social investment - Health insurance for members and their families	25	10,500,000	1.76%

ECAMOM invested the premium received into several key projects with the aim of improving the lives of its members and enhancing community infrastructure. A significant portion, 26.4% of the total premium, was allocated to direct payments for members and their families, benefiting 2,730 members. In addition, 5% of the premium went towards educational materials, particularly the purchase and distribution of school kits, which helped 645 members.

Another important project was on community infrastructure. Approximately 4.7% of the premium was used for community infrastructure projects such as accommodation for farmers. The construction of a drinking water borehole, benefiting 35,000 people, accounted for about 5.9% of the total premium. Additionally, the subdivision of two villages, benefiting 1,000 people, contributed to enhancing community living conditions, representing about 1.2% of the premium.

The cooperative also invested approximately 4% of the premium into the construction of a processing unit. This project aimed at improving the cooperative's processing facilities, further strengthening ECAMOM's capacity to add value to its cocoa and expand economic opportunities for its members.

## Pictures of project financed with the premium





**CONSTRUCTION OF DRINKING WATER BOREHOLES:** ECAMOM has drilled 2 boreholes and rehabilitated 4 others in the villages of SOKOURA, Chantier Moh and ANATOLEKRO. These boreholes will give members access to drinking water and prevent certain diseases. The various boreholes benefit around 3,500 people.





**PROCESSING UNIT:** ECAMOM's processing unit has been operational since MAY 2024. It creates 10 jobs, 4 of them permanent. Processing adds value.

## 6. Conclusion and Next Steps

ECAMOM is committed to sustainable growth and community development through several key initiatives. Our strategic priorities for the upcoming period focus on agricultural productivity, educational support, and youth engagement.

The cooperative plans to invest in fertilizers to boost and reverse the declining cocoa production across members' farms. This will be complemented by a rehabilitation programme that integrates agroforestry principles,

creating more resilient and diversified farming systems while maintaining ecological balance.

ECAMOM's commitment to community development extends to education. We will continue provide comprehensive educational material support such as school kits and uniforms to children in our member communities, removing barriers to education and supporting academic achievement for the next generation.

ECAMOM's partnership with ALDI will enable the development of customized training programmes specifically designed for women and young people. This will provide technical training, access to resources, and mentorship opportunities to engage women and youth in the activities of the cooperatives to ensure long-term sustainability.



Cocoa producers group at ECAMOM, Côte d'Ivoire

## Monitoring Report 3rd Edition



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