

Objectives, Actions
and Performance

COCOA

FACTSHEET

2025



CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 FACTS & FIGURES	3
3 TRANSPARENCY & TRACEABILITY	4
4 CERTIFICATION & STANDARDS	4
4.1 Fairtrade International	5
4.2 Rainforest Alliance	5
5 SUPPLY CHAIN	6
5.1 Human Rights	6
5.1.1 Human rights risk assessment	6
5.1.2 Child labour	7
5.1.3 Living income	7
6 STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE & CAPACITY BUILDING.....	8
6.1 Multi-stakeholder initiatives.....	8
6.1.1 Mission ally of Tony's Open Chain	8
6.1.2 German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)	8
6.1.3 Retailer Cocoa Collaboration (RCC)	8
6.1.4 Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (ALDI SUISSE).....	8
6.2 Projects on the ground	9
6.2.1 Our sustainably sourced chocolate: Choceur CHOCO CHANGER.....	9
6.2.2 Fairtrade Impact Report.....	9
6.2.3 Enhancing cocoa farmer's livelihoods: ALDI's Fairtrade project in Côte d'Ivoire	9
6.2.4 PRO-PLANTEURS project.....	9
Contact Info.....	10

1 | INTRODUCTION

The cocoa used in our products is sourced from smallholder farmers who may face challenging working and living conditions. The majority of our cocoa comes from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, where significant challenges exist in sourcing cocoa, including human rights violations such as child labour and environmental risks like deforestation.

The ALDI SOUTH Group is committed to promoting fair working conditions and environmentally friendly production in cocoa cultivation. To tackle these challenges, the ALDI SOUTH Group is increasing the amount of certified, sustainably sourced cocoa in its product range. Furthermore, we are collaborating with other stakeholders on projects on the ground and working with our business partners to improve the traceability of our cocoa.

2 | FACTS & FIGURES



3 | TRANSPARENCY & TRACEABILITY

Ensuring transparency in our supply chain comprises the foundation of our sustainability measures. We cannot ensure compliance with our requirements, analyse risks, monitor or implement projects without knowledge of the origin of our products. We collaborate with our business partners to increase the transparency of our supply chains so that we can better understand the origin of each product we sell, and the raw materials used.

100% Traceable Beans: Tony's BeanTracker

ALDI has joined Tony's Open Chain and developed the Choceur CHOCO CHANGER that is considered a best practice in the sector. The cocoa beans are responsibly sourced using Tony Open Chain's 5 Sourcing Principles, including traceability. We buy directly from farmer cooperatives, which means we know where our beans are grown. All the plantations we source from are GPS-mapped, which increases our insight into first mile traceability, from the farm gate to the cooperative.

Tony's BeanTracker allows us to track cocoa beans at any point in our supply chain. We have information on which farmers supplied what percentage of each container of beans, as well as the volume of beans shipped and processed in Belgium. We can identify the farmers who produce the beans and the social conditions under which they are produced.

We believe that by understanding the origin and harvesting conditions of our beans, we can address the issues at hand. We can also ensure that farmers receive a [Living Income Reference Price](#) for the beans that we source.

4 | CERTIFICATION & STANDARDS

We want to provide our customers the highest quality at the best possible price. Certification schemes are a means of verifying that sustainability standards are being met in the cultivation of the cocoa used in our products. When buying cocoa-containing products, we require adherence to sustainability standards such as Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade, Fair Trade USA, Cocoa Horizons, or organic certification. By 2025, over 90% of our private label products containing cocoa are certified by at least one of these standards. Additionally, the ALDI SOUTH Group collaborates with certification organisations to strengthen requirements and improve sustainability standards at farm level.

4.1 | FAIRTRADE INTERNATIONAL

The ALDI SOUTH Group is a renowned partner of the Fairtrade Cocoa Programme. In 2022, we paid over €4.8 million in Fairtrade Premiums to cocoa farmer producer organisations by selling Fairtrade-certified products to our customers. In 2024, approximately 35% of our chocolate products contained Fairtrade-certified cocoa.

The Fairtrade Premium is an extra amount paid on top of the selling price to farmers or workers who independently invest in sustainable projects to meet the standard. They collectively decide how to allocate the Fairtrade Premium to achieve their goals, such as improving their farms or businesses, or enhancing the health and education of their community.

Small Producer Organisations

Small producer organisations invest most of their Fairtrade Premium in direct services for farmers and measures to strengthen or maintain their cooperative.

Spending is targeted at projects that improve crop quality or productivity, as well as facilities and infrastructure at the cooperative level, such as improvements to crop processing and storage facilities, quality testing, and crop collection and transport. Premiums are used to purchase fertiliser, seeds, plants, tools and equipment. Small producer organisations also use the Fairtrade Premium for direct payments to members and community projects that promote access to education and healthcare.

For information on how the Fairtrade Premium is allocated, please refer to the most recent edition of [Monitoring the Scope and Benefits of Fairtrade](#).

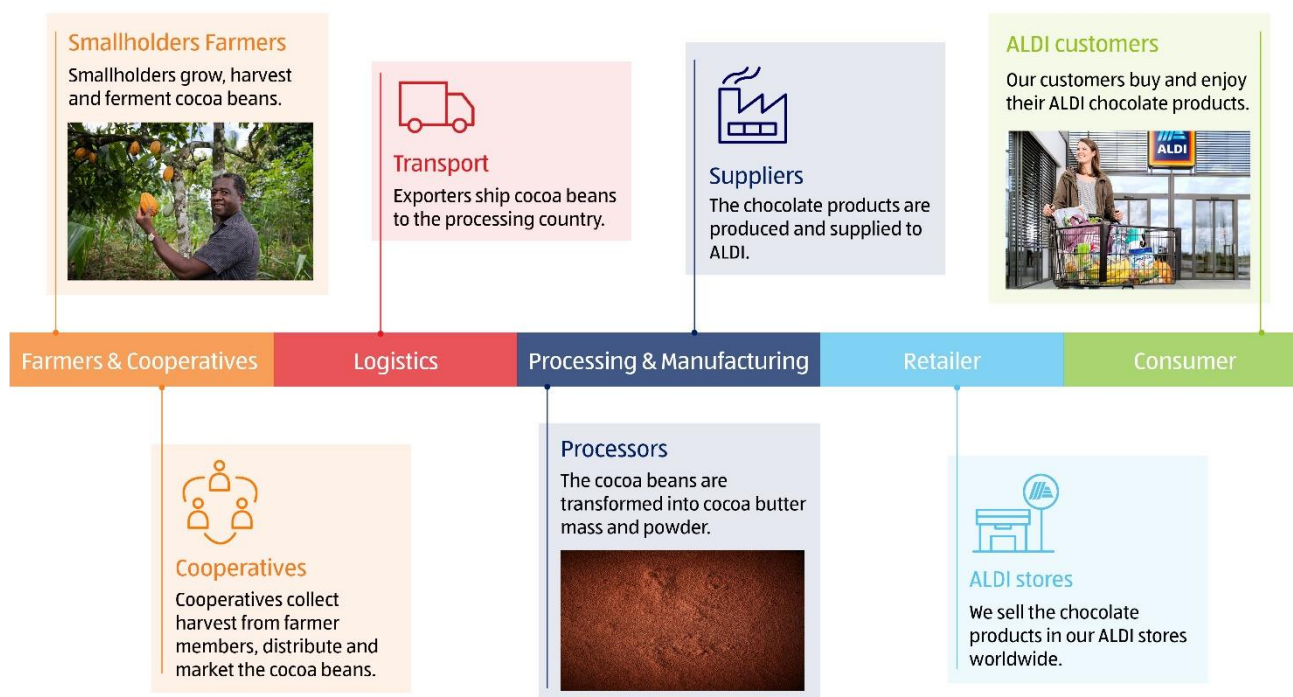
4.2 | RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

Rainforest Alliance is a global non-profit organisation that brings together farmers, businesses, consumers and others to work towards a world where people and nature live in harmony. The alliance operates in more than 70 countries. In 2024, approximately 60% of our chocolate products contained cocoa certified by the Rainforest Alliance.

5 | SUPPLY CHAIN

We prioritise sustainable production conditions in the manufacturing of both food and non-food products. Transparency in our supply chain is fundamental to our sustainability efforts. Without knowing the origin of our products, we cannot ensure compliance with our standards, analyse risks, monitor activities, or implement projects effectively. Therefore, we work closely with our business partners to enhance supply chain transparency, allowing us to better understand the origins of each product we sell, and the raw materials used.

The ALDI SOUTH Group sources most of its cocoa from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Please see below our cocoa supply chain:



5.1 | HUMAN RIGHTS

We are committed to respecting human rights and improving living and working conditions throughout our supply chains.

5.1.1 | Human rights risk assessment

We regularly conduct human rights risk assessments to examine the risks within our food and agriculture supply chains. The purpose of these assessments is to identify any adverse impacts our company may have on human rights, gain insights into our actual impacts, and understand how we may be involved through our own activities or as a result of our business relationships.

We determined cocoa as a raw material with a high risk of adverse impacts on human rights and consider it most important to the ALDI SOUTH Group.

5.1.2 | Child labour

Illegal child labour remains a significant problem in the cocoa supply chain. 95% of children working on cocoa farms are exposed to hazardous work, such as handling dangerous tools or harmful pesticides. The ALDI SOUTH Group does not tolerate illegal child labour in any area of its operations, including its supply chains. Almost all of ALDI SOUTH Group's cocoa-containing products use cocoa that is certified by the Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade International. These standards require the prevention of child labour in supply chains.

5.1.3 | Living income

The concept of a living income aims to address how self-employed individuals, such as smallholder farmers, can achieve a decent standard of living. Smallholders often earn incomes below national poverty lines, which leaves them unable to cover basic needs and cocoa production costs. Inequality in the cocoa value chain and the resulting extreme poverty highlight the importance of working towards a living income for a sustainable supply chain. The ALDI SOUTH Group supports integrating living income mechanisms into certification standards.

Boost Incomes with Premiums

A sweet deal for consumers and farmers! ALDI is proud to be a sustainability frontrunner by enabling cocoa farmers to earn a living income. As a Mission Ally of [Tony's Open Chain](#), ALDI pays farmers a Living Income Premium for the Choceur CHOCO CHANGER chocolate bar based on the calculations of a living income by Fairtrade and Tony's Chocolonely. The higher price takes into consideration the costs of living and the costs of farming.



Fairtrade and Tony's Chocolonely share the same vision and use the same model to calculate the cocoa price, enabling farmers to earn a living income. They have improved existing models, integrated widely accepted benchmarks and research, and shared their insights with the chocolate industry through the [Living Income Reference Price](#) for cocoa. The Premium is associated with responsible purchasing practices, such as long-term contracts and risk sharing and enhances the resilience of smallholder farmers.

For further details on our commitments and key standards, please refer to our [Human Rights Factsheet](#).

6 | STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE & CAPACITY BUILDING

We believe the most effective way to increase sustainability in our supply chains is by forming strategic partnerships and collaborations. The ALDI SOUTH Group works closely with its suppliers, engages in projects with trusted partners and participates in several multistakeholder initiatives.

→ [For a full overview of our memberships and partnerships have a look at our website.](#)

6.1 | MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVES

6.1.1 | Mission ally of Tony's Open Chain

The ALDI SOUTH Group was the first international discount retailers to join Tony's Open Chain in 2020 as a Mission Ally. Through this commitment, we go beyond certification. We believe in direct, equal relationships throughout the entire cocoa chain. Being a Mission Ally and committing to Tony's 5 Sourcing Principles means investing in long-term partnerships with cocoa farming cooperatives, paying the living income reference price for cocoa to support farmers' livelihoods, and fostering professional, sustainable farming practices.

6.1.2 | German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)

The [German Initiative for Sustainable Cocoa \(GISCO\)](#) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that promotes sustainable cocoa production through joint activities and a close exchange of experience. It aims to improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and their families, to conserve and protect natural resources and biodiversity in cocoa-producing countries, and to increase the cultivation and commercialisation of sustainably produced cocoa.

The ALDI SOUTH Group has been an active member of the German Initiative for Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) since 2015. Together with other members, we are working collaboratively to achieve the goals of the initiative, which include commitments to living income, gender equality and overall improved agricultural practices.

6.1.3 | Retailer Cocoa Collaboration (RCC)

The [Retailer Cocoa Collaboration \(RCC\)](#) is a pre-competitive group of six retailers supporting existing industry efforts to drive environmental and social improvements in the cocoa sector.

The ALDI SOUTH Group joined the RCC in September 2019. This membership supports our commitment to achieving zero deforestation and exploitation-free cocoa. The RCC's annual trader assessment provides us with greater transparency and insight into the lower levels of the cocoa supply chain. NGO partners – the VOICE Network and Mighty Earth – contribute to the review process and challenge traders and members to accelerate their practices and play their part in eliminating deforestation and exploitation.

6.1.4 | Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (ALDI SUISSE)

The [Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa \(SWISSCO\)](#) is a multi-stakeholder initiative created to share knowledge and find joint solutions. Its members represent the full spectrum of the Swiss chocolate and cocoa sector, including manufacturers and traders, the retail sector, public sector institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and research institutions.

ALDI SUISSE has been a committed member of the Cocoa Platform since its foundation in 2018. This collaboration helps us contribute to driving positive impact on the ground. The mission of the Cocoa Platform is to improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers, protect natural resources in cocoa-producing countries, and promote a sustainable cocoa value chain.

6.2 | PROJECTS ON THE GROUND

6.2.1 | Our sustainably sourced chocolate: Choceur CHOCO CHANGER

The [Choceur CHOCO CHANGER](#) is a responsibly sourced chocolate that not only has a sweet taste and a delicious smell but also brings a little bit(e) of happiness by empowering cocoa farmers in West Africa. Together, we can amplify our positive impact on cocoa farmers and bring change to the cocoa industry by working to end poverty, illegal child labour, and deforestation.

As the first international discount retailer to join Tony's Open Chain in December 2020, ALDI is committed to supporting Tony's Open Chain's ambitious mission to change the norm in the cocoa industry by improving the working conditions along supply chains and by collaborating in the transparent sourcing of cocoa beans. The cocoa beans for the Choceur CHOCO CHANGER are sourced via Tony's Open Chain and its 5 Sourcing Principles.

6.2.2 | Fairtrade Impact Report

In 2020, the ALDI SOUTH Group, Fairtrade, and the Fairtrade cocoa cooperative ECAMOM started a two-year monitoring process to record how the Fairtrade Premium is improving the working conditions and livelihoods of local cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire.

The [first impact report](#) served as a baseline to provide insights into the work of the cooperative and farmers, and to identify the challenges they face. Our objective was to present a current overview of cocoa farming and highlight potential areas of opportunity that could enable a long-term partnership between stakeholders in the supply chain. The [second impact report](#) shows that all plots have been GPS mapped, Fairtrade sales have increased and more farmers are now certified organic.

6.2.3 | Enhancing cocoa farmer's livelihoods: ALDI's Fairtrade project in Côte d'Ivoire

Based on the results of the monitoring with Fairtrade, ALDI continues to support the cocoa cooperative ECAMOM in Côte d'Ivoire. In 2024, the ALDI SOUTH Group started a new two-year project with ECAMOM, Fairtrade, and the chocolate manufacturer Storck. It focuses on the implementation of key initiatives and selected activities: promoting women's empowerment, tackling child labour, increasing financial inclusion, and ensuring deforestation monitoring to meet the requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation.

The overall objective of the project is to promote sustainable development and positive transformation of the cooperative by strengthening ECAMOM and implementing targeted initiatives. The project aims to create a more equitable and prosperous cocoa sector that benefits farmers, families and the nation as a whole.

If you are interested to learn more about our cooperation with ECAMOM, have a peak at the [third monitoring report](#) (previously named impact report) highlighting first activities and results.

6.2.4 | PRO-PLANTEURS project

As a member of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO), ALDI SOUTH participated in the [PRO-PLANTEURS](#) project from 2015 until 2025. In this project GISCO partnered with the German and Côte d'Ivoire government. In the first and second phase, running from 2015 to 2025, PRO-PLANTEURS improved living conditions of 30,000 family farms and professionalised their cocoa farmer organisations in Côte d'Ivoire.



Contact Info

ALDI SÜD KG
International Sustainability
Alte Bundesstraße 10
A-5071 Wals
VAT Reg. No.: ATU24963706
Commercial register: FN 26451z, Regional Court of Salzburg

Please visit sustainability.aldisouthgroup.com for more information on our international corporate responsibility activities.