



RECLAIM Sustainability!

Progress Report 2022

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Contact person: Seth Tallvik





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SECTION 1

Strategic Analysis



1 READER'S GUIDE

This report presents the progress of implementation of the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme to date, with a particular focus on the second year of activity. It contains five sections as follows:

[Section 1](#) is our reflection on the Theory of Change and our strategies, and a presentation of the aggregated results for 2022. We will highlight how we aligned with the relevant Dutch Embassies and the Strategic Alliances of Fair for All (led by Oxfam), Fair, Green, and Global (led by Both Ends), and STITCH (led by Fair Wear Foundation) in the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme interventions. This section also includes an analysis of the risks, impacts and programmatic changes.

In [Section 2](#), we present the progress and achievements for 2022, being the second year of implementation. The report is sorted by global supply chain as well as by country. [Section 3](#) provides an update on how we have progressed on our innovation tracks, while [Section 4](#) reflects on our Global Linking and Learning Agenda focus in 2022. Finally, [Section 5](#) presents an overarching analysis of the Budget vs. Actual reported for 2022 according to the main budget categories.

2 INTRODUCTION

Background

In the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, we **mobilise, activate** and **strengthen** farmers and workers that produce cocoa, coffee, tea, palm oil and cotton for the international markets, and foods for local/regional markets (see [Section 2](#)). We also focus on the small-scale miners that delve **gold** and the workers that produce **textiles**. In the RECLAIM Sustainability! implementation we **engage in partnerships** with stakeholders which include research institutes to build our evidence base for advocacy, international NGOs, global roundtables, multilateral organisations, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and **Embassies**, frontrunner companies and industry associations, and government institutions. We **raise awareness** among consumers and citizens, who have an important role in changing norms and behaviour, and influencing the policy agenda (i.e. [Advocate & Amplify in Europe](#)). The media also shape public opinion and influence the narrative for our cause. We also **advocate to influence the agenda** with the stakeholders in companies and governments, prioritising sustainability issues.

Through our three impact pathways we **Advocate** through inclusive dialogue to influence agendas and develop evidence-based solutions to address socio-economic and environmental shortcomings in trade and value chains. We **Accelerate** disruptive innovations to advocate for optimisation of the bargaining position of farmers and workers in the supply chain, through the acceleration of disruptive innovations. Additionally, we **Amplify** the voice of citizenry to mobilise, activate and engage citizens and CSOs to change norms, and influence the policy agenda, on issues related to unsustainable and non-inclusive trade and value chains. All of this with the long-term goal of creating **inclusive sustainable trade and value chains** in which the interests, voices and rights of farmers, workers and citizens are represented and heard through an enabling environment created by a **responsible private sector**, a **vibrant and strong civil society** and a **supportive public sector**.

The RECLAIM Sustainability! programme is implemented in 17 countries across seven different value chains, as highlighted in the figure below:

FIGURE 1. COUNTRY SECTOR TABLE

		Cocoa	Coffee	Tea	Palm Oil	Cotton/Textiles	Gold	Food Products
AFRICA	Côte d'Ivoire	█			█			
	Egypt					█		█
	Ethiopia					█		
	Ghana	█			█			
	Kenya		█	█			█	█
	Malawi			█				
	Mozambique			█		█		█
	Sierra Leone	█			█			
	Uganda		█	█			█	█
	Zambia					█		█
ASIA	Bangladesh			█		█		
	China			█	█	█		
	India			█	█	█		
	Indonesia			█	█	█		
LATIN AMERICA	Honduras		█		█			
	Peru						█	
OTHER	Global the Netherlands	█	█	█	█	█	█	

Progress Summary

During 2022, the consortium of Solidaridad, Fairfood, TrustAfrica and Business Watch Indonesia continued to implement the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme in strategic partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With local partners, the consortium works to foster genuine and inclusive sustainability in global value chains, where the voices of farmers, miners, workers and citizens are well represented in decision making, and civil society is strengthened. In our advocacy to increase and maintain civic space in supply chains, we advocate for farmers and workers to improve their position in the chain, to bargain for better prices, better working conditions, and equitable access to and use of natural resources.

Through our tailored interventions, we are working on 7 supply chains in our countries of focus to raise awareness on **transforming social and gender norms** and the barriers to inclusivity that **unequal power relations** create at the community level. Using an inclusive learning platform, we trained participants to become community gender champions and conducted community dialogues (Cocoa [1.2.3 Sierra Leone](#), Coffee [2.2.2 Uganda](#)), strengthened women action groups in communities to promote gender-responsive solutions (Tea [3.2.6 Malawi](#)), created awareness on the rights of women and youth in the various sectors and held gender inclusion campaigns. We apply sound knowledge management and learnings through four impact themes (see [SECTION 4 GLOBAL LINKING & LEARNING](#)). This facilitates optimal linking, learning and innovation, and allows for strengthened implementation and smart programming in pursuit of our overall strategic objective.

In 2022, by contributing to 153 different multi-stakeholder dialogues at all levels, we influenced a total of **102 policies**, submitting **84 recommendations** to public and private decision makers for improved regulation. We partnered with 84 private sector partners and 126 non private sector partners, to develop and test innovative tools for improved bargaining position and transparency in value chains, that were tested with **around 196,000 farmers and workers**. A total of **327 Civil Society actors received our support** during the reporting year. In 2023, we will focus attention on monitoring the extent to which recommendations are picked up and implemented, and actually lead to improved regulatory frameworks and improved negotiation positions of farmers and workers in the value chains.

Based on the above figures, we can report that there was significant, positive progress across the RECLAIM Sustainability! portfolio. There has been notable establishment and convening of multi-stakeholder platforms, review of relevant policies and laws, civil society strengthening is better integrated and more diverse target groups have been included in different kinds of dialogues and communication campaigns across the portfolio. The pilots to test disruptive innovations such as Cocoa and Coffee Trace, SOLITRACE and KUBU (Nakerlink) are already showing initial positive results, with other tools/models expected to be piloted in 2023. We are also eager to further test the assumptions behind the implementation of these innovations in 2023.

3 AGGREGATED RESULTS 2022

The table below presents 2022 aggregated results for Key performance indicators.

FIGURE 2. AGGREGATED RESULTS FOR KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2022

	Key performance Indicator	RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	62	51	84	83	65
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	81	94	153	127	118
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	84	102	102	102	102
ACCELERATE DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS Improved transparency and negotiation position for farmers and workers in the supply chain, by co-developing and implementing innovative digital and fair business models						
OUTCOME	# of farmers, miners and workers with improved bargaining position through equitable access to (digital) market intelligence or as a result of new and innovative business models	0	43,170	51,978	244,840	100,300
OUTPUT	# of farmers, miners and workers using the developed tools and business models being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	57,142	85,856	195,923	221,206	105,600
	# of tools and business models developed and being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	15	22	28	22	46
	# and kind private sector partners engaged to co-design, test and promote new tools and business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	74	88	84	134	99
	# of other non private sector partners (knowledge, public, CSOs, others) engaged in co-design, test and promote new tools or business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	75	92	126	119	111
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	16,212	6,981	235,238	336,241	54,000
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	12	68	63	100	70
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CSOs are strengthened to speak up and engage in policy dialogue						
OUTCOME	# Civil Society actors and target groups with increased L&A capacities	38	127	196	144	200
OUTPUT	# and type of Civil Society actors and target groups supported	151	160	327	229	200

4 COMPLEMENTARITY & ALIGNMENT

Collaboration / Alignment with STITCH

In **Europe**, we continued to join forces with STITCH on aligning our EU lobby agenda, in the Common Framework for Responsible Purchasing Practices (CFRPP) and in the European Citizen Initiative (ECI) towards living wage legislation in the garment industry. We have shared information about our European programme in textiles/garments with the SKC from the Fair, Green and Global consortium, worked with CCC in EU lobby and advocacy and in the ECI. In **Bangladesh**, Solidaridad is collaborating with STITCH for workers' participation and empowerment to address human rights, democracy, workplace safety and automation-proof-skilling issues pertaining its readymade garments supply chains. Discussion is ongoing to take collaborative actions to promote and strengthen the civic space, to advocate and amplify the voices of the workers and trade unions, and ensure decent work opportunities. To do this, we aim to work together to attain improved manufacturing processes and workers' wellbeing, strengthen the supportive business ecosystem, and promote the enabling environment in the textiles supply chain. After alignment discussions, we have planned to continue collaboration in 2023 on the capacity development of the workers' unions, as well as a joint awareness campaign on workers wellbeing.

Collaboration / Alignment with FairforAll and Fair Green and Global Alliance

In 2022, we co-convened the Dutch NGO platform on palm oil with IUCN NL. Other organisations from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' strategic alliances participated in this platform, such as Both Ends, ActionAid, Milieudefensie, SOMO, Oxfam Novib, CNV International. Additionally, we cooperated with parties from other Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs strategic alliances that include CNV International in the Sustainable Palm Oil Choice (SPOC) platform. Through this platform CNV International got the opportunity to pitch their palm oil work to Sime Darby and Wilmar.

Collaboration / Alignment with Dutch Embassies

The RECLAIM Sustainability! Consortium continues to participate in meetings organised in the framework of Power of Voices (PoV), together with all the relevant Dutch Embassies. Here, we provide an update on the state of affairs with regard to joint actions with the embassies that follow these meetings in the different regions as below:

- **Côte d'Ivoire**, the involvement of the Dutch Embassy in all activities, and its presence in the list of participants ensures that the country's government will be represented.
- **Honduras**, in May 2022, the logical framework of the RECLAIM Sustainability! Palm Oil project and its progress were presented at a meeting organised by the Dutch Embassy. We highlighted its importance in human rights and decent work, as well as the vision for scaling good practices to other countries and other sectors.
- **Zambia** and **Malawi** consular representations at the Dutch Embassy in Zimbabwe (Dutch Embassy for Zambia and Malawi), we had representation of the Dutch Honorary Consulate in Zambia at the Baseline Validation Workshop for Cotton and Tea projects, held in February 2022.
- In **Egypt**, we had discussions with the Gender Policy Officer on how to approach a gender baseline in the Egyptian context and engaged the Agricultural Counsellor advisor for

strategic guidance on agricultural dynamics in Egypt and opportunities for B2B engagement of Dutch and Egyptian private sector stakeholders.

- In **India**, the embassy of Netherlands in New Delhi organised a workshop for all seven PoV consortia working in the country. The RECLAIM Sustainability! team jointly engaged in mapping current programmatic opportunities and constraints at various levels, and sharing learnings and best practices related with other PoV programmes.
- Additionally, we participated in strategic meetings organised by Dutch Embassies in Nairobi, Kampala, Harare, Accra, Yamoussoukro, Freetown, Maputo, Pretoria, Beijing, Dhaka, Jakarta and Lima, where we provided updates on project implementation progress as part of the PoV strategic partnerships' engagements.

5 RISK IMPACTS

Contextual Risks

There was a recurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic in **China** in 2022 and the strict restrictions throughout the year resulted in many events being delayed, postponed or cancelled. Furthermore, the complex registration process of becoming a local NGO has delayed Solidaridad's setup in China affecting the Tea programme implementation in the country. As a result, we shifted attention to the Tea programmes in India and Indonesia, where we could build further on momentum in the tea sector. From 2023, no interventions specific to China will be continued, however China will be included as a part of relevant Asia regional activities.

An Ebola outbreak in **Uganda** stalled many activities for three months during 2022, due to quarantine measures put to affected areas by authorities. We temporarily shifted some of our interventions to non-affected areas and maintained contact with our target groups in affected regions over the phone. In addition, the spike in insecurity and increased gun violence in the Karamoja region of Uganda significantly reduced our level of interaction with artisanal and small-scale miners in this area. We will keep monitoring the safety situation and will decide whether and when it is safe for staff to return to these districts. Geographical focus has shifted to neighbouring districts.

In **Ethiopia**, the establishment of a minimum wage in the textile sector was one of the advocacy issues identified and presented to high-level officials by stakeholders deliberation in 2021. However, due to political instability, the issue did not get enough attention and no decision has been passed yet. In 2023, the project will prioritise advocacy efforts to fast track the adoption of proposed recommendations. Notably, the end of the conflict in the Tigray region presents an opportunity for the project to accelerate dialogues with workers federations, the Ethiopian textile and Garment Manufacturing Association (ETGAMA) and the Ministry of Labour and Skill (MLS) in 2023.

In **Honduras**, a volatile context in the region that is home to palm oil production presents challenges to continue with the implementation of our strategy around the Decent Work model. Social conflicts due to land invasions by peasants and armed workers, road seizures, Fresh Fruit Bunches theft, human rights violations and land disputes, among others, poses serious risks for our own personnel in the field, and does not guarantee the minimum conditions to bring a sensitive topic such as Decent Work to the discussion of mills and workers in a safe manner. Mills' suspicions have grown of their own workers, and the situation has escalated into an internal conflict, leading to the cancellation of some of the activities planned. In 2023,

we will assess the best way to continue working in this context, which most probably entails a change in our strategy and a shift in our budget allocation to Honduras.

Programmatic Risks

The delays in the registration processes of Solidaridad in **Egypt** persisted in 2022. The lack of registration means we cannot operate at full potential and limits our direct engagement with government departments whose buy-in is needed to achieve the programme objectives. Furthermore, minor shifts are being proposed on one programme impact pathway due to the national security and political context. Currently, we are working through partnerships with local and international CSOs and NGO until Solidaridad Egypt is legally operational. We have ongoing meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture, and aim to sign an MoU with Agriculture Research Centre (ARC). We expect that this process will be complete in April and we can acquire an official licence for Solidaridad Egypt in July 2023.

In **Kenya** and **Uganda**, there was unwillingness from stakeholders to endorse agendas that contravened their business interests. The Kenya Tea Development Agency and the Uganda Tea Association (UTA) did not approve the project's approach of strengthening the Kenya Union of Small Scale Tea Owners (KUSSTO) and the campaigns targeted at the Uganda Tea Association Secretariat. A dialogue between Solidaridad, East African Tea Trade Association and the Kenya Tea Development Agency led to bringing on-board and securing Kenya Tea Development Agency's buy-in for KUSSTO's capacity building initiatives. In Uganda, we relied on the willing and progressive UTA members for support on the programme objectives and implementation of activities.

SECTION 2

Global Supply Chain Programmes



1. Cocoa



Key milestones achieved in 2022:

- Multi stakeholder platforms (MSPs) established in Ghana, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, advocacy agenda validated and governance structure developed.
- Inclusive learning platforms established at district level and regional level.
- Key private sector players engaged to co-design and promote new production and trade models in Europe.
- CSOs, farmers, and citizenry mobilised for action.
- Evidence gathered to inform advocacy.
- Awareness raised about gender norms, social norms and inequalities at community level.
- Success stories documented and published.
- European citizens reached and activated to push for change with policy makers.

Total Actuals 2022: € 1,083,301, for Ghana (33%), Côte d'Ivoire (20%), Sierra Leone (20%) and Europe (27%)



1.1 INTRODUCTION

In the cocoa sector, our aim is to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive global value chain, in which producers receive a fair value for their produce and work under safe conditions, without child labour, and with land rights and forest protected. Our experience in the sector shows that a living income for farmers is a key element to tackle other sustainability issues that affect the sector. Recent years have been marked by a series of major developments¹ concerning the living income. In 2022, we advocated for a fair price for cocoa farmers with the advent of the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and the EU Deforestation Regulation.

Together with the VOICE Network, we worked on price recognition both in consumption and production countries, to achieve living income for cocoa farmers. This message came very clear in the [2022 Cocoa Barometer](#), where we highlighted the need to include pricing interventions as part of companies' sustainability strategy. In 2022, we also coordinated the collaboration between the Ivorian Platform for Sustainable Cocoa and the Ghana Civil Society Cocoa Platform (GCCP) to develop a communique related to the upcoming EU Regulations on deforestation and due diligence, expressing the CSOs' position on living income, child labour and deforestation. Although generally welcomed as a positive initiative to reduce deforestation, in both countries there are concerns about the impact of its implementation on cocoa prices paid to smallholders and on the cocoa supply chain. To raise these concerns, we participated in discussions with various stakeholders where compliance costs, support for smallholders and product coverage were among the main issues to resolve and adjust in order to provide an effective and workable solution.

1.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS MILESTONES 2022

1.2.1 Ghana

In Ghana we aim to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive cocoa value chain, in which producers receive fair value for their produce and work under safe conditions, without the use of child labour, and land rights and forest are protected. To improve compliance with the existing regulatory frameworks, in 2022, we focused on **awareness raising and knowledge enhancement** of cocoa producing communities across six regions. This work centred on the provisions of the Land Act 1036 for smallholder farmer groups, women farmers and Customary Land Authorities. Together with other civil society organisations, we organised the first [National Land Conference](#), a multi-stakeholder event attended by over 600 participants from public and private sectors, traditional authorities, civil society, academia and producers, to discuss land tenure issues. We shared the results of our work on cocoa land governance, presented our scalable innovations for improved land tenure security and our land governance tool that improves transparency. We also took this opportunity to **establish a multi-stakeholder platform** to continue discussing land issues with farmers, traditional authorities and the Ministry of Lands, which builds upon the dialogue initiated under the Advocacy for Change programme, extending its scope beyond the cocoa sector. Particularly, **awareness of women's rights to land** is gaining traction with more and more women documenting their names to land titles. Our work in raising local awareness on land

¹ DRD introduction by Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in 2019, Development of prices living income benchmark by Fairtrade and Tony's Chocolonely, a large number of reports on the subject, and a whole range of programs developed by various companies aiming to increase the income of growers.

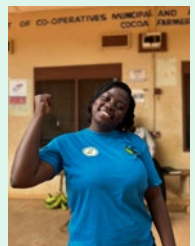


tenure and women's rights is paying off. At the local level, farmer cooperatives, together with traditional authorities, are more openly discussing these issues and cooperatives are identifying ways to improve land documentation of their members.

With the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) being developed, discussion around child labour issues in Ghana gained more importance and attention. Through the Ghana Civil Society Cocoa Platform (GCCP), we **identified and analysed the gaps identified in child labour regulations** where policies are contradictory and/or vague on what type of activities children can be engaged in outside those defined under the Hazardous Activity Framework (HAF) developed by the government of Ghana. These gaps were discussed with 45 stakeholders from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Europe that participated in a conference on eliminating child labour. In 2023, we will continue discussing the child labour regulations within the GCCP to submit **policy recommendations** to the national government, in order to align this regulatory framework with international child labour regulations, and differentiate child work from child labour, promoting a better contextualisation for a more sustainable cocoa sector. Finally, in our initial plan, we aimed for the new Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) management system to become the portal for farmers to attain market information. Unfortunately, COCOBOD decided not to include market intelligence information in its system, but focus on production inputs and extension services. We will therefore explore other tools, including social media channels, that can link farmer groups to market intelligence.

Training on land rights for cocoa cooperatives in Ghana

In Ghana, women from the cocoa cooperatives benefited from trainings on land rights (including spousal rights) and land title documentation under the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme. Deborah is a woman farmer active in awareness raising events on land documentation who benefited from the land right training. She has raised the awareness of women cocoa farmers on spousal rights in land documentation that will guarantee them security of tenure.



Faustina is also a cocoa farmer participant in the training, proudly presenting a land document that bears her maiden name and that of her husband. Prior to the training on spousal land rights, Faustina was unaware of the significance of having her name captured as such which gives her ownership rights to the land jointly acquired with the husband. She has in turn raised awareness of this among other women in her cooperative.

1.2.2 Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire we aim to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive cocoa value chain, in which producers receive fair value for their produce and work under safe conditions, without the use of child labour, and land rights and forest are protected. The eradication of child labour is a key goal for the sustainability of the cocoa production. For the past ten years, many efforts have been made by the government and civil society in the fight against child labour and trafficking



in the cocoa sector of Côte d'Ivoire, with a focus on the communities. Although these efforts are yielding results, we identified through the baseline conducted in 2021 that not only were the communities unaware of the latest modifications in the national Child Labour policy, the enforcement agencies were also unaware. Therefore we **provided trainings to improve compliance with the existing regulatory framework** to law enforcement agencies and capacitated 122 officials to better enforce the existing law. At the request of the government to scale-up these trainings, in 2023 we will continue working with cocoa communities and enforcement agencies to improve the enforcement of child labour laws.

In 2022, we have also actively contributed to the **development of the operational policy guide and implementation strategy** of the African Standards for Sustainable Cocoa (ARS 1000), which was led by the Conseil du Café et Cacao (CCC), and adopted by the national government. The ARS 1000 contains now a better guidance on agroforestry and eradication of child labour. We ensured that guidance on agroforestry is in line with good practices, and child labour guidance adheres to all international and national regulations on this matter. In 2023, we will continue working with CCC, raising awareness among farmers on this standard to remain compliant with the EU market demands and regulations for sustainable cocoa. We also organised a **multistakeholder workshop**, with the Natural Resources Management Platform and OI-REN, to discuss the full implementation of articles 25 and 27 of the 2019 Forest Code to dissociate trees and forest ownership from land rights. This was also addressed looking at the new EU Deforestation Regulation and how cocoa farmers can get fully involved in reforestation. We **trained producers** from two producing regions² on their rights regarding their planted trees, and encouraged them to continue their effort of reforestation. In 2023, we will make progress in addressing land rights issues, with special focus on women cocoa farmers' access to land.

The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) tool planned to be developed in 2022 became redundant when Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. Therefore, we will continue disseminating in-person policy information directly among farmer groups and cooperatives.

1.2.3 Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, we aim to engage the civil society in inclusive dialogues to develop and submit recommendations on land rights, forest governance, living wages and child labour to the national authorities. In 2022, we **provided technical assistance** to the Lands Commission of Sierra Leone and supported Traditional Authorities to better understand the proposed National Land Commission and Customary Land bills. After significant protests, we **supported an extensive inclusive stakeholder consultation process** through the Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) platform and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) platform, which led to the revision and approval of the National Land Commission Act, that establishes two key bodies: the National Land Commission and the District Land Commission at the local level, and also establishes Chiefdom Land Committees and Town or Village Area Land Committees. The former is required to allocate at least 30% of seats to women as committee members. To address this requirement, we used **inclusive learning platforms** at the district level to train 20 women cocoa farmers to become **Community Gender Champions** who carried out community dialogues, in order to represent their interests on the Village Area Land Committees. Through these learning platforms, women farmers have identified gaps in the Gender Empowerment

² Sud-Comoé and Loh-Djiboua



Strengthening civil society's capacity in Sierra Leone

Cocoa, Sierra Leone (Solidaridad West Africa and TrustAfrica)



Civil society organisations, women representatives and farmers in the cocoa and oil palm sector in Sierra Leone advocated and influenced gender and land rights policies in their communities, with support from Solidaridad and TrustAfrica in 2022.

Representatives from the Centre of Accountability and Rule of Law, National Association of Farmers in Sierra Leone, Women in the Media, WISE Africa, SEND Sierra Leone, and women leaders from farmer groups attended a training to address the existing gaps and barriers affecting women, and to access opportunities within the sectors.

In Sierra Leone, civil society, farmer cooperatives, women's groups, and groups in the oil palm and cocoa sectors had a critical stake in crafting and implementing inclusive policies that contribute to an enabling environment for their rights and interests.

"Through the programme, Solidaridad seeks to ensure that the interests, voices and rights of farmers, workers and citizens are represented and heard in decision-making for sustainable use of natural resources, decent work, fair value distribution and sustainable consumption," Seth Kankam Nuamah, regional coordinator for the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme.

Act and in the Land Act to start drafting recommendations to tackle issues that affect them. We also trained these gender champions to increase their bargaining and advocacy skills to negotiate living wages with private companies and advocate to the government for land rights, gender equality, and social inclusion. These gender champions are expected to join the Women in Cocoa and Chocolate (WINCC) platform in the coming years.

We also worked with Women in Media to organise **awareness raising radio discussions** on the newly passed Customary Land Act and the National Land Commission Act. These radio discussions were led by the supported Gender Champions, and gave them the space to advocate for **women's rights on land and benefits**. In support of their work, we produced jingles in English and local languages that are currently aired on major radio stations within the cocoa districts. Finally, over the past year 150 farmers out of the 526 onboarded on the Cocoa Trace traceability platform. These farmers have recorded improved access to markets and received payments of their produce sold to Randlyn Holdings Limited. We entered into **new partnerships with three exporting companies**³, Côte d'Ivoire engaging another 1,645 cocoa farmers from Sierra Leone with the aim of increasing the transparency and traceability of cocoa's origin and contributing to the **gathering of evidence on farmers' living income** to inform future advocacy strategies.

³ Tradin SL Ltd, FT Saad and Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company.



1.2.4 Europe

In Europe, we aim to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive global cocoa value chain, in which European companies work towards living income for cocoa farmers and the end of child labour in cocoa fields, and embrace transparency. In 2022, with the member organisations of VOICE Network⁴, we developed and published the **2022 Cocoa Barometer** to **push for change with policy makers and the private sector** that **pricing interventions** need to be included as part of companies' sustainability strategy. While many sustainability strategies in the cocoa sector focus on productivity increases as the means to reaching a living income for farmers, the Barometer showed that these investments often do not increase the net income of farmers and that companies' living income commitments are impossible to realise without increasing farmgate prices. In total, **16 companies** involved in the cocoa and chocolate value chains, and the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana adopted a **joint statement of intent** towards an economic pact for sustainable cocoa that reaffirms their "support for the Living Income Differential" and where they "commit to working together, to achieve the common vision to hasten the move towards living incomes for cocoa farmers and deliver sustainable cocoa in the long run". The Cocoa Barometer also included recommendations for policy makers on traceability, transparency and eliminating child labour. We advocated for the inclusion of CSOs from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire as members of the VOICE CSO advocacy coalition, in order to **directly engage them in European and international policy debate**, and five⁵ of these CSOs became members.

As part of our EU lobby strategy, and through our board membership of the Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (DISCO), we advocated for a change in European companies' procurement practices, fair prices and long term supplier relationships. DISCO approved our proposal to organise a session to discuss fair pricing and possible interventions in this direction. Based on our input, an **international CSO coordination mechanism** for the various national Initiatives for Sustainable Cocoa across Europe (the ISCO's), is now in place to drive change in Europe and harmonise the strategic direction and advocacy of the CSOs that participate in the ISCO's. Along with like-minded CSOs and cocoa companies, we **lobbied for smallholder inclusive legislation in Europe**, focusing on the EU Deforestation Regulation and the CSDDD. Finally, we focused on accelerating the second phase of the Sierra Leone pilot by continuing to **engage the private sector in Europe**, with compelling content around Cocoa Trace, and growing our industry position as thought leader around living income and wage discussions (i.e. Living Income/Wage Lab and ALIGN).

⁴ <https://voicenetwork.cc/>.

⁵ IDEF (Initiatives for Community Development and Forest Conservation, in CDI); ROSCIDET in CDI; Tropenbos Ghana; Ecocare Ghana; Oxfam Ghana; SEND Ghana; INADES-Formation (Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social, in CDI).



1.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2022

FIGURE 3. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS COCOA PROGRAMME 2022

	Key performance Indicator	RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	12	4	10	4	4
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	15	8	19	10	15
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	9	12	10	14	12
ACCELERATE DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS Improved transparency and negotiation position for farmers and workers in the supply chain, by co-developing and implementing innovative digital and fair business models						
OUTCOME	# of farmers, miners and workers with improved bargaining position through equitable access to (digital) market intelligence or as a result of new and innovative business models	0	0	0	0	10,000
OUTPUT	# of farmers, miners and workers using the developed tools and business models being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	526	650	1,645	600	10,000
	# of tools and business models developed and being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	1	5	2	1	5
	# and kind private sector partners engaged to co-design, test and promote new tools and business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	2	5	6	5	7
	# of other non private sector partners (knowledge, public, CSOs, others) engaged in co-design, test and promote new tools or business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	0	1	0	0	1
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	0	3,000	179	1,150	8,900
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	0	6	3	5	6
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CSOs are strengthened to speak up and engage in policy dialogue						
OUTCOME	# Civil Society actors and target groups with increased L&A capacities	2	16	62	17	41
OUTPUT	# and type of Civil Society actors and target groups supported	39	17	87	49	41



2. Coffee



Key milestones achieved in 2022:

- Multi stakeholder platform (MSPs), collective action groups established and operationalised.
- Value chain studies (Sector diagnostic study, Supply Chain Actions and their impact on Ecosystems and Inclusion trajectories in the coffee sector). (East Africa)
- Introduction of Farm Diary and Fairfood's TRACE to Capucas Cooperative (formerly COMSA) producers, including value chain mapping with Capucas Cooperative and Cooperative Coffees (or other buyer). (Honduras)
- Implementation of National Gender Inclusion Strategy begins. (Honduras)
- Gap assessment of CSOs performed to inform capacity and training needs Policy, taxation and institutional gaps identified. (East Africa)
- Established pool of Gender champions. (East Africa)
- 1 Coffee Barometer published, and European citizens mobilised to push for policy change. (Europe) (postponed to Q2 2023)
- Investment case development and pitching to financial institutions. (Honduras)

Total Actuals 2022: € 1,115,677, for Kenya (31%), Uganda (25%), Honduras (26%) and Europe (18%)



2.1 INTRODUCTION

Our strategic objective in the coffee value chain is to ensure value (in terms of income and benefits) is distributed more fairly over the value chain, putting coffee farmers and workers as the priority - including their ability to make a living income and have a stronger bargaining position. Evidence plays a foundational role in contributing to this and we put significant effort over the past year to carry-out research and build well-founded policy briefs. In 2022, we commissioned studies in Kenya, Uganda and Honduras on value distribution, to better understand the current situation and identify the opportunities for improvements. The outcomes of these studies provide a basis for the roll-out of advocacy activities in 2023 that lobby for a more inclusive coffee sector and push for improved value distribution across the value chain.

In 2022, we made important progress towards our objective, setting the foundations for the impact we want to see in 2025, working with private global and local coffee stakeholders and testing new transparency models. With the introduction of the Coffee Traceability models in 2021, we have now commenced testing of these models with private global and local coffee stakeholders in Uganda and Honduras. Additionally, following the initiation of the dialogues in 2021, we continued this year engaging stakeholders in discussions of policy recommendations, with a focus on integrating fair value distribution (FVD) and gender inclusivity in national coffee policies. In 2023, we will continue engaging stakeholders on FVD discussions, to influence policy modifications at the national level and at the global level, we will launch the new edition of the Coffee Barometer, which will include a chapter on value distribution and a roasters' benchmark.

2.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS MILESTONES 2022

2.2.1 Kenya

In Kenya, we aim to contribute to an inclusive sustainable coffee value chain and trade in an innovative way, in which the interests, voices and rights of farmers and citizens are represented and heard in decision making for sustainable use of natural resources, fair value distribution, and sustainable consumption. In 2022, with the arrival of a new government, additional opportunities arose to develop a more harmonised and inclusive coffee regulatory framework. To this end, in 2022 we supported **four coffee multi-stakeholder platforms** (one at national level and three at county level⁶) to discuss and gather recommendations for an improved coffee regulation. Through a webinar we organised together with the Kenya Coffee Platform (KCP) on [opportunities for youth in the coffee value chain](#) to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing between coffee sector players, we presented inputs collected through the **fair value distribution study** and gender analysis we conducted. Additionally, [Policy recommendations](#) were made by the farmers, youth and women and were submitted to the Attorney General's office for review and presentation to the Parliament for adoption. In 2023, we will continue this focus as well as efforts to engage stakeholders in building rapport with the new regime and leadership to pursue a collaborative approach to achieving a streamlined coffee regulation framework, incorporating the recommendations from the 2022 FVD studies.

Also in 2022, we aimed to ensure a meaningful participation of civil society, so we provided

⁶ Machakos, Muranga, Nakuru.



the Kenyan Coffee Platform, the Kenya Coffee Producers Association (KCPA) and the other CSOs⁷ with **practical capacity support and training** on negotiation skills, leadership and governance to enhance their organisations' leadership and management practices. In addition, to address gender imbalances in the Coffee sector, we worked with coffee cooperatives to identify **60 gender champions**⁸ and we trained them on transforming gender and social norms and inequalities using the [Start Awareness Support Action \(SASA!\)](#) gender capacity building and advocacy methodology, to spearhead dialogue about gender inclusivity and social inclusion issues at community level. In 2023, we will continue working with these champions to strengthen women's action groups in communities that promote gender-responsive solutions and create awareness on the rights of women and youth in the sector.

2.2.2 Uganda

In Uganda, we mirror the aims of the Kenya programme to approach inclusive sustainable coffee value chain and trade in an innovative way for the promotion of interests, voices and rights of coffee farmers and their communities. To provide specific context to Uganda, the Parliament passed the National Coffee Bill of 2018 in 2020, which aims to spur sector reforms across the coffee value chain by regulating on and off-farm activities by supporting coffee farmers through market linkages, provision of technologies, quality inputs and extension services. Despite this important milestone, which aligns with our own programme's approach, public awareness of the bill is lacking and civil society organisations' representation in the process remains low. In 2022, we focused on fostering inclusive dialogues and **convening multi-stakeholder platforms** at district and national levels, to discuss the policy issues affecting coffee farmers, helping civil society promote proper implementation of the National Coffee Bill. As a result of these dialogues, policy recommendations on effective implementation of the Bill were submitted by the civil society actors to the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) for adoption and implementation.

In 2022, we also carried out an external gender analysis to identify the [gender and social inclusion gaps](#) in the coffee sector in Uganda. To drive community-led transformative inclusion approaches, we trained **45 gender champions**⁹ to spearhead advocacy initiatives on gender and social norms and inequalities in the targeted communities and with community leaders/power holders. Additionally, through the Uganda National Farmers Federation, we facilitated the **formation of collective action platforms** dubbed as Area Marketing Enterprises (AMEs) in five districts, which act as a link between market dealers and farmers, improving farmers' bargaining and negotiation power on prices. We also continued the piloting process of the **Coffee Trace traceability tool** with 848 coffee farmers from two primary societies¹⁰ and with the Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union (ACPCU). Transactions were digitised and logged to the blockchain in order to trace coffee being supplied to ACPCU before being sent to their European buyer. This will enable smallholder coffee growers and members of cooperative societies and unions to have greater access to the market and to better position their products.

⁷ Machakos Union, Nyeri Coffee Estate Farmers, National Coffee Cooperative Union (NACCU), Meru Union, Coffee Estate Planters association.

⁸ Women, Men and youth in the community (selected from coffee cooperatives) who have been capacitated with gender transformative knowledge and skills who break down gender barriers.

⁹ Women, Men and youth in the community (selected from coffee cooperatives) who have been capacitated with gender transformative knowledge and skills who break down gender barriers.

¹⁰ Nyeibingo and Kyangundu



2.2.3 Honduras

In Honduras, we aim to contribute to the adoption of new public policies that strengthen the opportunity of women producers in an environment of equal opportunities, as well as the formulation of a public policy for the Honduras coffee sector, that addresses the issue of fair value distribution throughout the value chain. In 2022, the **Coffee Gender Policy, supported by Solidaridad, began implementation** via the sector governing body, National Coffee Council (CONACAFE). To support this, we facilitated a **multistakeholder dialogue** where representatives of CSOs, government and private sector actors discussed the institutional governance structure needed for its implementation. Resulting **policy recommendations** were made on the formation of an institutional structure at the sectoral level to execute and

Strengthening the position of women and fostering use of digital tools in the Honduran coffee sector

Coffee, Honduras (Solidaridad Central America and Fairfood)



"It is essential that women are the protagonist of their work, both in the field and in decision-making at the community level, and for that, they need to have all the information."

As a member of Capucas, a cooperative of coffee-farming families in Honduras, Angélica Paz advocates for the adoption of

digital tools among all members of her community. Angélica has contributed to a number of important developments of her cooperative in the Honduran coffee sector, including the collection and consolidation of producer data, supporting smallholders with using this information for decision-making, closing of the digital gap in the field, and delivering **100% traceable coffee**. The Capucas Cooperative makes use of the **Trace tool**, implemented by Solidaridad Central America and Fairfood.

"The main challenge we have faced is achieving an effective and equitable participation of women in decision-making spaces in the coffee chain, exercising autonomy in search of resources that improve the quality of life for their families, and promoting the coffee-growing sector."

Angélica and her Capucas colleagues have great ambitions for the future: among others, to carry out the first special coffee competition at the local level, with the aim of promoting coffee produced by women and selling it under its own brand according to a 100% traceable, inclusive business model; and hereby also facilitating access to markets. They also plan to diversify their crops to generate income, as well as sell the work they do with demonstration plots, in which they try working with new crops or new techniques on small patches of land, and if their efforts are successful, scale them up.



supervise the policy's implementation. We also conducted a strategic leadership training to strengthen women producers of The Alliance of Women in Coffee (AMUCAFE), to increase their capacity to monitor the implementation of this policy. This will segue into additional training for AMUCAFE on advocacy and leadership next year. We also hosted a **podcast** together with AMUCAFE in 2022, to raise awareness among coffee communities on the importance of gender equity in the coffee supply chain and its communities as well as the provisions brought by the Coffee Gender Policy. We also engaged Matthew Algie in our strategy to **facilitate access to finance to women farmers** in order to obtain agricultural inputs that allow them to improve their coffee quality. The company provided seed capital to initiate a revolving fund with women farmers.

We continued pilot testing the **Coffee Trace traceability tool** with the aim to improve value distribution. The tool was adopted by Capucas Cooperative, and resulted in the export of the first fully traced shipping container of coffee (19 metric tonnes), from 200 producers to the European market.¹¹ The adoption of this traceability tool will enable smallholder coffee growers and members of the Capucas Cooperative to have **greater access to the market** and to better position their products, providing results that will help us formulate FVD recommendations for the National Coffee Policy. A second partner, Molinos de Honduras/Volcafe, adopted the Coffee Trace tool and began to pilot it to sell traced coffee to the German market, which could help to scale-up the Trace tool in other supply chains and origins. To build further evidence on this, we also facilitated a **study on fair value distribution**, and the outcomes of this study were presented to CONACAFE. Additionally, through **bilateral MSP dialogues** with CONACAFE and Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE), we advocated for the modification of the National Coffee Policy, to address issues related to the fair value distribution, highlighted by the study. In 2023, we will further disseminate the outcomes of this study to create consensus on the modification of the National Coffee Policy.

2.2.4 Europe

In Europe, we aim to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive global coffee value chain, in which European companies work towards living income for coffee farmers, while respecting the environment, and embracing transparency/traceability. In 2022 we were re-elected to continue representing the civil society in the Global Coffee Platform (GCP)¹², which means that we can continue to influence their agenda to be more farmer-centric rather than business-centric. Most importantly though, we continued making progress related to the value distribution agenda in coffee within the **multi-stakeholder partnerships** established in 2021.

In partnership with the Speciality Coffee Association, we re-launched the Sustainable Sourcing Action Network within the Sustainable Coffee Challenge (SCC). We presented to the SCC Secretariat the relevance of including value distribution in the Multi-Stakeholder Platform vision, which led to specific objectives being included in the vision document (strategy). As traditionally the coffee sector was more focused on traditional sustainability sourcing policies, such as sustainability standards uptake, this is the first time that **value distribution**, which has a greater impact on producers' income, is on the agenda of the coffee sector. Additionally, together with the Speciality Coffee Association, we influenced the European Coffee Federation to host an event to discuss the EU Deforestation Regulation, as part of the World of Coffee exhibition in Milan, that aimed to make the European coffee industry aware of the impact that

¹¹ Purchased by Matthew Algie in Scotland

¹² The GCP has over 100 members and only 2 seats for Civil Society in their board.



this regulation has on coffee volumes entering Europe. This led to coffee companies operating in Europe (Lavazza, Mercon, FNC) to start assessing their deforestation risks per supplying origin in order to comply with the upcoming EU regulation.

Of particular pride is that together with the Coffee Collective we started to develop the **Coffee Barometer 2022**, which will be launched in 2023 together with the company scoring framework. Additionally in 2022, by harnessing the power of value chain partnerships to drive systemic change we were able to **promote living income strategies with our private sector partners** as the basis for accelerating change towards more fair and sustainable value chains. We also continued engaging the private sector in Europe to join the **Coffee Trace** development and testing. Specifically, we engaged the Futureproof Coffee Collective through MVO Nederland, to explore new partnerships. Members of this Collective (Wakuli, Fairtrade Original, Coffee Quest) visited our pilot in Uganda, allowing us to engage with Fairtrade Original, who is a key sourcer from Uganda. This will facilitate Fairtrade to verify whether paying a so-called premium price is sufficient for growers to escape poverty, and to guide interventions that benefit the livelihoods of smallholders in the future.



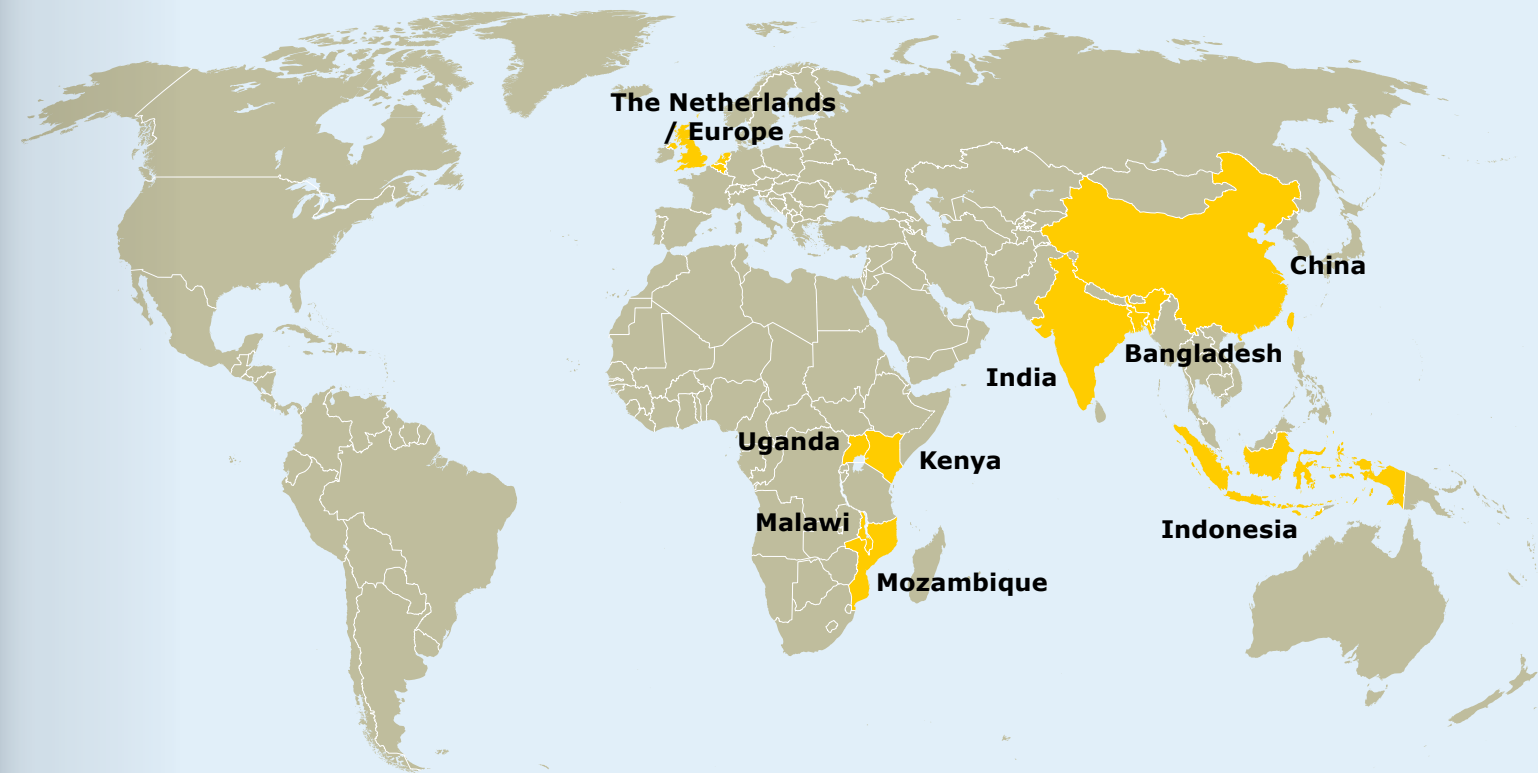
2.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2022

FIGURE 4. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS COFFEE PROGRAMME 2022

Key performance Indicator		RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	4	3	5	5	3
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	8	15	22	17	36
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	6	7	8	7	7
ACCELERATE DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS Improved transparency and negotiation position for farmers and workers in the supply chain, by co-developing and implementing innovative digital and fair business models						
OUTCOME	# of farmers, miners and workers with improved bargaining position through equitable access to (digital) market intelligence or as a result of new and innovative business models	0	0	200	400	0
OUTPUT	# of farmers, miners and workers using the developed tools and business models being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	0	3,200	1,296	5,100	11,900
	# of tools and business models developed and being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	1	3	3	4	3
	# and kind private sector partners engaged to co-design, test and promote new tools and business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	0	4	8	6	4
	# of other non private sector partners (knowledge, public, CSOs, others) engaged in co-design, test and promote new tools or business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	3	8	6	11	8
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	0	0	105	3,100	8,900
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	0	4	4	5	4
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CSOs are strengthened to speak up and engage in policy dialogue						
OUTCOME	# Civil Society actors and target groups with increased L&A capacities	5	15	15	18	19
OUTPUT	# and type of Civil Society actors and target groups supported	6	18	18	18	19



3. Tea



Key milestones achieved in 2022:

- Tea Sector strategy developed and advocacy trajectory to promote adoption started. (Africa)
- All STG associations adopt TRINITEA-SSI. (Asia)
- New inclusive STG business models developed for tea for improved trading. (Asia)
- National level STG associations strengthened to engage in policy dialogue.
- Policy recommendations submitted to the national and/or provincial governments.
- Asian consumers mobilised to increase consumption of sustainable smallholder produced tea.
- Research data component of European tea footprint report completed. (Europe)
- Transparency and value distribution commitments from at least two international companies in Europe.
- European citizens mobilised to push the policy agenda. (Europe)

Total Actuals 2022: € 1,932,059, for India (32%), Indonesia (11%), China (4%), Malawi (13%), Bangladesh (6%), Uganda (12%), Kenya (11%), Mozambique (8%) and Europe (3%)



3.1 INTRODUCTION

The overall goal of this programme is to contribute to a responsible and inclusive global tea value chain that ensures value is distributed fairly, smallholder tea farmers and workers benefit from decent working conditions, and tea is produced with respect to the environment. Despite growing production and consumption of tea globally, the average growth rate in price realisation of tea has not seen a healthy uptick, given the incommensurate rise in the costs of production. Consumption and buying preference of consumers have seen a paradigm shift especially after the pandemic, with consumers putting preference on health, wellness, convenience and quality products. This has led to the emergence of new age startups who have come up with disruptive business models to cater to the evolving consumer needs by either embracing omnichannel or ramping up their digital presence, rather than having a pureplay physical presence. In most of the major producing countries, over 50% of the tea comes from smallholder growers.

Given price realisations have seen tepid growth compared to the rise in costs of production, in 2022, the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme supported the federation of targeted smallholder tea farmers to set-up producer companies/organisations which can facilitate market access, helping realise improved bargaining positions. Having reached a near normal situation, after setbacks in 2021, the tea programme during 2022 was able to fulfil, and often exceed, most of the key milestones, ensuring timely progress towards the programme's 2025 objectives. Any remaining milestones will be carried forward to 2023. The details of significant achievements made during 2022 are indicated under progress relating to the respective countries. Finally, As part of improving transparency and traceability in Africa, we established a regional multi-stakeholder platform for digital innovation that will identify the digital needs of the small tea growers, workers union and producer organisations and work with the private sector to develop a tea Market Information System (MIS). The road map for the design of the tea Market Information System was created by Africa TechHub (one of the RECLAIM Sustainability! innovation tracks).

3.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS MILESTONES 2022

3.2.1 India

In India, we aim to create, strengthen and join networks of tea producers to enhance access to knowledge and information, facilitate an informed dialogue in which vulnerable groups can speak up, and policy makers can make informed decisions. In terms of **strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms**, one of the key deliverables for tea in India for 2022 was to support the set-up of the Asia Tea Alliance (ATA) as a platform for growers to resolve industry related concerns. In 2022, the ATA which remained dormant due to Covid-19, was revived with membership from China, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Nepal. During a meeting held in Kolkata (India), a manifesto was signed by the members to strengthen the tea industry's competitiveness by promoting cooperation in research and development, standardisation, and quality control and to promote the consumption of tea in Asia and around the world, by enhancing tea culture and promoting tea tourism. Following this, we supported the organisation of the International Small Tea Growers Convention, which was attended by all the ATA member countries.



In 2022, we also worked towards supporting the **development of inclusive business models** for the tea sector to improve trading. One such development was the establishment of the proof of concept of traceability of produce from bush to cup using the Soli-trace App, which helped introduce to the market a tea brand that carries a QR code for enabling discerning consumers to see the entire journey of the tea from the farm to the consumer cup. These disruptive technologies provided a foundation to our efforts to mobilise Asian consumers to purchase traceable smallholder farmed tea and a large-scale. A **consumer awareness campaign**, covering the health aspects of tea, was carried out in 2022 to complement this work. Additionally, three other innovative products were developed and introduced in 2022 to enhance farming practices : 1) **Soliprobe** for instant testing of soil nutrient status; 2) **Solimet** to provide farmers with hyperlocal weather, soil and plant monitoring data to optimise their inputs; and 3) **Ballotronix** Tea Leaf Reader for simplifying the process of grading tea leaves. These interventions will be scaled-up in 2023, along with a focus on strengthening bargaining power through restructuring them into collective Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and further follow-up on the recommendations we submitted as part of the review of the Tea Act 1953.

3.2.2 Indonesia

In Indonesia, we have similar aims to create, strengthen and join networks of tea producers to enhance access to knowledge and information, facilitate an informed dialogue in which vulnerable groups can speak up, and policy makers can make informed decisions. There are rising concerns in this country regarding the decline of production in large state and private plantations, and interest in STG as an emerging sector. Therefore in 2022, we collaborated with the Indonesian Tea Council to **develop and write a policy brief on the sustainability of the Indonesian Tea Sector**. The policy brief focused on local and national issues in the current supply chain, as well as on the state of policy, and it will be submitted to the relevant line Ministries for further discussions in 2023. Concurrently, we directly **engaged and lobbied the Indonesian government** at different levels to strengthen the enabling environment for tea smallholders growers where they can improve their tea plantation business and add value to their products. We **lobbied the private sector** food and beverages industry stakeholders such as hotels, restaurants and cafes to increase their uptake of the smallholder tea products.

To engage the public, we conducted **intensive public awareness campaigns to promote the sustainable uptake** of tea by domestic consumers, in partnership with the Indonesian Tea Marketing Association, Paguyuban Tani Lestari, Tealogi, Komoditi Lestari Foundation and the media. We reached more than 10 million people through media platforms and the Smallholder Tea Week we organised for the first time in Yogyakarta. These actions will be reinforced by further efforts in 2023, when we work to **convene multi-stakeholder platforms** to discuss pertinent issues in the tea sector. Specifically, we are working to strengthen the National Reference Group on Indonesian Tea Sector and Paguyuban Tani Lestari to submit policy recommendations supporting tea smallholders and sustainability.



Women micropreneur network supports smallholder tea product 'Teh nDeso'

Tea, Indonesia (Business Watch Indonesia)



More than 500 women 'micropreneurs' - micro-entrepreneurs - in the Provinces of Central Java and West Java have joined together in supporting smallholders' tea brand, Teh nDeso. As micro-entrepreneurs, women not only support the sale of smallholders' tea, but also ensure a more empowered position for themselves.

A number of villages in Indonesia still hold a patriarchal culture, where women are expected to stay at home and take care of the household. Whereas some conditions will require them to be economically independent and able to support their families, for example, if their husband or head of household has fallen ill, or if the household income is too low. Meanwhile, with low education and limited experience and skills, it is difficult for women to participate in formal jobs. Being a micropreneur is an alternative solution to limited job opportunities in rural areas, especially for women. This marketing model used by Teh nDeso opens opportunities for rural women to generate additional income, because they are not bound by certain work times so that it fits the current conditions and capacities of rural women.

"Teh nDeso empowers rural women. By being their distributors, women can generate more income and use it to pay for their daily needs." Sri Wihyati, tea female farmer

In the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, Business Watch Indonesia assists and facilitates rural women – tea pickers and farmers – to increase their capacity in marketing Teh nDeso products and to build the women micropreneur network for supporting the existence of smallholders' tea products. In the effort to support the marketing of smallholder products, Business Watch Indonesia also published a [short movie](#) depicting the contribution of women micro-entrepreneurs to the sustainability of smallholders' tea plantations. The support has significantly improved the income of members of Paguyuban Tani Lestari who are also the producers of Teh nDeso. They used to be in the situation where they had the lowest farm productivity and income compared to other actors despite owning 46% of national tea farms; they have now shown improved capacity to add value to their fresh shoot yields and built their own brand, Teh nDeso.

"With all their challenges, smallholders are at the very end of the supply chain. The high dependence on other actors also places them in a lower bargaining position, so there must be innovative solutions to change this condition. One of them is what we (Paguyuban Tani Lestari) do together with smallholders, developing a smallholders tea brand which we named 'Teh nDeso'." Chief of Paguyuban Tani Lestari - Waras Paliant



3.2.3 China

While the aim of the programme in China remained similar to that of other countries in Asia, there was little implementation progress made due to the Covid-19 restrictions that were imposed by the government for most of 2022, as well as issues with legal registration of Solidaridad China. Despite these setbacks, we were able to **support the multi-stakeholder platform**, China Tea Marketing Association (CTMA), to attend the 2022 Asia Tea Alliance (ATA) Summit, which focused on **promoting national sustainability standards** and the UN SDGs, protecting the interests of smallholder tea growers. Following this event, we jointly developed and submitted a **policy recommendation** on how to upgrade and improve the existing Chinese Tea Industry Sustainable Development Guideline. We also participated in the China Black Tea Conference and the World's Three High-aroma Black Tea Event, where we presented the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme and tackled issues around best practices and sustainability in the tea sector in Asia.

3.2.4 Bangladesh

The aims of the Bangladesh programme are aligned with the other countries in Asia as laid out in the above sections. In 2022, we worked towards these goals and **organised a multi stakeholder dialogue** between public and private stakeholders¹³ to advocate for the adoption and implementation of the Trinitea self-assessment tool for increasing productivity and improving supply chain efficiency. Further **MSP consultations were organised** with Bought Leaf Factories Owners Association to influence changes in the management practices of the BLFs for improving quality and fair pricing of quality green leaf. There was buy-in of the Bangladesh Tea Board, Bought Leaf Factory Owners Association and the Small Growers Tea Association on the need to develop a harmonised strategy and plan of actions to improve productivity and quality in a sustainable manner. There **was also agreement among stakeholders** on the need for a public-private convergent approach for the sustainability of the smallholder tea production.

Our primary activity in 2022, was an **in-depth research study on the tea sector in Bangladesh** to deepen our understanding of the trends, growth potential, opportunities, challenges and policies that will influence our interventions in the coming years under the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme. Specifically, **we will develop a policy paper** for the sustainable growth of smallholder tea, with specific recommendations around policies related to plantation development, quality upgradation and value addition, promotion of tea, and regulations related to quality monitoring, traceability and ensuring remunerative prices to growers. We will also **undertake further policy influencing** to develop schemes for public subsidies on access to inputs, energy efficiency, crop insurance, and finance for adoption of sustainable practices.

3.2.5 Mozambique

In Mozambique, we aim to strengthen and establish MSPs where civil society is present, in engaging partnerships, thought leadership, advocacy and campaigns against harmful corporate culture and detrimental norms. To work towards this, in 2022 we **convened multi-**

¹³ Bought Leaf Factories (BLF), Smallholder (STG), Small Holder Tea Garden Owners Association (STGOA), Bought Leaf Factory Owners Association (BLFOA), Tea Brokers, Tea Marketing Companies, Bangladesh Tea Board, Bangladesh Tea Research Institute, Local Administration and local elected officials



stakeholder dialogues for tea sector stakeholders¹⁴ to share and confirm findings from the baseline study and the gender and social inclusion analysis that were concluded in 2021. The studies revealed that most of the sectoral Policies and Acts are outdated, smallholder farmers lack land ownership, there are high rates of child labour, gender based violence and sexual harassment in tea estates, and CSOs have inadequate capacity to address these issues. Further efforts will be made in 2023 to hold dialogues to address these identified issues. We supported representatives from the Mozambique Tea sector to participate at the East African Tea Trade Association (EATTA) **regional multi-stakeholder dialogue** held in Malawi, which brought together stakeholders from seven different EATTA countries. To provide an evidence base for these dialogues, we supported the establishment of a **knowledge exchange and community of practice** with smallholder farmers, worker representatives, tea researchers and tea companies from the seven East and Southern Africa countries during this event.

To engage private sector and civil society, in 2022 we **mobilised tea companies to strengthen their respective associations** as a mechanism for the adoption of good industry practices in establishing decent working conditions, internal dialogues with farmers and consolidating their voice for policy change. This was complemented by CSO **capacity assessment exercises and training in policy lobbying and advocacy** for seven CSOs.

3.2.6 Malawi

In Malawi, we also aim to strengthen and establish MSPs where civil society is present, in engaging partnerships, thought leadership, advocacy and campaigns against harmful corporate culture and detrimental norms. A highlight from 2022 was addressing issues of decent work such as sexual harassment issues across the Tea sector through national and workplace **policy engagements and trainings**, and the facilitation of the East African Tea Trade Association (EATTA) and Tea Association of Malawi (TAML) regional multistakeholder platform. Following this, a **gender and social inclusion assessment and verification** exercise was then carried out across 15 Malawi tea estates with the TAML. This exercise was followed-up with trainings on gender and sexual harassment for all tea estates across Malawi to create awareness among the participants on how they can recognise sexual harassment, and address and handle complaints in their workplaces.

In 2022, we also supported **CSOs to strengthen their lobby and advocacy skills**, and we supported their participation in the Crop and Land Policy consultative review meetings organised by the government. Together with local CSOs and other stakeholders, we brought up the issue of the urgent need to develop the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy for the Tea industry to ensure a decent work environment. We also supported the National Small Scale Tea Growers Association (NSTGA) with training to build its capacity in **leadership skills and governance** of their organisation, as well as other CSOs on **resource mobilisation and fundraising**. Finally, during the course of the year, we trained almost two dozen journalists in **responsible reporting around sustainability** in the Tea sector and a resulting media tour enhanced visibility of the Malawian Tea sector and issues affecting its sustainability.

¹⁴ Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - National Direction of Commercial Agriculture, Agência do Vale do Zambeze, National Farmers Union (UNAC), Association for Study and Defense of the Consumer (Pro Consumers Mozambique), and theExport Trading Group (ETG)



3.2.7 Uganda

In Uganda, we aim to create neutral advocacy MSPs and inclusive spaces for evidence based dialogue and a gender strategy in relation to the Tea policy institutional and legal framework review. In 2022, we prioritised activities carried over from 2021 and we finalised the contracting of local implementing partners and project civil society organisations. We also conducted public sector engagements with the Ministry of Agriculture to pitch the objectives of the project. As part of **equipping CSOs with lobby advocacy capacities**, we trained small tea growers associations and other CSOs in SMART lobbying and advocacy skills, and supported the formation of the Uganda Tea Outgrowers Association (UTOA). Additionally, **we trained Water and Environment Media Network, a media CSO, on responsible reporting** on the tea industry, and we supported them to strengthen their structures through the recruitment of nine journalists to ensure widespread reporting on the Uganda Tea sector issues.

Following this, to **amplify the voice of the tea smallholder farmers**, we conducted five campaigns on the draft Uganda Tea Policy, gender Inclusivity, decent work, fair value distribution and environment. We supported the National Union of Plantation and Agriculture Workers' Uganda (NUPAWU) to carry out an awareness campaign and a concert against Gender Based Violence during the *16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence*. Complementing these efforts and to **enhance gender and social inclusion within the sector**, we supported women small tea growers from 23 districts to form a national women tea association that was named the Uganda Women Chapter in Tea. This association will be the main voice in the sector for the advancement and promotion of women's economic and social rights. Finally, we established a **multi-stakeholder platform**, the Uganda Tea Conference, that **advocated for the review and adoption of the draft national Tea Policy** and also established the Uganda Tea Platform, which facilitated dialogues between key stakeholders and the Ministry of Agriculture.

3.2.8 Kenya

In Kenya, we are also aiming to create neutral advocacy MSPs and inclusive spaces for evidence based dialogue and a gender strategy in relation to the Tea policy institutional and legal framework review. In 2022, we **conducted stakeholder engagement** and finalised the contracting of local implementing partners and CSOs. We **established partnerships** with the Tea Board of Kenya and the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), two influential small tea growers' private sector agencies to advocate for issues affecting the sector. As part of **equipping CSO with lobby and advocacy skills**, we trained five CSOs¹⁵ in SMART lobbying and advocacy. We also supported small tea growers' associations and workers' unions to re-establish their structures in Bomet, Kisii and Nandi counties.

We **established two multi stakeholder platforms (MSPs)**, one at county and one at the national level to bring industry stakeholders together to dialogue on sector issues. The national MSP reviewed the draft Kenya Tea Policy and made recommendations on the gender and environmental gaps identified in the previous draft edition, and also reviewed the current voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) with the aim of harmonising them. The national level MSP is the Kenya Tea Platform, whose mandate is to bring all the tea stakeholders on a round

¹⁵ Kenya Union of Small Scale Tea Owners (KUSSTO), Purple and Specialty Tea Association of Kenya (PSTAK), Kenya Plantation and Agriculture Workers Union (KPAWU), Kenya Environment & Science Journalist Association (KENSJA).



table to dialogue on various issues. The second MSP is the Kericho Tea Working Group, which will be responsible for bringing all the tea stakeholders in the county together for dialogue.

To complement this, we **conducted five media campaigns**¹⁶ in partnership with the Kenya Environment & Science Journalist Association (KENSJA), to raise awareness on the identified issues (inclusion of gender and environmental issues in the Tea Policy, fair pricing, better working conditions), and called for action by targeting the government, big tea producers, workers and farmers. As with other projects in the region, the SASA! methodology was rolled out to **support gender and social inclusion** in the tea sector, which included gender mapping and the identification of 72 gender champions. They supported the Kenya Plantation and Agriculture Workers Union’s awareness campaign and a workshop on gender based violence during the *16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence*.

3.2.9 Europe

In Europe we aim to work with the retail and tea trade sector to support and scale the impact of the tea programme among key stakeholders and integrate, where possible, with other initiatives to create the right enabling policy environment. In 2022, we prioritised engagement and alignment with partners, particularly with Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP), THIRST and Ekaterra to **address issues of living income and gender equality**. The remit of those organisations complements the aims of the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme on tea and will help us scale our impact. Through our partnership with the Ethical Tea Partnership and their partners and supporter base, we will advocate for a fair and more sustainable tea industry, working towards **commitments from at least 2 international companies**. Further, as part of the push to **highlight the policy priorities** (living income, gender equality and sustainable production) in the tea sector (including Greenhouse Gas-GhG emissions), we drafted the ToR for the proposed Risktea report and scoped out with partners and relevant stakeholders. The RiskTea report will be published and disseminated in 2023 to influence public and private procurement policy and European consumer choices in tea.

16 On the Tea Policy, gender inclusivity, decent work, fair value distribution and environment conservation



3.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2022

FIGURE 5. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS TEA PROGRAMME 2022

	Key performance Indicator	RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	4	14	13	23	21
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	8	12	26	24	12
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	14	19	16	24	19
ACCELERATE DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS Improved transparency and negotiation position for farmers and workers in the supply chain, by co-developing and implementing innovative digital and fair business models						
OUTCOME	# of farmers, miners and workers with improved bargaining position through equitable access to (digital) market intelligence or as a result of new and innovative business models	0	35,000	30,000	122,200	85,000
OUTPUT	# of farmers, miners and workers using the developed tools and business models being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	54,805	61,830	44,870	127,250	64,600
	# of tools and business models developed and being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	4	8	6	5	8
	# and kind private sector partners engaged to co-design, test and promote new tools and business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	51	14	20	22	15
	# of other non private sector partners (knowledge, public, CSOs, others) engaged in co-design, test and promote new tools or business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	10	9	69	16	22
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	0	0	231,008	204,800	3,200
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	3	12	17	30	12
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CSOs are strengthened to speak up and engage in policy dialogue						
OUTCOME	# Civil Society actors and target groups with increased L&A capacities	22	23	21	24	36
OUTPUT	# and type of Civil Society actors and target groups supported	33	28	36	48	36



4. Palm Oil



Key milestones achieved in 2022:

- China National Platform set up. (Asia)
- Consumer campaigns launched. (Asia)
- National multi stakeholder platforms established, agenda developed. (Africa)
- Data collected about fair price to support CSOs in advocacy. (Africa)
- Success stories about Gender Champions and actions published. (Africa)
- Communications campaign on Decent Work and Gender Inclusion. (LatAm)
- Progress tracking report on decent work and gender inclusivity model. (LatAm)
- Strategic plan developed to implement regulatory frameworks. (LatAm)
- FENAPALMAH & AIPAH members trained on gender inclusion, non discrimination, labour rights and living wage. (LatAm)
- Citizens mobilised in Europe to influence the policy agenda.
- Research on internalising external cost (fair price) of palm oil production published. (Global)
- RSPO SSF funds projects and supports development of innovations for smallholder certification. (Global)

Total Actuals 2022: € 1,716,660, for Ghana (20%), Côte d'Ivoire (13%), Sierra Leone (16%), India (14%), Indonesia (10%), China (5%), Honduras (10%) and Europe (12%)



4.1 INTRODUCTION

Our strategic objective in the palm oil sector is to contribute to smallholder inclusive sustainable production and trade, in which workers in plantations and mills work under decent working conditions, forests and land rights are equally protected, and smallholders are rewarded for the investments made to produce under sustainable conditions. Over the last year, the prices of vegetable oils remained high, however limited value is transferred to oil palm producers. In 2022, we published the first global [Palm Oil Barometer](#), to call attention to this and feed the dialogue about sustainable palm oil between Europe and Asia. In both regions, we also worked to balance the negative image of palm oil among consumers. The European market remains the largest buyer of Roundtable on Sustainable Palm oil (RSPO) certified material, therefore in 2022, we remained in a position of proactive participation and advocacy with RSPO. However, it should be noted that to drive improvements in the palm oil value chain, the Asian market is gaining importance. Therefore, we launched the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA) with the participation of major palm oil consuming countries.¹⁷

Additionally, labour and gender practices in the palm oil sector are receiving increasing scrutiny and attention, with many companies making improvements,¹⁸ however gender and social inclusion issues are often not systematically addressed. In 2022, in Ghana, we supported oil palm stakeholders to develop a gender strategy to ensure mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion in the leadership and governance at local and national levels. In Côte d'Ivoire, child labour was discussed with oil palm producing communities. In Sierra Leone, CSO partners have embarked on awareness campaigns on land rights, labour conditions and gender rights issues at national, district and chiefdom levels. In Asia, we held a dialogue with SEA about the need for revision of the India Palm Oil Standard (IPOS), to ensure more focus on smallholders and worker welfare, human rights and accomplishment of key SDGs. In 2023, we will focus on stronger smallholder inclusion and the guaranteeing of workers' rights within these frameworks and further endorsement among public and private actors in the region.

4.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS MILESTONES 2022

4.2.1 Asia

At a regional level our objective is to strengthen the palm oil sector governance, coordination, cooperation and alignment of the Asian sustainability standards for palm oil production and trade between the Asian countries. With this aim, in 2022 we launched the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA), a regional multi-stakeholder platform that counts with the active involvement and support from the Solvent Extractor's Association (SEA) of India and the major palm oil consuming countries. SEA took the lead role in managing the alliance and facilitating coordination with the key member countries and hope that other palm oil producing countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand will join in the coming years.

Additionally, together with the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC), we initiated discussions on smallholders' inclusivity in the certification process, and on **consumer campaigns** to foster the consumption of sustainable palm oil, counterbalancing the negative campaigns across the region. The discussions culminated with policy recommendations

¹⁷ India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal

¹⁸ [Sime Darby Plantation Institutes sweeping changes in governance and operations](#), February 2022



Launch of the Asian Palm Oil Alliance to promote sustainable palm oil

Palm oil, Asia (Solidaridad Asia)



Solidaridad Asia brought together the palm oil industry associations from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal to form the Asian Palm Oil Alliance in 2022, a regional multi-stakeholder platform that unites palm oil industry associations from these major palm oil-importing countries. The Alliance is committed to promoting sustainable production and consumption of palm oil.

"The launch of the Asian Palm Oil Alliance will help in developing a shared, collective, coordinated and coherent position of the Asian palm oil industry stakeholders." B.V. Mehta, Solvent Extractors' Association of India

"The Asian Palm Oil Alliance will safeguard the economic and business interests of palm-oil consuming countries, create a level playing field for all fats and oils used in food, feed and oleochemicals in Asia, and work towards increasing the consumption of sustainable palm oil in member countries." Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Chairman Asian Palm Oil Alliance

on smallholders' inclusion in the sustainability ecosystem, as well as on better sectoral governance towards ensuring a sustainable and inclusive sector transformation. This will help to address the structural barriers for smallholders and ensure consistent enforcement of policies to enable change at scale.

In 2022, we also supported the establishment of a joint Indonesia – India working group, with the objectives to **facilitate the cross-border alignment and synergies between MSPs, IPOS and ISPO**, on trade linkages and enabling policies for sustainable palm oil production and trade. Through this platform, we facilitated several dialogues with the key stakeholders in Indonesia and India, which aim to enhance sustainable palm oil production and trade, which also highlighted the need for the future development of (China Palm Oil Standards) CPOS.

4.2.2 India

In India, we aim to strengthen the sector governance, CSOs and smallholders' associations through a National Platform for coordination, cooperation and alignment with the India Palm Oil Sustainability (IPOS) standard for production and trade. Considering the Government of India's ambition to increase the area of palm oil production to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils for the country, in 2022 we held **multi-stakeholder dialogues** with key representatives



of government, businesses, industry associations, CSOs and smallholders' associations to discuss the benefits of a sustainable palm oil supply chain, as well as the role and importance of IPOS. As a result of our engagement, the leading Indian Industry Godrej Agrovet Ltd. adopted the IPOS standard within its supply chain, and has prepared a group of more than 2,000 smallholder farmers to adopt IPOS production practices. We also continued supporting the SEA – IPOS Council in facilitating dialogues, which has kickstarted the process of revision of the IPOS standard with the objective of ensuring more focus on smallholders and worker welfare, human rights and accomplishment of key SDGs.

In 2022, we also supported (Society for Promotion of Oil Palm Research and Development) SOPOPRAD to take the lead in **capacity building of CSOs and smallholder associations** on the importance of sustainable production of palm oil, while taking care of smallholders' livelihood and welfare of workers. We held consultations with the key supply chain players to develop a framework for a traceability model for sustainable palm oil, and we agreed to design the traceability tool using Soli Trace, an existing tool that is currently used in Tea (See section 3.2.1 India). We continued developing a traceability model for the palm oil supply chain with the aim to trace the palm oil product back to its origin, checking how it was sourced and produced, looking at the environmental and social conditions, following IPOS and ISPO principles. In addition to traceability, to counterbalance the negative image of palm oil among consumers, we started to organise a study on its health benefits, and we engaged a professional agency to initiate consumer campaigns to promote the consumption of sustainable palm oil. In 2023, we will continue organising **consumer campaigns** to promote the consumption of sustainable palm oil.

4.2.3 Indonesia

In Indonesia, we aim to strengthen the governance of the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) standard, which serves smallholders, businesses and consumers. We also aim to enhance the capacity of CSOs to influence policy, and achieve greater inclusivity of smallholders in the palm oil sector. In 2022, we engaged key stakeholders in the palm oil sector in **multi-stakeholder dialogues to strengthen governance** of the ISPO standard, and promote the inclusion of smallholders in the sector. These dialogues facilitated the drafting of policy recommendations to enhance support for smallholders to increase their productivity through good agricultural practices, improve their access to finance, agricultural inputs and markets, improve land governance increasing certainties on land tenure/legality, improve support to farmers through mentoring and service provision, and improve transparency in the value chain.

The ISPO standard still covers a very small percentage of Indonesian palm oil smallholders, due to the lack of training, guidance and capacity building to comply with the certification process. This led us to support the Ministry of Agriculture to launch the **"ISPO Regenerative Agriculture Resource Center"**, which will help in preparing smallholders to adhere to the ISPO standard, promoting regenerative agriculture. Through this centre, we also convened a multi-stakeholder dialogue with palm oil smallholders, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Federation of Estate Crop Businesses (GPPI) on the "Readiness of smallholders to Implement Mandatory Sustainable Oil Palm Holdings ISPO". This segued into trainings and awareness raising activities to **build the capacities of smallholder associations and CSOs** around sustainable practices, related policies and their rights as well as engaging them in dialogues with the government and the private sector to help **strengthen the enabling environment** for their interests to be represented. In 2023, we will support the development of an action



plan to accelerate the adoption of mandatory ISPO certification by smallholders, so that traceable and high-quality palm oil from Indonesia meets importing countries' standards.

Finally, we also organised media talks to **create awareness** about the ISPO and sustainable palm oil among the stakeholders and **consumers**. In 2023, we will launch a consumer campaign to promote the consumption of sustainable palm oil.

4.2.4 China

In China, we aimed to create the conditions to contribute to smallholder inclusive sustainable palm oil production and trade, in which workers in plantations and mills work under decent working conditions, forests and land rights are equally protected, and smallholders are rewarded for the investments made to produce under sustainable conditions. As previously discussed, 2022 was characterised by a resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic in this country, which led to massive outbreaks and extensive quarantines and lockdowns, disrupting the convening of dialogues and leading to delays and reallocation of funding. Despite this context, we mobilised the China National Vegetable Oil Association (CNVOA), the South China Agricultural University (SCAU) and other relevant stakeholders to join in a dialogue process and support the **set-up of a national China multi-stakeholder platform** to develop the National Standard for Sustainable Palm Oil Production (CPOS) standard. We engaged SCAU to carry out research to understand the current situation of palm oil trade and trade policy for sustainable palm oil. The outcome of the study will provide content for dialogues, consensus building and consultations with the stakeholders for the development of CPOS. In 2023, we will continue through our Asia regional initiatives to facilitate dialogues with Chinese stakeholders to develop the framework of CPOS and to promote the demand of sustainable palm oil.

4.2.5 Ghana

In Ghana, we aim to contribute to smallholder inclusive sustainable palm oil production and trade, in which workers in plantations and mills, work under decent working conditions, forests and land rights are equally protected, and smallholders are rewarded for the investments made to produce under sustainable conditions. In 2022, we **convened and facilitated dialogues** on the FFB pricing mechanism (TCDA Act 1010) with palm oil stakeholders, including representatives from farmer groups, processors groups, mills, aggregators, service providers and artisanal processors. Through our technical guidance and support, a well documented report was published and submitted to the Tree Crop Development Authority (TCDA) with recommendations on the pricing mechanism. The recommendations were adopted by the TCDA, and the reviewed pricing mechanism will be used in the subsequent years to regulate prices, and to ensure transparency in the value chain, as well as a fair value distribution to all smallholders. We also supported a national multi-stakeholder dialogue between state actors, traditional authorities, private sector actors, farmers and CSOs to discuss and address systemic challenges in the land tenure system confronting smallholder farmers. Recommendations from the sensitisation sessions were adopted and the national dialogue formed part of the discussions at the National Land Conference, and were incorporated in the final conference communique and framework for implementation (see 1.2.1 Ghana, COCOA).

Although women play a critical role in the Ghanaian palm oil sector, their representation and participation in decision making at local and national level remains low. In 2022, we supported the Oil Palm Development Association of Ghana (OPDAG) to develop a **gender strategy** to ensure **mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion** in the leadership and governance



of the value chain at local and national levels. As part of this strategy, OPDAG will incorporate more women (40%) to its leadership, leading to more attention to gender issues in the value chain. In 2023, we will conduct a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) capacity assessment for TCDA and follow-up with a capacity building training, based on the needs identified. We also continued developing the Harvest Alert application, an **innovative digital solution** to address logistic challenges and improve price transparency between buyers and

Minimum producer price: A step towards fair value for oil palm smallholders in Ghana

Oil palm, Ghana (Solidaridad West Africa)



Smallholder oil palm farmers in Ghana can now heave a sigh of relief, with the government's announcement of a monthly minimum producer price for Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB). This signifies an end to the indiscriminate pricing system that existed within the supply chain.

Aggregators and mills are now mandated by law to pay at least the monthly minimum price set by the Government of Ghana for each month. The price set for January, February and March was 1,252.92 cedis (105.76 euros), 1,157.90 cedis (97.74 euros) and 1,433.70 cedis (1.21.06 euros) per tonne of FFB, respectively.

This new direction follows a series of discussions between the Oil Palm Development Association of Ghana (OPDAG), the industry association, including all stakeholders across the value chain, and the Tree Crop Development Authority (TCDA), the regulatory body for tree crops, with support from Solidaridad.

The minimum producer price is a byproduct of a pricing mechanism developed with the support of Solidaridad under the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme and adopted by the Government of Ghana. The pricing mechanism encompasses all the challenges, stakeholder concerns, and internal and external variables that were quantified to develop a pricing formula.

"In the past, my minimum income was tied to the benevolence of the aggregators or mills and was often erratic. This made it difficult for me to plan. Under this current arrangement, I can predict my minimum income and effectively plan with it. I am grateful to Solidaridad for the continued support they provide us farmers and the entire supply chain," Mr Martin Ola, a farmer in the Western region of Ghana, explains how the new pricing system is improving his income projections and financial planning.

The mechanism is in its third month of implementation and after three successful announcements of Fresh Fruit Bunches prices, stakeholders have fully embraced the monthly floor prices.



producers. The application allows producers to harvest only when buyers are ready to offtake the harvested fruits the same day, avoiding product losses and ensuring a fair value for the harvested fruits. This will increase smallholders' bargaining power for the right buying price according to the weight at harvest, which is registered in the app at the moment the buyer makes the request.

4.2.6 Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire, we aim to contribute, in an innovative way, to a sustainable inclusion in the palm oil value chain by taking into account the interests, voices and rights of producers, workers and citizens who need to be represented and listened to in the decision-making relating to the sustainable management of resources, decent working conditions, equitable distribution of value and sustainable consumption. In 2021, we learned that the provisions of the law prohibiting child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour are not known for most of the palm oil stakeholders, because they are usually associated with other sectors such as cocoa and coffee, where exports to Europe play a more prominent role. This has led to high incidence of child labour in palm oil plantations. In 2022, we have **capacitated and sensitised 473 palm oil producers on these child protection provisions**. In 2023, we will continue to raise awareness among oil palm producing communities on child protection, and we will engage with community leaders, including women, to carry out informative sessions, sensitisation and training on the key legal instruments of child protection. The sustainable development strategy was drafted for the Interprofessional Association of Oil Palm Industry (AIPH) and presented by Côte d'Ivoire during the COP27. With its emphasis on gender inclusion, this sustainability plan is gradually moving the sector towards more involvement of women in the management of palm oil institutions and in 2023, we will continue strengthening the organisation of these women to lobby AIPH to address challenges they face in the sector.

In collaboration with the Natural Resources Management Platform and OI-REN, a civil society organisation, we organised a **discussion to reflect on the process of improving rural and forest land governance in the country**. This led to local CSOs to call for revision of articles 25 and 27 of the 2019 Forest Code, to dissociate trees and forest ownership from land rights governed by other special laws (see [1.2.2 Côte d'Ivoire](#)). These recommendations will be submitted to the forestry authorities in 2023, after a thorough review and consultation with palm oil stakeholders. At the local level, we sensitised producers on the law related to tree ownership through two local radio stations and informed them of their rights regarding their planted trees, encouraging them to continue their efforts on reforestation. We also organised a **policy dialogue on EU Deforestation Regulation with the palm oil sector actors**, to sensitise and align the stakeholders on this upcoming regulation. Most of the palm oil stakeholders were either not aware about this regulation, or assumed that the regulation was only applicable to cocoa. For all the initiatives described above, we conducted **capacity building training of CSOs**, including small-scale producer organisations, cooperatives, federations and NGOs, in order to improve their advocacy skills and increase their awareness of the existing legal frameworks. In turn, they committed to train and inform their peers and other members of their respective groups on these topics.

4.2.7 Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, we aim to contribute to a better implementation of sustainability standards, and work towards recommendations to address smallholder exclusion, unfair value distribution and child labour and better alignment of frameworks at country level. Building on our work



with the Sierra Leone National Oil Palm Platform (SLNOPP) on the National Oil Palm Value Chain Policy last year, in 2022, through a **multi-stakeholder platform**, we contributed to the process towards the Oil Palm Policy formulation. In 2023, we will continue efforts to formulate recommendations for a policy document, and work directly with the Ministry of Agriculture and its technical teams to support the implementation of the new Oil Palm Policy.

The Customary Land Right Act and the Land Commission Act were passed in 2022, following a stakeholder dialogue among chiefdoms, civil society, and public and private actors, to provide equal access to resources and guarantee the rights of citizens to land. To make sure that this dialogue involves the usually marginalised voices, we sensitised 20 farmer groups and eight **gender champions** on the new Land Acts, and on the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act to take up advocacy roles in their communities and constitute community advocacy platforms. We supported the gender champions to participate in decision-making processes, and to advocate for the control and access over productive assets such as land. This support also strengthened the agency of women's bargaining power to engage policy makers to make favourable and responsive policies for them in the palm oil sector. In 2023, we will implement a gender inclusion awareness campaign, led by the women champions and CSOs to promote gender equality, to make provision for a minimum of 30% quota of women for each land committee as stated in the Customary Land Act. We conducted joint radio shows with the Cocoa programme to create awareness on the new policies (see [1.2.3 Sierra Leone](#)).

4.2.8 Honduras

In Honduras, we aim to build an inclusive model to achieve decent work conditions based on evidence, increase the knowledge and implementation capacity of producers, workers, the private and public sectors, to achieve decent working conditions for workers in the palm oil sector and to strengthen the capacity of Civil Society Organisations to promote decent work in the sector. In 2022, we continued our work to **lobby the private sector for the adoption and implementation of the Decent Work model**. We facilitated training of 2,000 field and mill workers from three companies, as well as technical staff and human resources officers, to equip them with knowledge on good practices required for the implementation of decent work principles on labour rights, health and safety in the workplace, and ethics & transparency. We also launched the Decent Work assessment tool and it started to be tested with our partner companies, to measure their performance and compliance with the first three decent work dimensions introduced. Despite the progress made during 2022, the unstable situation in the target area in which the RS! programme is working, presents challenges to continue with the implementation of our strategy around the Decent Work model. (see, [Contextual Risks](#))

4.2.9 Europe

In Europe, we aim to contribute to the development of more sustainable and inclusive global palm oil value chains by influencing both public and corporate policies in the areas of value distribution, decent work and natural resources management. The launch of the first [Palm Oil Barometer](#) in 2022, was a key moment for our work towards these objectives. With the focus on the role and importance of palm oil for the livelihood of smallholders, we challenged the negative public discourse in Dutch and German media. However the negative image of palm oil seems to stabilise in Europe, and it leads to replacement of palm oil by other crops which are not necessarily more sustainable. The Barometer gave voice to the smallholders for whom palm oil production has proven to be essential in escaping poverty. Ten smallholder farmer organisations from Malaysia, Indonesia, Ghana, Honduras and Mexico contributed to its



development, and farmer representatives spoke at the online Barometer launch. Mainstream media reported that sustainability in this major agricultural value chain should not be looked at one-sidedly, but from a broad sustainable development perspective. Following the publication of the Barometer, we also co-initiated a **Government-to-Government dialogue between palm oil producing and consuming countries** (Malaysia, Indonesia, Guatemala, Colombia, UK, Netherlands, Swiss, France) to review the possibilities, opportunities and conditions that enable a smallholder inclusive and deforestation-free palm oil value chain to Europe¹⁹. In 2023, we will keep supporting this Government-to-Government dialogue to de-escalate issues around palm oil and ensure appropriate support measures.

Through our work within the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (**RSPO**), we successfully advocated for the **reinstallation of the Smallholder Support Fund**, which will be active in 2023 to fund certification and livelihood activities of thousands of smallholders. With this support, RSPO aims to help smallholders increase their yields and remove obstacles to reach international markets. Additionally, as members of the RSPO Standing Committee Market Development, we provided feedback on the draft RSPO Rules on Market Communications and Claims 2022 document and advocated for a one-liner claim on pack, which would allow companies to more easily communicate the message of sustainable palm oil on product packaging. Although the administrative requirements are still too costly for retailers to effectively use them, this may be a first step towards developing consumer consciousness. Finally, as members of the RSPO Complaints Panel, we have contributed to the settlement of cases and the recommendations provided to companies, which resulted in the improvement of labour conditions for thousands of plantation workers.

¹⁹ The collaborating parties started three activities that aim to improve the implementation of future EU regulations:
1. a case study on how the EU regulatory framework on deforestation may lead to palm oil smallholder exclusion;
2. a common public statement on the importance of smallholder inclusivity in the EU Deforestation Regulation;
and 3. a comparative assessment conducted by MPOC on to what extent the national standards ISPO, MSPO and voluntary standard RSPO provide compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation.



4.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2022

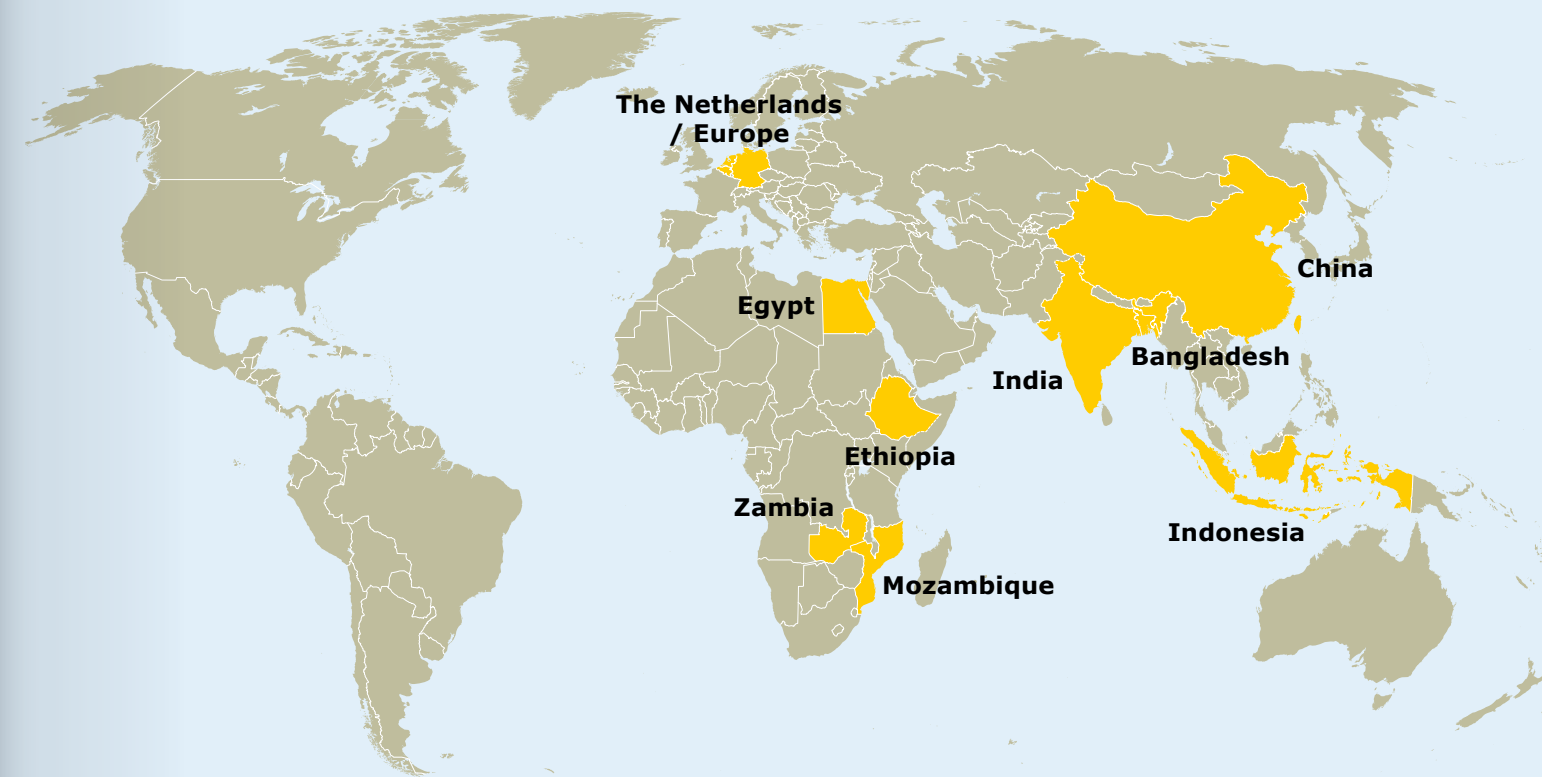
FIGURE 6. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS PALM OIL PROGRAMME 2022

	Key performance Indicator	RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	3	7	10	14	7
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	15	17	21	21	22
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	20	22	20	21	22
ACCELERATE DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS Improved transparency and negotiation position for farmers and workers in the supply chain, by co-developing and implementing innovative digital and fair business models						
OUTCOME	# of farmers, miners and workers with improved bargaining position through equitable access to (digital) market intelligence or as a result of new and innovative business models	0	50	0	100	200
OUTPUT	# of farmers, miners and workers using the developed tools and business models being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	0	2,556	4,000	5,774	2,500
	# of tools and business models developed and being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	1	6	3	4	6
	# and kind private sector partners engaged to co-design, test and promote new tools and business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	10	12	9	16	12
	# of other non private sector partners (knowledge, public, CSOs, others) engaged in co-design, test and promote new tools or business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	18	17	19	34	17
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	0	350	340	280	2,500
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	2	10	1	8	10
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CSOs are strengthened to speak up and engage in policy dialogue						
OUTCOME	# Civil Society actors and target groups with increased L&A capacities	8	19	41	17	47
OUTPUT	# and type of Civil Society actors and target groups supported	27	29	73	43	47





5. Cotton & Textiles



Key milestones achieved in 2022:

- Target groups (farmers, workers, women and youth groups, CSOs) equipped with advocacy and lobby skills to engage with key decision makers -public, private etc.
- Multi-stakeholder platforms running efficiently and taking the lead in setting up the sustainability agenda.
- Policy papers and briefs prepared and tabled to relevant platforms and institutions in Africa.
- Publication of White paper in Asia on Garment Sector Automation and impact of Women Workers.
- Lobby campaign on Green economy with Policy Hub intensified in Europe.
- European citizens mobilised to push for change with policy makers.

Total Actuals 2022: € 2,168,929, for Bangladesh (11%), Indonesia (15%), India (11%), China (10%), Mozambique (14%), Zambia (13%), Ethiopia (9%), Egypt (6%) and Europe (11%)



5.1 INTRODUCTION

Through the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, we aim to contribute to a responsible, inclusive, and climate smart global cotton and textiles value chain, in which smallholder cotton farmers and garment workers in Asia and Africa benefit from decent work, earn a living income and wages and ecosystems are protected. As consumers become more aware of the impact of textile production on the environment, they seek out products produced using sustainable materials and labour practices. Global trade tensions, particularly between the United States and China, as well as the imposition of tariffs on textiles and clothing imports have led to higher costs and disrupted supply chains in the past years. The cotton and textiles industry is also undergoing a digital transformation globally, with the adoption of new technologies to optimise supply chain management, improve production efficiency, and enhance the overall customer experience. There is also a growing trend towards regional trade in Africa, with initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) expected to boost intra-African trade in textiles and clothing, providing an opportunity to address pertinent issues under the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme through interregional collaboration.

In 2021, we conducted baseline and gender and social inclusion studies, as well as capacity assessments for civil society organisations (CSOs) to determine their capacity needs. The evidence generated by these studies set the stage for the implementation of activities in 2022, where we established, strengthened and convened multi-stakeholder dialogues, and developed and submitted recommendations to decision makers in the form of policy briefs. We also ventured into the development of disruptive innovations such as "AHANA.com" and "KUBU (Nakerlink)" in Asia. Of particular pride in 2022, is that a successful inclusive multi-stakeholder platform was established for the first time among cotton farming stakeholders in Zambia, which had previously been non-existent in the sector. These activities will continue to be invested in during 2023.

5.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS MILESTONES 2022

5.2.1 Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, we have aimed to improve gender inclusivity in workers' associations and trade unions and empower them to advocate and negotiate for fair pricing in the cotton and textiles value chain, as well as better working conditions. The textile and apparel sector is becoming more important for the national economy and the global market. However, with rising energy prices in 2022, sustainability initiatives suffered due to unequal compensation from brands. The 2021 baseline study provided a vivid picture of the needs and gaps to formulate strategies and interventions for achieving eco-friendly production, increased productivity, and more employment opportunities for members of trade unions and workers in the textile industries.

Therefore, in 2022, we sought to operationalise some of the findings from this analysis. We conducted an inaugural **sectoral multi-stakeholder platform**²⁰ to identify barriers and drivers of textile sustainability. Additionally, we conducted a policy landscape study to review Bangladesh's Ready-made Garment (RMG) sector towards improving resource efficiency

20 Comprised of: Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), H&M, Bangladesh Export Import Company Limited (BEXIMCO), Bangladesh Garments Accessories & Packaging Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGAPMEA), Ready-made Garment (RMG) Sustainability Council, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), DBL Group, Matin Spinning Mills Ltd., Fakir Knitwearto.

(energy and water), waste management (textile waste), and workers' participation, as critical aspects of an inclusive circular economy transition. These studies have laid the foundation for planned policy advocacy initiatives, including the **publication of white papers**, that will be shared in different multi-stakeholder platforms and with decision makers to improve the implementation of policies that create an enabling environment for a circular economy in the textiles sector.

5.2.2 Indonesia

In Indonesia, we are aiming to empower trade unions to advocate for fair pricing of the cotton and textiles products, better working conditions (including wages) and environmentally safe practices in the textiles sector. In 2022, the global recession resulted in the reduction of working hours and layoffs of workers, which challenged multi-stakeholder discussions between trade unions and civil society on sustainability. These dialogues are often dominated by government and civil society perceptions, with very limited private engagement, highlighting a clear need to develop tools to better engage the private sector. Therefore, in 2022, we **convened a multi stakeholder platform (MSP)**²¹ to discuss Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and how it can be channelled to support sustainable cotton and textile industries. The forum acknowledged that the national-local regulations exist to control CSR funding towards local communities but lack monitoring and coordination with the government programs. The MSP produced a **policy recommendation** "CSR for Community Empowerment" and submitted it to the government of Central Java Province.

To support the policy advocacy initiatives, we **equipped workers and labour unions with advocacy and lobby skills** to engage with key decision makers to help workers and labour unions broaden their knowledge regarding issues of sustainability, market trends, and labour dialogue. Specifically, we trained the textiles trade union, Konfederasi Serikat Pekerja Nasional (KSPN), on digital campaigns and on the role of media in advocacy. We also worked with a local partner, TORAJAMELO (artisanal indigenous products), to create a digital platform called "AHANA.com". This platform will link textile products directly to buyers, while raising awareness on working conditions of textile artisans to enhance transparency and promote better working and living conditions for women in remote areas. We also developed "KUBU" (formerly Nakerlink), a platform designated for labourers and trade unions to improve workers' knowledge, skills and strengthen their networking to **improve their bargaining position**. These activities will be built upon in 2023, when we conduct campaigns on the need for close monitoring of the textile industry on CSR initiatives, and we continue to support trade unions to raise awareness on gender and social inclusion and labour issues in the textiles sector.

5.2.3 India

In India, we aim to strengthen local and national smallholder groups/unions/associations to be gender inclusive and advocate for the adoption of sustainability standards, fair prices and better working conditions, including wages in the cotton and textiles sector. In 2022, we influenced private sector policies through participation in the Organic Cotton Accelerator, an independent **multi-stakeholder platform**, which led to the adoption of a Standardised Training Curriculum and a sourcing criteria for brands, applicable across the sector. One of the highlights of our advocacy work was working towards **setting up a national platform**

21 Composed of: Persatuan Badan Usaha Milik Desa Indonesia (PBI), Gerbang Massa (Village Owned Enterprises Alliance), Sebelas Maret University, and Central Java Province Government.



Launch of the Alliance of Cotton and Textile Stakeholders on Regenerative Agriculture in India

Cotton & Textiles, India (Solidaridad Asia)



In 2022 Solidaridad Asia launched the Alliance of Cotton and Textile Stakeholders on Regenerative Agriculture (ACRE) in India, the world's first regenerative cotton platform. Developed by Solidaridad, Centre for Responsible Business and regenagri, the Alliance aims to promote regenerative agricultural practices, with the vision of making

India the world's largest producer of certified regenerative cotton. Through this Alliance, Solidaridad and partners strive to tackle one of the most pressing challenges of our time: the climate crisis. Climate change is the most urgent challenge facing cotton farmers in India.

"This partnership will create opportunities for cotton and textile buyers and brands to collaborate with producers/farmers to regenerate natural systems and mitigate climate change. A powerful element of this initiative is how it demonstrates that farmers can be active partners in meeting the climate targets of our country." Rijit Sengupta, CEO, Centre for Responsible Business

The Alliance aims to promote regenerative agricultural practices by, among others, supporting the scaling up of regenerative agriculture in cotton, aiming to make India the world's largest producer of certified regenerative cotton; enabling collaboration among cotton and textile value chain actors on regenerative agriculture across various cotton landscapes in India; and advancing tools/mechanism(s) that balance smallholder benefits with conservation of nature, and augment soil health in different agro-climatic regions and landscapes growing cotton in India.

for regenerative agriculture, which led to the adoption of the Nagpur Declaration. This Declaration advocates for private sector regenerative sourcing and supports reducing GHG emissions. Another significant contribution was made through the Alliance of Cotton and Textile Stakeholders on Regenerative Agriculture (ACRE) platform, where we advocated for the implementation of the National Natural Farming Policy and better prices for sustainable cotton. A resulting a note of engagement was submitted to the government of Maharashtra, to set-up a Sustainable and Regenerative Cotton Mission for Maharashtra. In 2023, a multi-stakeholder platform will be established to strengthen policy level dialogues and sustain joint action on pollution prevention and adoption of sustainable practices.

As part of **equipping CSOs with advocacy and lobby skills**, we conducted capacity building activities for various Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to improve their capacity to actively engage in dialogues with other supply chain actors and decision makers. This resulted



in the identification of a need to develop a digital farmer advisory and aggregation tool to enhance the sustainable sourcing of cotton produce. Additionally, we conducted **awareness raising campaigns** on better pricing for cotton/textiles products and sustainable sourcing through print and digital media channels and direct advocacy events, reaching more than 100,000 farmers and 1,100,000 consumers. Through additional campaigns in 2023, we will promote the uptake of cotton produced under regenerative and sustainable practices.

5.2.4 China

In China, there is a growing interest for sustainability among certain institutions.²² However, it remains challenging to work with civic space initiatives. Unlike other target countries, Covid-19 continued to seriously affect programming in China through strict policies and closure measures, and due to a steep rise of infections. Despite environmental limitations, in 2022, we convened a project kick-off meeting and the China Sustainable Cotton Development Forum. This **multi-stakeholder event** included representatives and experts from government agencies, embassies in China, social organisations, cotton planting and producing enterprises, garment brands, and research institutions. Additionally, we developed the first draft of the China Sustainable Cotton Framework with China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) and **established a multi-stakeholder platform** to advocate for its uptake. We also collaborated with the The China Textile Information Center (CTIC) to develop tools that will foster the uptake of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards by the textiles industry through awareness raising on these standards. We surveyed around 400 smallholder cotton farmers to get their perception on the level of fairness in the supply chain. The results of the report will support the **development of policy papers** to engage the government, private sector and other players in the value chain to improve the value distribution in the cotton sector in 2023 and beyond.

5.2.5 Mozambique

In Mozambique, we aim to advocate for the adoption, improvement and implementation of regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to guarantee decent work for all in the supply chain, and address social issues including child labour, forced labour, and sexual harassment of women. In 2022, the political instability in Cabo Delgado continued to affect the cotton production in that region (as companies closed) and ultimately, led to the decision to exclude the province from our project. Despite these limitations, there was an increase of **policy engagement with the government** and we contributed to the review of the Cotton Policy. Building on our 2021 positioning, we focused on mobilising cotton supply chain actors to come together in a structured and inclusive way to harmonise their efforts in improving the performance of the cotton sector. We convened a **multi-stakeholder dialogue** to share the results of our baseline and the Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) report, through which we identified and confirmed the priority policy actions for the sector. Following this, the project facilitated a National Cotton Multi-Stakeholder dialogue to **strengthen the existing multi-stakeholder platform**, which is a vehicle for the farmers and other industry stakeholder to influence policy and ensure meaningful representation of smallholders in national-level dialogues and decision-making.

As part of **equipping CSOs with lobby and advocacy skills**, we undertook capacity assessment in policy lobbying and advocacy for seven CSOs using an online tool. We utilised

²² China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC), China Textiles Information Centre (CTIC), the Agriculture and Rural Affairs in Gansu.



the results of this assessment to develop a tailored capacity strengthening programme which will be rolled out in 2023. Also, we undertook a scoping exercise to establish the demographics of the cotton workers, the level of their organisation, and engagement with the tea industry in order to explore the development of a cotton workers union that will have strong ties with the National Workers Union to advocate for **improve decent working conditions and living wages in the sector**. We conducted an exchange visit where the Zambian Cotton Stakeholder delegation visited the Cotton and Oilseeds Institute of Mozambique and learnt about the regulatory framework that supports the concession model of cotton production in Mozambique. This engagement resulted in the creation of a cross-border community of practice (CoP) that contributes to a production and marketing system that is smallholder centric, worker friendly and promotes fair value distribution.

5.2.6 Zambia

The programme in Zambia also aims to advocate for the adoption, improvement and implementation of regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to guarantee decent work for all in the supply chain. In 2022, some parts of Zambia were faced with severe drought after the start of the rainy season, which resulted in lower production of cotton. Despite this setback, there was an opportunity to **engage with the government and contribute to review of the revised Cotton Act**, by working with the Cotton Board of Zambia to identify gaps in the current Cotton Act (2005) and harmonise extension services to increase the quality of cotton produced. Building on the baseline conducted in 2021, in 2022 we focused on strengthening the capacity of civil society actors, cultivating and nurturing cotton stakeholders and leaping into disruptive innovations. **We convened stakeholders in the cotton sector in Zambia to establish a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP)** and discuss how it can be operationalised with a clear mandate to have structured meetings and take lead in advocacy strategies, including achieving a common understanding on preventing child labour.

To **equip CSOs with lobby and advocacy skills**, we trained the farmers and staff of the Cotton Association of Zambia and the MSP committee members on a three-pronged process of advocacy, strategy planning and action planning. Additionally, in collaboration with the Kitovu (Africa Tech Hub), we mobilised stakeholders to an ideation workshop aiming at identifying the digital needs from these stakeholders and areas of support and co-designing in order to enhance sustainable data management and capturing. This kickstarted the drive towards identifying and promoting **disruptive innovations such as the Farmer2Market tool** in the cotton sector.

5.2.7 Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, we aim to advocate for the adoption and implementation of voluntary and mandatory local and global standards, and addressing social, economic and environmental issues in the cotton and textiles sector by the public and private sector. Over the past year, there was limited interest and limited participation from high level officials in discussing minimum wage issues in the textile sector, partly due to the political instability in the country. However, 2022 did provide opportunities to contribute to the development of national Integrated Sustainable Management System Guidelines, which is a collaborative activity with the Ethiopian standard Institute, Ministry of Industry and Ethiopian Textile Development Institute (ETIDI). The guidelines are aimed at creating a basic framework in the textile and garment industry on social and environmental standards. We also developed a **policy paper**

on minimum wage recommendations and submitted it to the Prime Minister's Office and the Parliament.

Additionally, we held three **multi-stakeholder dialogues** on labour service that were conducted with the employers, factory workers and the government. As a result, ten factories adopted and implemented decent work principles, including formal contracting and safeguarding of occupational health and safety. We supported the unionisation and mobilisation of almost 7,000 workers to participate in social dialogue. As a result, these worker groups now have collective bargaining agreements with textile processing factories. We also supported the new labour unions' leaders with **lobby and advocacy skills trainings** and we **supported ten civil society organisations** to develop five-year strategies to strengthen their internal capacity to better serve their member factories' trade unions. To **enhance inclusivity and raise the voice of women and youth** in the sector, we identified gender champions and trained them through the Start Awareness Support Action (SASA) methodology to spearhead gender and inclusivity initiatives at local level in three regions.²³

5.2.8 Egypt

In Egypt, we aim to advocate for the adoption of sustainable and climate smart textile (wet) processing, decent work policies and frameworks including women empowerment in cotton production by public and private decision makers. In 2022, we continued to experience challenges with the registration process of Solidaridad. The political context and national security issues also urged Solidaridad to reformulate the *Amplify* pathway to respond to the local security context. However, we continued our sensitisation efforts with local and international CSOs in the country to determine if the objectives of the programme had shared value for all sector stakeholders. During the COP27 held in Egypt, we participated in various **multi-stakeholder events**, including the Horticulture Export Improvement Association (HEIA) panel discussion in the Dutch Pavilion, where the focus was on "*Beyond carbon credits: A holistic approach for mobilising agribusiness investment to sustainably strengthen the Egyptian food system*". We were able to share learnings across various commodities from the current carbon work happening within the programme.

Additionally, **we held regular partnership and stakeholders meetings** to find common areas of cooperation in the implementation of our programme and other local partners. To allow for enhanced local delivery and implementation, we entered into negotiations with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), who would serve as an implementing partner and convenor in Egypt in 2023. We are also in discussions with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to collaborate on elements of promoting decent work. Finally, we engaged the Enroot Development, an Egyptian consulting company, to conduct project baseline assessments focused on value chain opportunities, mapping of stakeholder policies and undertaking an integrated gender and social inclusion analysis (including child labour issues).

5.2.9 Europe

In Europe, we aim to contribute to sustainable and inclusive international cotton and textiles value chain, by advocating for harmonisation of standards in these sectors and preventing unintended negative consequences for workers and farmers. The European strategy for

²³ Afar, Addis Ababa and Arbaminch.



sustainable and circular textiles was published in 2022, and the negotiations for the Next Generation Agreement (follow-up of AGT) took more time than expected, and are on hold with the Dutch government pulling out and business in doubt. There is also growing attention being paid to the topics of living wage and decent work in multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) related to Cotton & Textiles (i.e. the Better Cotton Initiative). Therefore in 2022, we focused on influencing both public and corporate policies in the areas of fair value distribution, decent work and natural resources management by working in coalition with other **Civil Society Organisations**, and by working **through multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs)** to influence corporate policies. Our engagement with target MSIs²⁴ focused on ensuring that the topics of decent work and living income were high on the agenda of both the cotton and textiles sectors, and were reflected in the corporate policies of their members.

In 2022 we also focused on **fostering the implementation of the Common Framework for Responsible Purchasing Practices**, which we co-developed. This framework provides training materials and tools for better purchasing practices. We actively guided three brands in their journey towards responsible purchasing practices. We also advocated for the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Textiles to cover social/labour rights topics (including freedom of association, decent work, living wages and income), as well as environmental topics (including pesticides and water use of cotton production, and chemical, water and energy use in wet processing of textiles) and commercial practices (such as Responsible Purchasing Practices and equal partnership). We also started to **engage citizens via the #goodclothesfairpay campaign** to call for European legislation on living wage in the garments industry. This petition-based consumer campaign was based on a combination of research findings on EU citizen activation by Utrecht University, a study by ArtEZ University (MA Critical Fashion) on how citizen activation can most effectively contribute to behavioural change of brands, and cooperation with the Wageningen University and other consultants, contributing useful information and learnings for further campaigns in 2023.

24 Better Cotton Initiative, Organic Cotton Accelerator, Social and Labor Convergence Program, Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Next Generation Agreement.

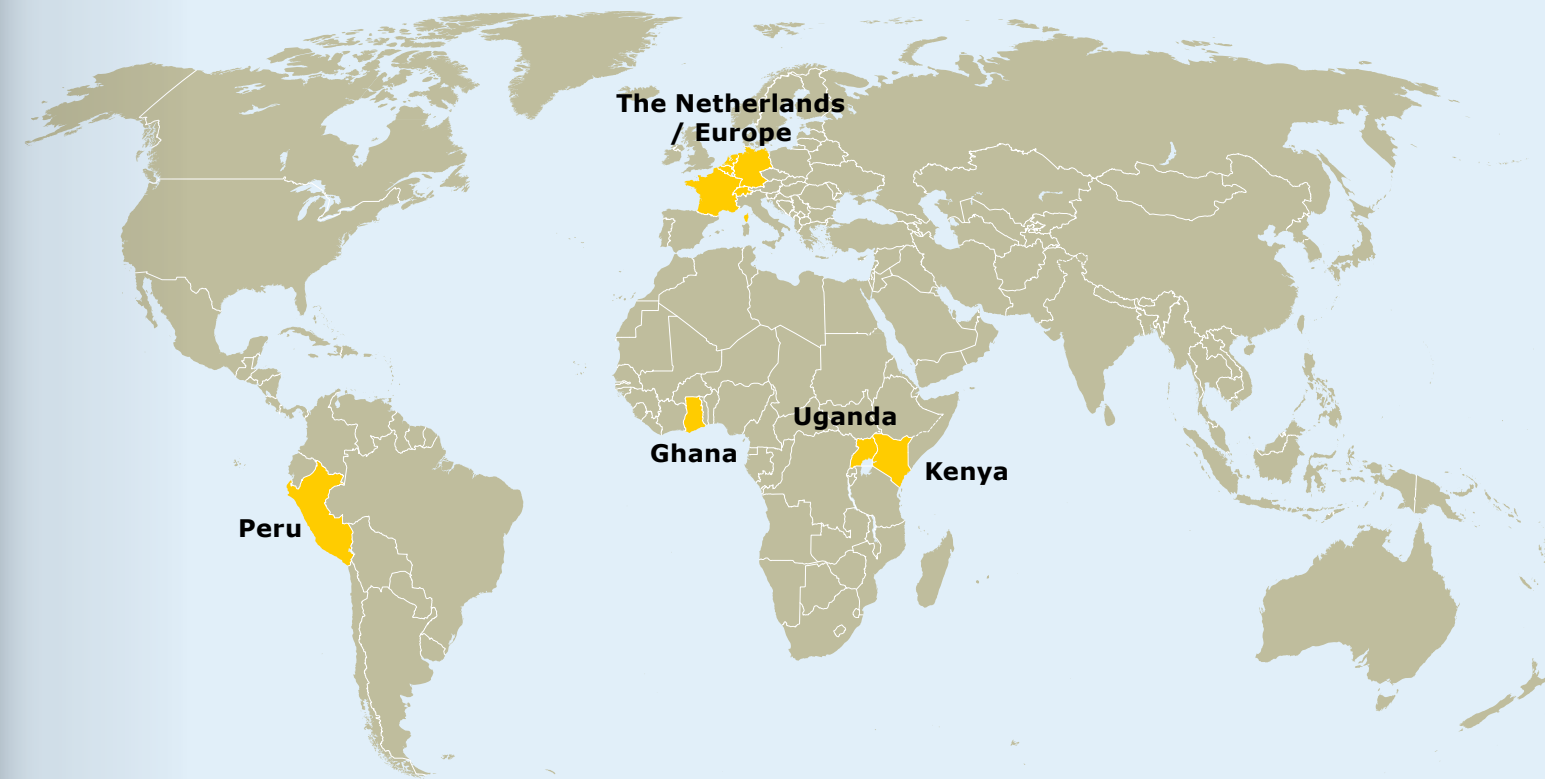
5.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2022

FIGURE 7. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS COTTON AND TEXTILES PROGRAMME 2022

	Key performance Indicator	RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	16	14	27	19	16
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	19	16	31	31	10
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	15	20	17	20	20
ACCELERATE DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS Improved transparency and negotiation position for farmers and workers in the supply chain, by co-developing and implementing innovative digital and fair business models						
OUTCOME	# of farmers, miners and workers with improved bargaining position through equitable access to (digital) market intelligence or as a result of new and innovative business models	0	8,120	21,500	118,000	3,100
OUTPUT	# of farmers, miners and workers using the developed tools and business models being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	100	15,620	142,500	77,602	3,100
	# of tools and business models developed and being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	3	10	6	5	10
	# and kind private sector partners engaged to co-design, test and promote new tools and business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	3	13	21	26	14
	# of other non private sector partners (knowledge, public, CSOs, others) engaged in co-design, test and promote new tools or business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	19	29	20	16	30
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	0	3,595	3,171	118,353	3,500
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	3	23	28	32	23
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CSOs are strengthened to speak up and engage in policy dialogue						
OUTCOME	# Civil Society actors and target groups with increased L&A capacities	1	18	39	26	18
OUTPUT	# and type of Civil Society actors and target groups supported	16	18	37	25	18



6. Gold



Key milestones achieved in 2022:

- Local and National Multi stakeholder platform (MSPs) established.
- Thematic studies (Value distribution study, gender analysis, NRM) complete.
- CSO (networks) strengthened.
- Policy, taxation and institutional gaps identified.
- Local and international private actors, authorities and CSOs engaged in design innovative models (e.g. ASM/LSM productive coexistence, CRAFT Code, access to finance).
Partly already reported in 2021
- European citizens reached and activated to push for change with policy makers.

Total Actuals 2022: € 1,367,793, for Ghana (16%), Kenya (24%), Uganda (17%), Peru (33%) and Europe (10%)



6.1 INTRODUCTION

In the gold programme, our objective is to contribute to a responsible global gold value chain, where artisanal small-scale gold miners, a substantial portion being women, work under legal and safe conditions, earning a living income with improved bargaining positions vis-a-vis buyers and investors, and where biodiversity is protected. The 2021 baseline determined that hazardous work, child labour, toxic chemical use, illegality and poor access to information are shared, persistent issues in the countries of our focus. In 2021, there was an increasing demand for due diligence commitments, driven mainly by gold consuming countries. Governments in both producing and consuming artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) countries continue to introduce strategies promoting responsible mining practices.

In 2022, the RECLAIM Sustainability! Consortium took an active role in advising regulators across all focus countries in the development of new and better inclusive frameworks for the ASGM sector. Building on our policy influencing strategy through dialogues, we continued to actively participate in multi-stakeholder platforms to promote national mining policies that support inclusive and responsible mining practices. We convened several multi-stakeholder dialogues at local, national and global level, to ensure that voices throughout the supply chain are heard as well as to promote trust between stakeholder groups. Additionally, as women make-up a large share of the ASGM workforce, there is a pressing need to ensure their quality of life. Therefore in 2022, we linked local ASGM women's groups to the Women in Mining (WIM) organisation, which serves as an official mouthpiece where various challenges confronting women within the sector could be appropriately channelled. In Europe, during the annual OECD Minerals Forum, we engaged the OECD Minerals Secretariat to foster the inclusion of voices from the South, as well as gender and social inclusivity considerations. In 2023, we will continue to focus on supporting artisanal and small-scale gold miners in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana to take part in international multi-stakeholder platforms to better advocate for decent work and fair value distribution. A key topic in 2023 will be promoting the implementation of key sustainability principles articulated in the country level versions of the AMV (African Mining Vision) and ensuring the national uptake of these standards.

6.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS MILESTONES 2022

6.2.1 Ghana

In Ghana we aim to foster genuine and inclusive sustainability in the ASGM value chain, where the interests, voices and rights of miners and other players within the supply chain are well represented in decision making and policy formulation for sustainable use of natural resources, decent work, fair value distribution, and sustainable consumption. Based on the foundations laid in 2021, over the past year we provided technical support to the Minerals Commission, the regulatory body for mining, to develop a draft National Child and Forced Labour Eradication Framework, which aims to reduce children's involvement in mining activities by 50% in the next five years. We also worked to **equip civil society organisations and women's groups with advocacy skills** to undertake initiatives in their various communities to help address key challenges in the ASGM sector. One of the supported CSOs organised a women's forum to educate participants on the rights of women within the mining sector and the formalisation of ASGM, which led to the linking of women miners to the Women in Mining (WIM) group. Another supported CSO, in collaboration with the Minerals Commission (Tarkwa), the Ghana Health Service and a radio station called Pure FM, organised a health talk to raise awareness



of the effects of mercury on mine workers and mining communities. This work also included capacitating the Responsible Mining Network (ReMNET) to engage in advocacy at all levels and linking them with five new community-based CSO members.

We also focused on **convening and participating in multi-stakeholder platforms** at the national and international levels to propose policy recommendations for a sustainable and inclusive ASGM sector. At the national level, we form part of a five-member CSO committee constituted by the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources to advise the government on strategies to be adopted to reduce illegal mining. In collaboration with the US Agency for Global Media, we also provided technical support to national media personnel to develop stories on a responsible and sustainable ASM sector. In 2023, we plan to build on this by launching a campaign 'Streamline ASM licensing' to persuade the Government to make the licensing of operations process easier for ASMs, and a multimedia campaign to raise awareness on fair value distribution-related issues in the ASM Gold Sector, based on the findings of a **2022 ASGM research study** conducted on this matter.

6.2.2 Kenya

In Kenya we aim to contribute to inclusive sustainable gold value chains and trade in an innovative way, in which the interests, voices and rights of farmers, workers and citizens are represented and heard in decision making for sustainable use of natural resources, decent work, fair value distribution, and sustainable consumption. Since 2021, the Ministry of Mining has been in the process of developing the ASM strategy that aims to provide a framework for addressing the challenges in the sub-sector (high levels of informality, difficult access to finance, poor health and safety standards, among others). In 2022, we have partnered with the Ministry to organise sensitisation meetings of the draft Artisanal Mining Strategy. We **convened public multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings** in four counties²⁵, to discuss the first draft of the 2017 Artisanal Mining Strategy and issues related to gender equality and digital solutions to enhance traceability and transparency and accelerate the implementation of the Mining Act 2016. In 2023, we will continue convening MSPs to identify policy gaps and provide recommendations for a better implementation of the Mining Act 2016.

We facilitated miner representatives' participation in the World Bank Conference on extractives and GEMS Africa and organised a **field exchange visit with miners from Uganda for cross learning**. During the visit, representatives of the Uganda Association of Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners shared insights about the journey of the association's formation, growth and lessons learnt with Kenyan miners. The representatives from Kenya also visited the Mubende United Miners Assembly mine site, and were able to learn more on record keeping and sustainable mine site management allowing cross-border CSO exchanges on innovative models and best practices.

We trained **five local CSOs to enhance their organisational capacities**, and we **conducted a thematic study on fair value distribution** in the ASGM sector in Kenya. Based on this study, a policy brief will be prepared in Q1 2023 to be disseminated to all relevant stakeholders to aid in decision-making. This has also informed our **development of a self-regulatory framework for miners**. Additionally, 25 women and youth-led mining groups and close to 80 gender champions were mapped to advocate for gender and social inclusion in the ASGM sector at all levels. This led to the roll-out of the Start Awareness Support and

²⁵ Kakamega, Migori, Narok and Turkana counties.



Action (SASA!) methodology and other education and communication materials on gender and social inclusion. In 2023, we will put more focus on formalisation of ASMs, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and the development of a book and claim model.

Fostering commitment for best practices in artisanal and small-scale gold mining

Gold, Kenya (Solidaridad East & Central Africa)



The RECLAIM Sustainability! Gold Project, in partnership with the [Center for Environmental Justice and Development](#), supported the development of a *Self-Regulatory Framework* for artisanal and small-scale gold miners. The Self-Regulatory Framework is a joint commitment from all in the sub-sector and a commitment to raising

and maintaining standards and best practices. This framework was developed through a consultative process with miners, miner organizations and representatives from artisanal mining committees in Kakamega, Migori and Narok counties. The development of the framework was led by representatives of the Migori Miners' Association, Kakamega Miners' Association, Farmers' of Gold Group – Lolgorian. During the forums, ASGM actors reviewed, validated and adopted the Self-Regulatory Framework.

*"Following the development and validation of the self regulatory framework, the newly formed regional committee - **Artisanal and Small Scale Miners Association of Kenya (ASMAK)** - fully adopted it as part of their mandate. Self-regulation is envisaged to formalise artisanal and small-scale mining activities. Specifically, the framework will improve mine site safety and thus reduce fatalities recorded in the sector,"* Dan Odida, Chair of the newly formed ASMAK - regional committee.

6.2.3 Uganda

The gold programme in Uganda aims to contribute to inclusive sustainable gold value chains and trade in an innovative way, in which the interests, voices and rights of farmers, workers and citizens are represented and heard in decision making for sustainable use of natural resources, decent work, fair value distribution, and sustainable consumption. In 2022, the President of Uganda signed the Mining and Minerals Act 2022 into law. The article 255 of this law stipulates a harsh penalty for mercury use, which although well-intentioned, poses the risk of creating a black market for mercury trade, undoing the programme's progress on responsible mercury management. This development called for us to adjust our strategy and add a strong component on sensitisation on the new law's requirements for ASG miners, while continuing to advocate at the national level against some of its restrictive provisions.



This sensitisation approach included organising five dialogue sessions²⁶ with miners that led to the development of a **self-regulatory tool for miners to use on-site**, and a series of sensitization posters on the dangers of mercury.

In 2022, we conducted **capacity building training on lobby and advocacy for two CSOs**²⁷ and one partner²⁸. We also convened a miners' leaders' meeting in order to review the National Climate Change Act 2021, with specific focus on climate-smart mining, which resulted in a policy paper that was presented at the Uganda Artisanal Small-scale Mining and Quarrying (UASM-Q) conference, a **multi-stakeholder platform** which we helped organise. We also **strengthened CSOs' networking** by convening the manifesto working group²⁹, a collection of like-minded collaborating CSOs, to review the status of implementation of the [citizen's manifesto on mining and petroleum](#)³⁰, and examine developments in the sectors that would culminate into engagements with Parliament, academia and government.

Finally, we conducted **two thematic research surveys**: one gender mapping to identify champions in the mining communities, and a [Fair Value Distribution Survey](#) to understand specific bottlenecks for miners in accessing and sustaining equitable profits for their products and services offered in the gold supply chain. Findings from these surveys were used to launch a media campaign that highlighted the issues around natural resources management, decent work, working conditions and workers' safety and fair distribution of value. In 2023, we will work further on formalisation of ASMs and we plan to deploy a book and claim model.

6.2.4 Peru

In Peru, we aim to contribute to a responsible global gold value chain, where artisanal small-scale gold miners, the majority being women, work under legal and safe conditions, earning a living income with improved bargaining positions vis-a-vis buyers and investors, and where biodiversity is protected. In 2022, despite the ongoing political crisis in the country, we worked with the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM) on the development of the first public policy for the mining sector, by consolidating and passing on miners' recommendations to the Ministry. The policy, which is focused on artisanal and small mining (ASM), aims to promote the development of the ASM sector with environmental responsibility, transparency and inclusion of all actors of the value chain. As part of these activities, **a research study** on the ["Realities and expectations of ASM in Peru"](#) was published. In 2023, we will further support the Ministry to develop and approve the National Mining ASM Policy, considering women's needs, by launching a campaign to raise the visibility and improve the conditions of women miners.

In 2022, the 35th edition of PERUMIN, the largest mining convention in Latin America was held with participation of the ASM sector for the first time. We worked closely with its partners to

26 (i) viable alternatives to mercury with Busitema University's mining engineering department, (ii) focus group discussions on environment and natural resources management in mining communities, (iii) a stakeholders' dialogue on decent work, working conditions, child labour and labour contract obligations, that culminated into a position paper, (iv) a dialogue on mining laws, with focus on the provisions on the environment and ecological restoration, and (v) dialogue on how to improve the miners' capacity to enforce a self-regulatory mechanism with a focus on mercury management at the mine site.
 27 Uganda Association of Artisanal and Small-scale Miners (UGAASM) and Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO).
 28 Africa Centre for Energy and Mineral Policy.
 29 The working group consisted of Solidaridad, Resource Rights Africa (RRA), Pro-Biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICO), Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO), UGAASM and World Voices Uganda. Publish What You Pay (PWYP) and IMPACT.
 30 The manifesto is a compilation of citizen's voices appealing to the next cohort of political leaders in the 2021- 2026 political cycle to strive to ensure that development and management of petroleum and mining industry resources is fair, just, inclusive and sustainable.



Pallaqueras in Peru advocating for women's rights and inclusion of pallaqueo in formal mining

Gold, Peru (Solidaridad South America)



Julia Pomalique works in the mountains of Peru at over 5,100 metres above sea level performing *pallaqueo*, an artisanal and ancestral way of mining, work mainly done by women nowadays. Thanks to this work, she and the many women in her association can sustain themselves and their families. Julia is a *pallaquera* and she's proud of it. However, Julia also knows that with that name comes prejudice and systemic discrimination.

Julia is the president and a founding member of her association, *Base La Rinconada*, in Puno, Peru. She's been her district's mayor as well. And every morning, Julia wakes up and goes to the mountains to perform *pallaqueo*, which consists of manually selecting ore in the slopes once it has been discarded by their male counterparts who, unlike her and the other *pallaqueras*, are allowed to work inside the mine shafts. Julia and her peers have been struggling for years to become formal. *Pallaqueo* is not recognised in Peruvian regulation and is therefore not a part of the formal economy, no matter what good practices the *pallaqueras* adopt. In 2018 the Ministry of Mines and Energy declared that several traditional artisanal and small-scale mining practices in the Puno region, including *pallaqueo*, could engage in legal trading transactions with processors and gold traders (as a pilot); but this did not lead to a nationwide legislation or the availability of trading mechanisms to support *pallaqueras* like Julia. This hasn't stopped her: on the contrary, she's been organising with other women miners, not only in Puno, but nationwide.

"Most of the women in my association are single mothers: abandoned or widows. And everyone tries to diminish them because of that in every aspect of their lives."

Still, Julia is optimistic about the network's potential to raise the voice of women working in artisanal and small-scale mining. *"We're going to be able to reach out as one voice. We'll get to know our rights, our rights to be acknowledged as women miners [by the Ministry of Mines and Energy] but also our rights as women. We must reach out to the Ministry of Women."*

In March 2022, in representation of her association, Julia and 22 other women miners from around Peru created the National Network of Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining. On the network's agenda are demands referring to gender inclusive policies, such as the inclusion of *pallaqueo* as a formal mining activity. Julia has also attended a workshop in Lima, Peru's capital, for setting the network's organisational values and developing soft skills.

She was very enthusiastic about the workshop and the self-esteem exercises provided in it: *"These workshops have been very useful. They improve our social skills, since we do a lot of things as a team. [...] We need those self-esteem reinforcements. My peers can be very submissive with their husbands, so, after the workshops, I return to my association and share all that I've learnt."*

More than 450 women miners are now affiliated with the National Network of Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale mining, a strategic partner of Solidaridad. Together we work to raise awareness of the issues that women working in artisanal and small-scale mining face. There are more representatives like Julia who are deeply interested in making their communities and their country a better place for women miners.



bring information about the **ASM policy and the coexistence models** to the most important actors in the sector. We also started the development of [Oro Justo 2.0](#), a digital tool that allows artisanal miners to share and disseminate information about the ore market, so that miners can identify the most convenient processing plants and engage with them. This innovation seeks to break the market asymmetry affecting artisanal miners. We also supported the creation of the first **National Network of ASM Women Miners** in the country, providing them knowledge and tools to participate in dialogues with the public and private sector, and civil society. In 2022, they participated in a dialogue with the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM), where their main priorities were publicly shared, the draft National ASM Policy was shared, and a draft of the new ASM regulatory framework was reviewed with their [input](#).

6.2.5 Europe

In Europe, we aim to contribute to a responsible global gold value chain through committing gold sourcing companies to implement responsible sourcing practices for ASM gold and to invest in the development of a responsible ASM sector. We also advocate the public sector to adopt and implement regulatory frameworks that are ASM inclusive, and address decent work, fair value distribution and sustainable natural resources management in international supply chains for gold. In 2022 we continued our **advocacy towards EU policy makers** for an ASM inclusive legislation that enables ASGM miners to sell their gold through formal international supply chains linked to Europe, and that helps to address root causes of sustainability issues in producing countries. We also succeeded in influencing the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) to update the partnerships' mission, vision and strategic action plan, which now includes an explicit focus on ASM mining and increases its scope beyond only conflict areas and in producing countries. Until now, EPRM was reluctant to engage in policy dialogues so it is significant progress that we will start developing and adopting joint positioning as input for engagement in policy debates around responsible mining, sourcing and trade. In addition to this, we have participated in the Women's Rights and Mining (WRM) **multi-stakeholder platform** in support of women's rights in mines and in mining affected communities. Through this space we worked with the OECD Minerals Secretariat to increase the inclusion of voices from the South, as well as gender and social inclusivity considerations, throughout the annual OECD Minerals Forum.

With **private sector engagement**, we continued our work with The Impact Facility (TIF), Fairphone and Aunexum, to further develop the innovative ASM Gold Downstream Contribution Model that includes upstream traceability and a fund for mid- and downstream companies to contribute to development of ASM. Although our original idea was to connect Dutch companies from the IRBC Gold Agreement (the Covenant) to this ASM Contribution Model and ultimately engage them on direct sourcing of ASM mines they would support, these companies remained reluctant to engage in responsible ASM, up until the end of the Covenant's 5-year implementation period in 2022. Therefore we played a key role in the development of a critical self-evaluation and end-report describing the limited achievements compared to the Covenant's ambitions. Together with the NGOs of the Gold Covenant we did a reflection workshop and shared the [report](#) with reflections, insights and recommendations. One of the limiting factors for the Covenant to reach impact, was the strong focus on the Dutch market and a lack of international outreach and engagement. This led us to accept the invitation to join the board of the **Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI), a global industry membership initiative** with over 400 companies and associations from over 10 industries. We expect that this international initiative will have sufficient leverage and willingness to make a positive impact at the deepest levels of its supply chain.



6.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2022

FIGURE 8. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS GOLD PROGRAMME 2022

	Key performance Indicator	RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	6	3	11	12	5
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	8	16	14	14	10
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	13	14	15	16	14
ACCELERATE DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS Improved transparency and negotiation position for farmers and workers in the supply chain, by co-developing and implementing innovative digital and fair business models						
OUTCOME	# of farmers, miners and workers with improved bargaining position through equitable access to (digital) market intelligence or as a result of new and innovative business models	0	0	40	1,590	2,000
OUTPUT	# of farmers, miners and workers using the developed tools and business models being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	1,711	2,000	1,612	2,780	3,000
	# of tools and business models developed and being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	4	8	7	6	8
	# and kind private sector partners engaged to co-design, test and promote new tools and business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	6	29	17	48	30
	# of other non private sector partners (knowledge, public, CSOs, others) engaged in co-design, test and promote new tools or business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	23	15	9	32	15
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	0	36	35	758	4,000
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	0	7	3	12	7
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CSOs are strengthened to speak up and engage in policy dialogue						
OUTCOME	# Civil Society actors and target groups with increased L&A capacities	0	18	5	29	31
OUTPUT	# and type of Civil Society actors and target groups supported	26	32	28	29	31





7. Africa Food



Key milestones achieved in 2022:

- Inclusive Multi Stakeholder platforms in Uganda, Kenya and Egypt established.
- MSPs policy agendas set, dialogue started.
- Recommendations for improved Competition Law and local GAP from MSPs submitted. (Zambia and Mozambique)
- CSO and champions capacitated and advocating for policy issues.
- Awareness campaigns initiated. (Zambia and Mozambique)
- Test phase disruptive innovations (Zambia and Mozambique) and Egypt.
- Media campaigns rolled out. (Kenya and Uganda)

Total Actuals 2022: € 981,973, for Mozambique (30%), Zambia (21%), Uganda (15%), Kenya (20%) and Egypt (14%)



7.1 INTRODUCTION

In all Africa Foods programme countries our aim is to contribute to sustainable, inclusive and safe local food value chains, in which producers, the majority being women, receive a fair value for their produce, work under legal and safe conditions, and have improved access and control over land and other productive resources. To provide context to our aims, we should note that less than 10% of smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa are integrated into formal markets. However, if the 2018 Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AfCFTA) were fully implemented, African markets and economies would be reshaped to boost trade opportunities, especially in the fruits and vegetable sector. This offers many opportunities to improve their traceability and benefit from lowered prices for consumers as well as increased variety of affordable products. To leverage this major market development, we aim to directly address many supporting issues³¹. We also aim to support the creation of an enabling environment for improved compliance among smallholder farmers that addresses the underlying causes of non-compliance and ensures strong public and private sector support. Additionally, we are advocating for the simplification of bureaucratic procedures and provision of incentives for smallholders to participate in formal markets.

In 2021, we conducted baseline studies and policy analysis in East and Southern Africa to understand the state of policies, which are the CSOs operating in the countries, and what are the past and ongoing advocacy initiatives to leverage from the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme. Based on the insights of these analyses, in 2022 we focused on improving sustainable production and consumption (quality and quantity of produce, food safety, public policy formulation and regulation, awareness-raising among consumers) and value distribution. Our efforts to build and maintain multi-stakeholder platforms in policy engagements, ongoing advocacy capacity building and gender and social inclusion prioritisation are essential steps in achieving these goals. In 2023, we will carry out further dedicated interventions to address gender and social inequalities in the horticultural sector. We will strengthen consumer associations to start consumer campaigns and awareness on consumption of safe foods, and we will undertake campaigns on food safety and food loss, aligned with the international 2023 World Food Day and the 2023 World Food Safety Day.

7.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS MILESTONES 2022

7.2.1 Mozambique

During 2022, we worked jointly towards these goals with partners³², by aligning objectives, roles and responsibilities, resulting in formalisation of these partnerships. As a result of the **baseline validation workshop** and the **multi stakeholder dialogues we convened** in 2022, stakeholders in Mozambique identified the implementation of the MozBopa Regulatory Standard as the main advocacy agenda that will be pursued by the MSPs over the coming years. This workshop and resulting dialogues were attended by farmers and more than 200 stakeholders representing farmer organisations, CSOs, government, non governmental organisations, the private sector, and research institutions³³ among others.

³¹ Lack of adequate extension services, unfavourable market regulatory requirements, fragmented growers, limited access to information, poor governance, inadequate participation of local communities, and non-compliance to quality and safety standards especially in the domestic market.

³² Proconsumers, NADEC, Amos Alberto Ubisse Technical (AAUT), Ministry of Agriculture, INNOQ.

³³ IIAM (Agriculture Research Institute of Mozambique), Higher Polytechnic Institute of Manica (ISPM), UniZambezi, UNAC (National Peasants Union).



We also facilitated an **awareness raising campaign** on the need and importance of implementing the MozBopa Regulatory Standard through different media platforms that included national television, radio and newspapers, reaching approximately 1.4 million individuals in Mozambique. As part of strengthening the government's capacity to implement the MozBopa, we trained the extension officers on how to support the roll-out of the standard. Furthermore, we conducted **gender and social inclusion dialogues** to gather evidence and document stories that could be used for advocacy initiatives to amplify the voices of the marginalised groups. These dialogues engaged representatives of different organisations such as the government, CSOs and farmer organisations in two joint exercises in Maputo (Boane and Manhica districts) and Tete (Angónia and Tsangano districts) provinces. The main advocacy messages identified related to equal access to various smallholder benefits (i.e. financing, inputs, extension services, lucrative markets, etc.).

7.2.2 Zambia

In 2022, the change in government in **Zambia** has affected the policy environment and led us to a focus on value distribution and sustainable consumption. To establish common agreement on the outcomes of the 2021 baseline study and to ensure buy-in from partners, we held a validation workshop with stakeholders representing the government, regulatory agencies, the consumers, the academia, farmer organisations, CSOs and the private sector. There was consensus among the stakeholders that the establishment of a **Zambian National Standard on Good Agricultural Practices for Fruits and Vegetables** was a high priority for the country to improve the horticulture sector, local market expansion, and regional competitiveness in the context of continental trade. Subsequently, the programme collaborated with the Zambian Bureau of Standards (ZBS) in co-hosting and facilitating an inclusive **multi-stakeholder consultative dialogue** on the National Standard on Good Agricultural Practices for Fruits and Vegetables, after a 60-day public consultation period that ended in April 2022. The standard, if implemented as planned in 2023, will safeguard consumers' health and environmental protection as well as create a policy framework which bridges the gap between smallholder farmers and the market, resulting in a more competitive domestic and regional sector that benefits from AfCFTA. Although the standard has not received final endorsement yet, we pro-actively engaged in awareness creation and capacity building activities on the standard with smallholders and extension officers

We also conducted **GESI dialogues (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion)** in Lusaka, Chongwe, Mazabuka, Chibombo, Kabwe, Katete and Chipata. The methods of dialogue involved interviewing, observing, documenting, sense making and reflection. Some of the key advocacy outcomes emanating from the dialogues include: (i) the need to expedite the passing of the horticulture policy; (ii) support farmer led markets across the provinces to enhance competition and facilitate access to diverse clientele; (iii) introduce financial literacy programmes; (iv) facilitate value addition access to diverse markets; and (v) advocate for energy sources and water access that is affordable to smallholder. Of additional relevance to the programme in Zambia, unfortunately there has been a delay in the government's commissioning of the Eastern Tropical Fruits processing factory in Katete, which was anticipated to enhance sustainable consumption of the fruits and vegetables produced by smallholder farmers in the country. We will continue outreach to the ETF to create a market linkage for the smallholder fruit and vegetable farmers, but the inactivity of the Zambian Bureau of Standards (ZABS) leaves the national standard on fruits and vegetables in an undesired limbo. This may hamper our programme's related activities such as capacity building, and awareness raising may be premature given the situation.



Fostering sustainable and profitable avocado farming in Zambia

Avocados (Africa Food), Zambia (Solidaridad Southern Africa)



Godson Kalolo (75) is an avocado farmer in the Chongwe district of Zambia. He owns a six acre farm, located in the Kasenga/Kasisi area. When Mr. Kalolo joined Solidaridad's fruit and vegetables programme over five years ago, technical advisors conducted a full assessment and identified a number of key challenges that were affecting his farm's profitability and sustainability.

Mr. Kalolo's dedication to improving his farm's business, also for the benefit of the livelihoods of the avocado-growing community in Chongwe, has been key to turning things around. The intervention to improve the farming business consisted of: 1) Upskilling of Mr. Kalolo's agronomic knowledge and practices (including disease management, post-harvest technology, food handling and packaging); 2) Upgrading of farm infrastructure and more efficient use of natural water; and 3) Improving market intelligence and market access for his avocados.

"The biggest reward in this entire process has been the acquired knowledge that can't be taken away from me. Being taught is one thing, but having someone by your side who is patient in showing you how to practically apply the knowledge through on-farm demonstration has been a great confidence booster. I wish I had gotten this kind of support in my earlier years of starting this farm, I would've grown so much further! It is for this reason that I have brought in my son on the team so that he too can get the necessary skills that can help sustain the business."

He continues: *"When the task is too high, it is not possible to start the race alone and win it, sometimes you will need a combined effort. So having a community of 100+ avocado farmers who are on the same journey with me, under one programme has really helped in making learning and growing easier."*

An avocado demonstration plot was also set up to showcase good agricultural practices in avocado production, which now plays an important role in scaling up the adoption and production of avocado crop in the fruit and vegetable clusters in Chongwe and other project areas. It creates an environment of deep agronomic understanding within the community and collective growth. Mr Kalolo was elected chairman of the cluster, and his improvements even resulted in national visibility.



7.2.3 Kenya

In 2022, we realised significant strides towards our objectives in Kenya. We prioritised the implementation of the 2021 activities that had been previously delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions. To accelerate implementation, we identified priority activities in collaboration with the project implementing partners Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK) and Kenya National Farmers Federation (KENAFF). We held **multi-stakeholder dialogues with civil society organisations**, farmers representatives, private and public sector at county and national levels. Through these dialogues, we discussed and gathered evidence to engage leaders and policy makers, and to advocate for enabling policies and their effective implementation to ensure fair value distribution and inclusivity in the horticulture value chain in Kenya. Through the MSP dialogues, we formulated recommendations to improve the National Potato Strategy (2021- 2025), and we created awareness on the National Potato Crop Regulations, 2019 to improve its implementation by farmers and relevant stakeholders. We also supported the KS1758 standards³⁴ implementation committee and the standards steering executive committee to discuss a wide range of issues to ensure resolutions regarding the management of the standard, including reviewing the scheme rules on certification fees. We also conducted a **capacity building training on lobby and advocacy** for one implementing partner³⁵ and five CSOs³⁶ to improve their technical and operational capacities, negotiation skills, resources management, lobbying and advocacy approaches for pertinent issues in the fruit and vegetable sector.

During 2022, we also carried out a **gender and social inclusion analysis** to identify related gaps and opportunities in the horticulture sector, which informed the design of targeted gender inclusion messaging and materials that were disseminated to horticulture growing communities through gender champions and multimedia. To accelerate adoption of transformative gender practices, we selected households that will be engaged with sensitisation trainings and dialogues by the 25 gender champions who were selected and trained across the targeted counties. These households are expected to adopt transformative gender practices and be change models in their communities. These gender champions received training on the start phase of the **SASA! methodology** to spearhead awareness raising initiatives that target households, community leaders and power holders. Finally, we also conducted **consumer campaigns** to improve consumer awareness on food safety and quality through the dissemination of documentaries on **food safety, food loss** and waste management. We also commissioned a **research study** on the Status of Pesticide Use in Kenya, with a specific focus on skills and knowledge levels of producers and emerging issues that potentially impact on policy and pesticide usage for high-level policy influencing. We supported the Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF) to participate in a roundtable meeting organised by CABI to identify alternatives to high-risk pesticides.

7.2.4 Uganda

In 2022, similarly to Kenya, the programme in Uganda prioritised the implementation of activities that were carried over from 2021, particularly those that were done in close collaboration with our local implementing partner, the Uganda National Farmers Federation

³⁴ A code of practice for the horticulture industry in Kenya which stipulates the hygienic and safety requirements during the production, handling and marketing of flowers & Ornamentals, fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices.

³⁵ Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya.

³⁶ Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF), National Potato Council, Integrated Community Org for sustainable empowerment and Education for Development (ICOSEED), Makutano Kwa Muthita Fruit Farmers Self Help Group, MWEA WEST TOMATO FARMERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY, ENAKIRON FARMERS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (CBO).



(UNFFE). Specifically, **we established, operationalised and convened a multi-stakeholder platform at the national-level and four MSPs at the district-level**³⁷. These dialogues brought together key stakeholders such as farmers, private sector and public actors to identify priority issues and formulate policy recommendations for high-level decision- and policy-makers. The MSPs provided a platform for stakeholders to push for an amendment to the Uganda National Horticulture Development Strategy (2020 - 2030) and raise awareness of the National Agriculture Policy.

Additionally, throughout 2022, we engaged CSOs³⁸ and our local implementing partner³⁹ in lobbying and advocacy initiatives in the sector. We strengthened the **CSOs' lobby and advocacy capacity** through training focused on inclusive dialogues and amplifying the voices of farmers to shine light on issues affecting them and the sector. We also carried out a **gender and social inclusion (GSI) analysis** to identify inclusivity gaps and opportunities in the sector. This analysis provided a foundation for the design of targeted GSI messaging and communication materials that were disseminated to communities through 25 gender champions (with the [SASA! methodology](#)) and multimedia. This led to the establishment of 4 **gender steering committees** at district level to advocate for the inclusion of women, youth and marginalised groups in the horticulture sector of Uganda, as well as for a fair value distribution for them. These committees were also mobilised to participate in sector dialogues and events such as the 28th Annual Agricultural Show held in Jinja. We facilitated **inclusive consumer education and awareness campaigns** geared towards food safety and quality, and sustainable consumption through four dialogues and a media campaign on the local radio station and on a live talk show on National Television of Uganda.

7.2.5 Egypt

Our strategic objective in Egypt is to understand the role of value chain governance, market systems perspective, importance of inter-firm relationships and stakeholder participation, policy and enabling environment, gender inclusivity, and proven ICT capabilities that bring interventions to scale for fair value distribution and improved bargaining positions for smallholders. In 2022, we formed partnerships and conducted meetings to find common areas of synergy to implement our main activities with organisations such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS). We engaged in negotiations with CEOSS, a national registered NGO in the country working with more than 100,000 small farmers focusing on water management, digital solutions, and strengthening farmers and community development associations in Upper Egypt, to support the programme as a strategic implementing partner. By the end of 2022, we held discussions with ILO to cooperate on subjects related to evidence-based advocacy, **gender and social inclusion (GSI)**, and environmentally sustainable practices. To further build our evidence base, we contracted Enroot, a local consulting firm, to conduct a baseline study that will include value chain, stakeholder, policy and GSI analyses.

³⁷ In Masaka, Luwero Wakiso and Mukono.

³⁸ Young Farmers Federation (UNYFA), Uganda Agribusiness Alliance (UAA), National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) Luwero District Farmers Association Masaka District Farmers Association, Wakiso District Farmers Association

³⁹ Uganda National Farmers Federation



Additionally, in 2022, we conducted field training and capacity-building workshops on sustainable agriculture practices and water management in South Sinai (Saint Catharine City), with the participation of 14 smallholder Bedouin farmers (under-represented groups), in partnership with Delphy, a Dutch Consultancy. We also participated in various policy advocacy side events at the COP27, including the Horticulture Export Improvement Association (HEIA) Panel Discussion in the Dutch Pavilion, where the main theme was *"Beyond carbon credits: A holistic approach for mobilising agribusiness investment to sustainably strengthen the Egyptian food system"*. We shared lessons from across various commodities where carbon related innovations and pilots are being conducted. In 2023, we will continue engaging stakeholders including farmer organisations, private sector and international organisations to build our development of and collaboration with **multi-stakeholder platforms**. We will also use the findings of our GSI analysis to conduct dialogues with women farmers as well as public, private and grassroots stakeholders to explore how women can be effectively included in and benefit from the fruits and vegetables, and soy value chains.



7.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2022

FIGURE 9. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AFRICA FOOD PROGRAMME 2022

	Key performance Indicator	RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	0	6	8	6	6
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	0	10	20	10	10
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	2	8	5	8	8
ACCELERATE DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS Improved transparency and negotiation position for farmers and workers in the supply chain, by co-developing and implementing innovative digital and fair business models						
OUTCOME	# of farmers, miners and workers with improved bargaining position through equitable access to (digital) market intelligence or as a result of new and innovative business models	0	0	238	2,550	0
OUTPUT	# of farmers, miners and workers using the developed tools and business models being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	0	0	0	2,100	10,500
	# of tools and business models developed and being tested for sourcing, production, trade and investment	1	5	1	2	6
	# and kind private sector partners engaged to co-design, test and promote new tools and business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	2	11	3	11	17
	# of other non private sector partners (knowledge, public, CSOs, others) engaged in co-design, test and promote new tools or business models for sourcing, production, trade and investment	2	13	3	10	18
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	0	0	400	7,800	13,000
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	0	6	7	8	6
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CSOs are strengthened to speak up and engage in policy dialogue						
OUTCOME	# Civil Society actors and target groups with increased L&A capacities	0	18	13	13	8
OUTPUT	# and type of Civil Society actors and target groups supported	4	18	48	17	8





8. Advocate & Amplify in Europe

8.1 INTRODUCTION

In 2022, we focused our efforts primarily on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) proposal and the EU Deforestation Regulation. Together with like-minded CSOs Fern, Rainforest Alliance, Tropenbos International and Fair Trade Advocacy Office we advocate for the adoption of these policies to ensure they will work for smallholders. We have observed that recent developments (such as staff shortages, inflation and increased energy prices) have been used by certain players as arguments against strong due diligence legislation, fearing that companies are already facing enough challenges and due diligence will be yet another difficulty for companies. It is still to be seen if this argument will continue to be used in 2023 and to what extent it will influence decision makers. We also bolstered our advocacy work through communications and campaigning activities geared at gaining support from the European public for more sustainable and inclusive policies. It is important to note that through partnerships with other CSOs and engagement with multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) we are not doing this alone, and we are working together to ensure that we are building a louder, collective voice to advocate for and amplify the experiences of farmers, workers and miners in the global south.

8.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS MILESTONES 2022

When it comes to the **EU CSDDD**, a significant amount of progress was made in 2022. In February, the European Commission published their proposal which already included several of the elements that we had envisioned and advocated for in a sound European due diligence directive (i.e. obligation for companies to respect the human right to a living wage and the establishment of a lower employee number/net profit threshold for companies of high-impact sectors). The EC proposal also included the need for the EC and EU Member States to continue working in partnership with third countries to support upstream economic operators and build the capacity to effectively prevent and mitigate adverse human rights and environmental impacts. With this in place at the EC, we focused our lobby and advocacy efforts on the European Parliament and the Council, with both institutions showing significant progress in their positioning. Several committees on the EP voted on reports featuring many of our recommendations, such as the addition of the human right to a living income and the inclusion of purchasing practices to the duties of due diligence. The Council published its position on the file in December 2022, resuming some of the elements we advocated for [in this article](#).⁴⁰

Also in 2022, we continued our work on the **EU Deforestation Regulation** in a coalition with Fern, Rainforest Alliance, Tropenbos International and Fair Trade Advocacy Office, and successfully managed to put the importance of smallholder inclusion on the policy agenda by advocating for concrete adjustments in the text of the regulation. We were also successful in convincing the EP to support a large number of amendments we proposed, including recommendations on remuneration for smallholders, cost sharing, support for smallholders, partnerships and continuous monitoring. While not all have passed the tripartite approval process (EP, Council and EC), several improvements have been incorporated in the final regulation that helps civil society hold the EC accountable. As the EU Deforestation Regulation

⁴⁰ 1) letting go of the idea of restricting due diligence obligations to those with whom a company has "established business relationships" with only; 2) stronger wording on stakeholder engagement; and 3) clarification that disengagement from suppliers linked to adverse impacts should only be done as a last resort measure, taking into account the potential negative impacts of terminating the business relationship

will be finalised in 2023 without sufficient attention for smallholder inclusion, it is key that we ensure that our projects align with this regulation to ensure more smallholder inclusion.

In terms of **policy research**, in 2022 we completed a cross-commodity research on interventions for policy change to improve producer prices in global commodity value chains (cocoa, coffee, palm oil, cotton and textiles and gold) and will be published in Q1 2023. We also contributed to research to develop the first Superlist Social, comparing the contributions of supermarkets to a fair and just food system. The seven largest Dutch supermarkets (Albert Heijn, Aldi, Dirk, Ekoplaza, Jumbo, Lidl and Plus) are compared and publication is expected by mid May 2023. We also implemented a perception based research, with design support from Maastricht University, asking almost 10,000 farmers how sustainability works out for them. The collected data is now being analysed and will be used to publish a Small Farmer Atlas in 2023, providing a platform for farmers to make their voices heard and share their perspectives.

Finally, the following **communications and campaigning activities** to reinforce our advocacy work were undertaken in 2022:

- With ASN Bank, Fair Wear Foundation, Fair Trade International, Fashion Revolution, and CNT, we launched the [Good Clothes Fair Pay Campaign](#). This European Citizen Initiative (ECI) supported lobbying efforts towards EU living wage legislation in the garment industry, aiming to collect 1M signatures from EU citizens by July 2023. This included the opening of 'Signastore' in Utrecht, NL, on Black Friday.
- We launched a PR campaign around the first [Palm Oil Barometer](#). This report aimed to bring more nuance to the public debate in Europe, which is still dominated by the negative frame that 'all palm oil is bad'. The launch resulted in 33 publications in different European countries, as well as in other West African and Asian countries and the United States, reaching 38.5 million citizens world-wide.
- For COP27, we developed the [Climate Finance for Smallholder Farmers position paper](#), which was a call for public and private decision-makers to commit to supporting locally-led climate action, increasing climate finance for small-scale agriculture, and simplifying access to climate finance for smallholder farmers and support organisations. This led to impactful conversations with governments in the UK and Honduras.
- We undertook a PR campaign focused on the publication of the [2022 Cocoa Barometer](#). The [hybrid launch event](#), for which over 500 people registered, took place concurrently in Accra and Paris, and ensured representation of various voices from the global south. Press engagement ensured publication of 160 articles on media platforms such as Bloomberg, Reuters, and Financial Times. Further, three cocoa companies asked the VOICE Network for further discussion about price interventions.

Campaigning for more sustainable garment and textile industry with the Signastore

Advocacy work, the Netherlands (Solidaridad Europe)



The efforts of our consortium are reinforced by policy and advocacy work in Europe. As part of this, we worked on communications and campaigning activities geared at gaining support from the European public for more sustainable and inclusive policies.

The [Good Clothes Fair Pay Campaign](#) was undertaken in coalition with partners in the Netherlands and is aiming to collect 1 million signatures by July 2023. This campaign supports lobbying efforts towards EU living wage legislation in the garment industry and textile sector, where 70 percent of workers are women. Our campaign included an online petition to collect signatures and the opening of a so-called [Signastore](#) in a busy shopping street in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on Black Friday.

The Signastore was open for almost a week. It was a bright white room at the launch, and in no time it was transformed into a whirlwind of colour: the signatures of all the people who've come by to sign and hereby express their support for the petition. The transformation is visible in this Signastore aftermovie: <https://youtu.be/Rcc5Yxr2sj0>

"Too many people think that one signature makes little difference. But in the Signastore I saw that that's not true. The signatures are everywhere: on the walls, the floor and on the facade outside the shop. A-ma-zing! Each signature counts, and this can also be done online. So join in and sign!" Elize Been, Utrecht resident and Signastore visitor

8.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2022

FIGURE 10. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS EUROPEAN POLICY ADVOCACY PROGRAMME 2022

	Key performance Indicator	RESULTS 2021	TARGET 2022	RESULTS 2022	TARGET 2023	TARGET 2025
ADVOCATE THROUGH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE Better, innovative and inclusive solutions that address issues in the value chain are co-developed and submitted to policy makers						
OUTCOME	# of innovative and inclusive solutions / recommendations that are submitted by civil society through inclusive dialogues to key public and private sector decision makers for adoption and implementation	17	3	19	14	3
OUTPUT	# of dialogues initiated, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers	8	3	8	5	3
	# of (governmental and private) policies for sustainable production, trade and consumption influenced	5	0	5	2	0
AMPLIFY VOICE OF CITIZENRY Citizens and CSOs are mobilised, activated and engaged to change norms and influence policy agendas						
OUTCOME	# of individuals activated and mobilised to raise their voice to push the policy agenda, influence societal (gender) norms, make informed decisions (consumer and corporate behaviour, e.g. on production and consumption practices)	16,212	10,000	25,943	0	10,000
OUTPUT	# of CSO led awareness raising campaigns	4	2	4	0	2



SECTION 3

Global Digitalisation & Innovation



1 INNOVATION TRACKS

In our programme we focus on a limited number of innovative tracks that have the specific aim to advocate for optimisation of the bargaining position of farmers and workers in supply chains through innovative, digital, circular and fair production and trade models. The common denominator for these innovations is to build digital tools that **strengthen access to markets** in combination with the **empowerment of farmers, miners and workers to improve their bargaining power**. The RECLAIM Sustainability! programme assumes that this will contribute to improved fair value distribution in the supply chain. For all innovations discussed below we have agreed upon the need for a (data) framework to measure the success of these innovations at the output and outcome levels. Therefore, we plan to work with the relevant programmes to define this framework in 2023. We expect this framework to include 1) farmers connected to the platform, 2) produce being tracked and traced, and 3) incentives (FarmImpact), and data-quality premiums paid (Trace).

FarmImpact is a digital tool developed by Solidaridad that supports farmers in building a resilient farm system and connects farmers to carbon markets. This web-based tool, which is used directly by farmers, puts the climate adaptation indicator into practice and rewards farmers for taking up climate adaptive practices by recording climate smart (adaptive) interventions and calculating the Carbon sequestration (in soil), and translating these to Carbon credits that can be monetised. Currently, over 1,200 farms are using the tool to calculate carbon credits. We work on the integration with the Cool Farm tool. With this, in addition to supporting farmers under the RECLAIM Sustainability! projects in [5. COTTON & TEXTILES](#) and [7. AFRICA FOOD](#), FarmImpact becomes an important tool in Solidaridad's broader Carbon proposition that provides opportunities for further scaling and impact.

Trace is a platform that traces produce from farm to fork. This has been proven for niche markets and in our RECLAIM Sustainability! programme we are seeking validation in the bulk commodity chains in three different pilots (see section [1. COCOA](#) and section [2. COFFEE](#)). The Trace Platform, is an easy-to-use blockchain-based platform that allows agri-food businesses to make their supply chains transparent and trace their products from farmer to consumer, which creates space for paying a premium that is passed onto farmers. By creating added value for market players through data collection, storytelling, and sharing proportionally with supply chain partners, farmers can be rewarded for sharing their data. In 2022, the platform went from development to action with four fully traced shipping containers (76 metric tonnes) of produce sold, 3,298 farmers onboarded to the platform, and 12 buyers linked to the platform. The **Farm Diary tool** is expected to be linked to Coffee Trace (See [2.2.3 Honduras](#)) and will be tested in 2023 with Capucas' producers. The tool is being currently piloted for coffee, it provides farm management functionalities for smallholders and allows them to substantially improve in tailoring input use, tracking market prices.

Harvest Alert aims to be an IT-based supply chain management platform allowing farmers to get better and more transparent access to markets. The tool ensures timely evacuation of oil palm fresh fruit bunches to the factory while creating full transparency in pricing. This will ensure a better and fair price for farmers, improved efficiency for aggregators, and intake of higher quality fruit at the factory gate. The tool is being developed and tested in the palm oil supply chain in Ghana (see section [4.2.5 Ghana](#)), with private sector tech partners to co-design and test the application as well as in consultation with its intended users: mills and farmers. The tool will be further tested prior to rollout in 2023.

KUBU (formerly Nakerlink) is an innovation developed by the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme that unites workers in the textile industry on a digital platform to help them find job opportunities, share information, improve knowledge, and broaden their network. KUBU has the potential to support workers as they build a better life and strengthen their bargaining position and the voice of workers and labour unions. This innovation is in the design phase, collecting feedback from trade unions and workers to develop functionalities for a mock-up version that was tested among a small group of friendly users at the end of 2022 (see Section [5.2.2 Indonesia](#)). We will further support the development of KUBU, this will be rolled out more widely from 2023 onwards.

Oro Justo 2.0 is an innovation, developed by the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme with the guidance and ownership of the ASGM guilds in Peru, that aims to create a transparent artisanal gold market, so miners receive fair compensation for their production and improve their bargaining position. Through this tool, miners have (fair) ownership of a digital platform generating market intelligence, which is compatible with other sources of data and pay-for-impact initiatives. In 2022, the innovation team was built and collected customer insights in order to design the first prototype. Due to political unrest in Peru, the team was hardly able to connect to the field. As a result, we expect a delayed implementation of this innovation in 2023.

2 KITOVU (AFRICA TECH HUB)

The lack of open IT ecosystems (technology systems designed to be interoperable and enable seamless collaboration among different applications and data sources) and siloed data create a significant hurdle for evidence-based advocacy in the context of supporting smallholder producers. Advocacy programmes such as ours need access to comprehensive, consistent, and transparent data to build consensus around issues, like market dynamics and production practices, to promote policies that are supported by a wide range of stakeholders. Accordingly, CSOs need to embrace open IT ecosystems and promote greater data sharing and collaboration among themselves to achieve more effective and sustainable outcomes for producers. The need to harness open ICT ecosystems within and outside our programme is at the heart of the Africa Tech Hub (Kitovu).

Building on progress in 2021, Kitovu focused on consultation and co-design activities with the following outcomes achieved in 2022:

- Standardization of farmer registration processes and tools in projects across Eastern and Southern African Countries, including Zambia, Malawi, and Uganda.
- Development of an "Open FarmerID" distribution and validation app called Hakiki.
- Technical facilitation of conversation between the Malawi Tea Association and the East African Tea Trade Association (EATTA) on the potential adoption of EATTA's Mombasa e-auction system by Malawi Tea Association.
- Hosting of a Fair Farmer Data Alliance meeting in Malawi, making the case for Open ICT tools and platforms to ten organisations, including governments, farmer support organisations, and other CSOs.
- Release of a Minimum Viable Farmer Produce Marketing platform, Farmer2Market, and ongoing co-development of the tool with two other organisations



SECTION 4

Global Linking & Learning



1 OVERARCHING LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Our Global Linking and Learning strategy aims to develop a deeper understanding of how our programmes contribute to addressing the core thematic outcomes of Fair Value Distribution, Decent, Work, Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Consumption, to strengthen our RECLAIM Sustainability! programming. To this end, we have held focused (online) workshops, amongst others on integrating systems thinking approaches in our programming, on digital inclusion strategies, and on building business cases in the early stages of innovation. Our internal online Knowledge Hub is further developed to store and share knowledge products, case studies and background papers throughout the consortium and network.

In November 2022, we organised a global linking and learning workshop for Thematic Learning Group Leads, the Regional Programme Leads and selected Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation advisors to reflect on strategic insights from the thematic learning agenda, in relation to the Theory of Change (ToC). In the workshop, we identified suitable case studies to test the programme’s assumptions. The Terms of Reference for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme was published by the end of 2022. The Mid Term Review is being carried out over the course of 2023.

2 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2022 PER LEARNING THEME

1.1 Fair Value Distribution

One of the main causes of unsustainable trade and poverty is the unfair distribution of value over the supply chains. The prices farmers receive are most often not covering the ‘true price’ of production, while value created is disproportionately concentrated at the end of the chain. Currently, policies are often not favourable to give better value for farmers and this has made FVD a topic of primary concern in the cocoa, coffee, cotton and tea supply chains, in which we are working and drawing learnings. Through this learning agenda, we will develop knowledge on how value can be better redistributed along the supply chain, who are the ‘power shakers’ and how bargaining position of producers and workers can be improved best in our current and future programmes

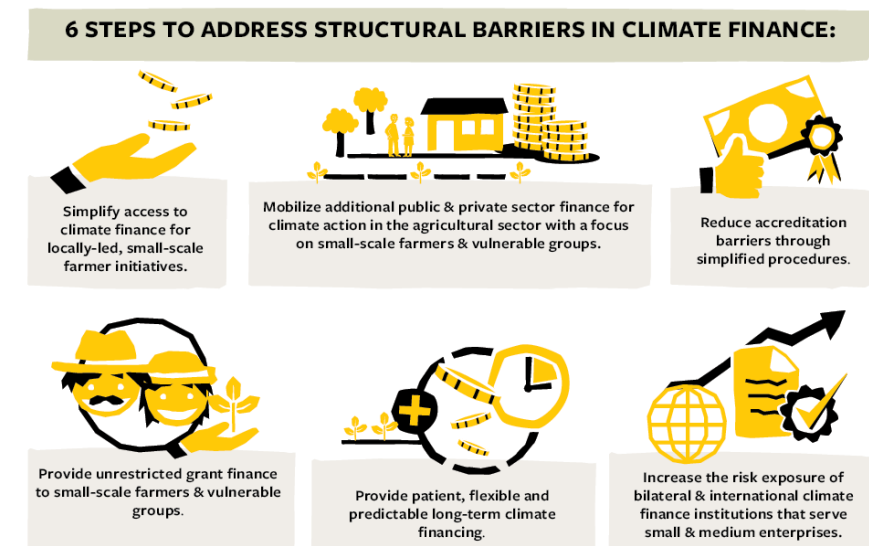
In 2022, we drafted the conceptual framework on page 97 to analyse and address elements of the Fair Value Distribution concept: fair income, equitable access to resources, increased ownership, voice and participation, inclusive innovation, sharing of risks and rewards, transparent and accountable governance, and chain wide collaboration. We selected several case studies, to test the extent to which digital information tools piloted in our programme contribute to increased bargaining power of producers by addressing information asymmetries and unequal power dynamics. The selected cases include Trace, Harvest Alert, Farmer2Market and Soli-trace. Additionally, in collaboration with IDH, we commissioned a study on the coffee supply chain from four different origins (Ethiopia, Vietnam, Colombia and Brazil) and on how cost and value can be distributed in a different manner.



1.2 Climate and Natural Resource Management

People and communities on the frontlines of climate change are often the most active and innovative in developing adaptation solutions. Yet, too often, they lack access to the resources and agency needed to implement them effectively. Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) can unlock, support and leverage the enormous potential and creativity of communities to develop and implement solutions in natural resource management. Shifting power to local stakeholders, without expecting them to shoulder the burden of adaptation, can catalyse adaptation that is effective, equitable, and transparent. As part of the Climate & Natural Resource Management learning agenda, colleagues across the consortium have shared knowledge to identify key structural barriers for smallholders to access climate finance (see figure below).

FIGURE 11. STEPS TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL BARRIERS IN CLIMATE FINANCE

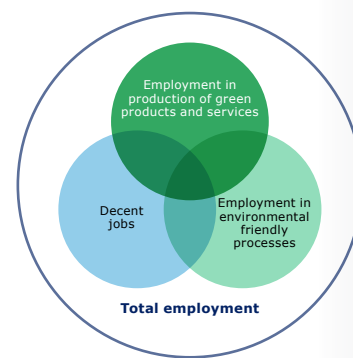


In 2022, and in preparation for the climate conference in Egypt (COP 27) we developed a [position paper](#) on climate finance to create donors and awareness on the structural barriers of climate finance for smallholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of capabilities of RS! program managers and business developers to better integrate climate and climate finance in our RECLAIM Sustainability! policy influencing agenda across the consortium. In order to effectively lobby for climate finance for smallholders, we need to show that smallholders can implement innovative climate smart and regenerative agriculture approaches at farm level, and can collect quality data to prove their effectiveness. We also tested various models for innovative climate smart and regenerative agriculture approaches at farm level and collected evidence, to be able to promote effective alternative models as part of our policy influencing. We now have a clear positioning and strong conceptual basis. In 2023, we will focus on sharpening our climate finance and locally-led adaptation advocacy agenda, and strengthen internal capabilities and external thought leadership related to this theme.

1.3 Decent Work

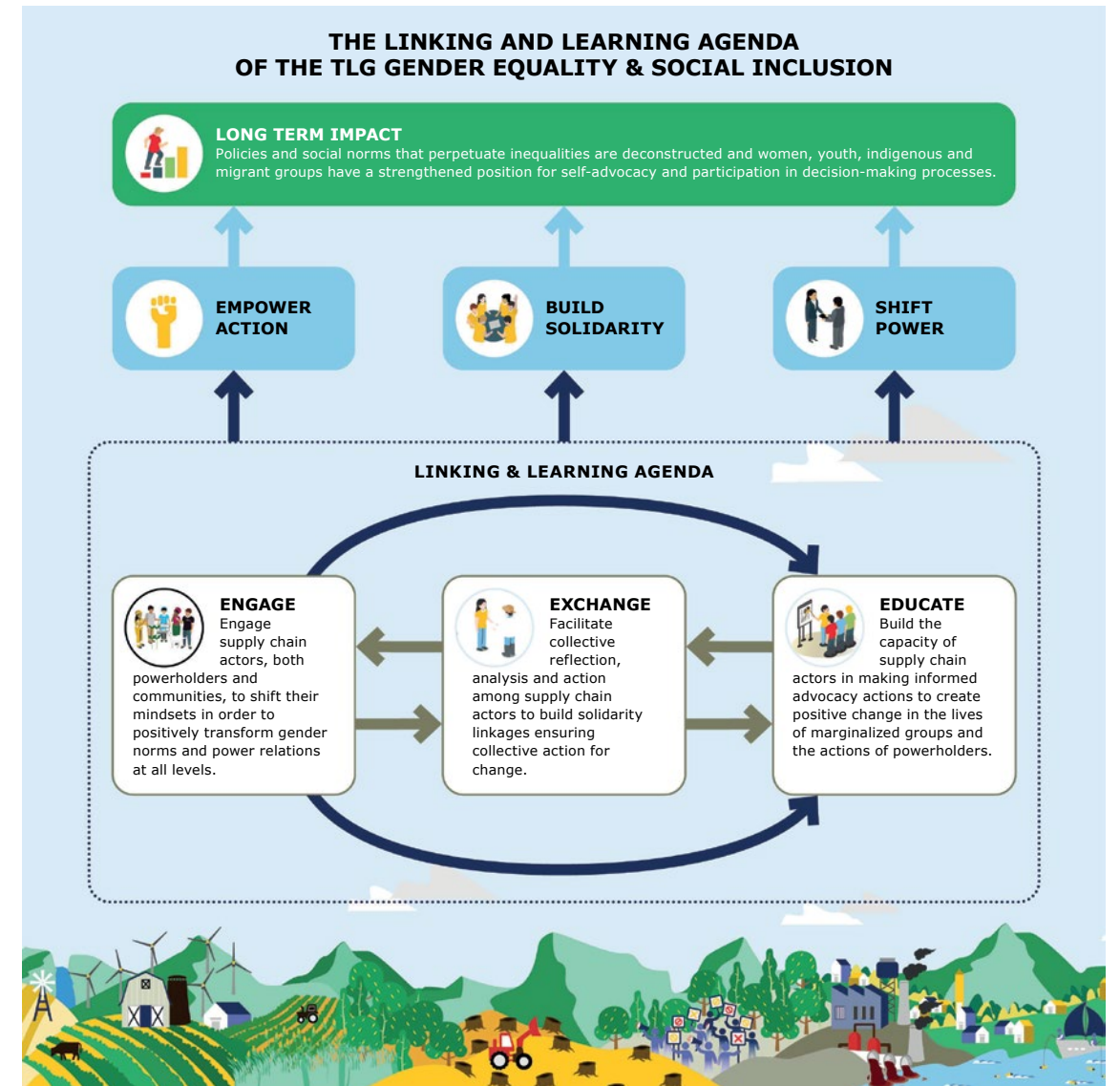
The International Labour Organization defines decent work as “productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity”. In general, work is considered as decent when it pays a fair income, it guarantees a secure form of employment and safe working conditions, it ensures equal opportunities and treatment for all, it includes social protection for the workers and their families, it offers prospects for personal development and encourages social integration, and when workers are free to express their concerns and to organise. Increasing employment and ensuring decent work for all are essential aspects of sustainable development. Quality employment and decent work conditions help to reduce inequalities and poverty, and empower people, especially women and youth.

To define our position in this broad field of work, a number of knowledge products were developed in 2022 that analysed the effectiveness of interventions in current and previous programmes to address issues of living wage. We analysed our efforts to combat child labour by documenting our approach and achievements from 9 cocoa, gold, palm oil, sugar and cotton projects that builds on our key strength to ensure living wages for workers and thereby reducing and preventing incidence of child labour. This is complemented by a more holistic approach of capacity strengthening and policy influencing at all levels to educate companies, consumers and communities on child labour issues and prevention. We also explored opportunities for decent Green Jobs to provide insights and recommendations for our Decent Work positioning and policy influencing strategies. In 2023, we will focus on a number of selected case studies (RECLAIM Sustainability! projects) to test some of the programme’s assumptions in relation to decent work and understand their preconditions.



1.4 Gender and Social Inclusion

In the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme we aim to apply a transformative gender and social inclusion approach to challenge the underlying causes of social exclusion and gender inequality, such as norms, relations and institutional structures that perpetuate discrimination and power imbalances. Fostering gender equality and social inclusion is vital for a sustainable society, where all population groups, including women, youth, and indigenous groups, across



supply chains are enabled to empower themselves. We aim to strengthen this approach by our learning agenda focusing on engagement, exchange and capability development.

In 2022, we focused on developing the understanding of the project teams related to this strategic focus on Gender & Social Inclusion (GSI). This culminated with a global GSI learning workshop to start the next step in the learning agenda: project-based research, learning and knowledge management in selected projects, based on learning questions that were linked to the programme’s assumptions related to gender and social inclusion. A number of case studies have been selected to start in 2023. To ensure quality project-based research, the global learning workshop focused on learning methodologies and on creating coalitions for learning. This shared understanding forms the foundation for the development and implementation of the GSI ideation and tracking tool (hosted on a digital platform), which maps GSI issues across the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, and allows practical solutions to be co-developed. This work will be continued in 2023 with the roll-out of the GSI research agenda in selected projects across the globe.

1.5 Sustainable Consumption

To create an enabling policy environment for sustainable consumption, the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme focuses on 1) **companies** implementing sustainability policies and business models, 2) **citizens** demanding sustainable products, and 3) **governments** developing policies for sustainable consumption. At the end of 2022, a decision was taken to discontinue this thematic learning agenda, as it was jointly concluded at the Global GL&L Workshop, that a learning agenda that tests the assumptions of sustainable consumption is not tangibly useful for programmatic learning and was duplicative. The key elements of the learning plan for Sustainable Consumption (citizen campaigns, barometers, pricing research) are considered embedded into broader programming and therefore, already sufficiently integrated into the approaches of other learning themes.

Despite this, activities were held in 2022 that focused on learning around effective approaches to activating consumers and citizens in supporting the linkages between fair value distribution and the sustainable consumption policy agenda. Particularly, related to influencing governments in developing effective policies on sustainable consumption, we worked with Aidenvironment and SÜDWIND-Institute to research factors which drive price setting, to help us better understand which European-level policy interventions can contribute to improved prices for producers outside Europe. A resulting [paper](#) was developed, focusing on five commodity sectors: palm oil, coffee, cocoa, cotton and textiles, and artisanal and small-scale gold mining, helping sharpen our European policy influencing on price setting.





SECTION 5

**Budget &
Actuals 2022**



FIGURE 12. TOTAL BUDGET VS 2022 EXPENDITURE

Budgetline	Budget 2022	Adjusted Budget 2022	Actuals 2021	Deviation
A. Strategic Supply Chain Programmes	€8,699,090	€11,583,167	€10,483,635	-9,5%
B. Global Digitalization & Innovation	€639,742	€870,531	€825,279	-5,2%
C. Global Linking & Learning	€1,021,239	€1,502,131	€1,224,710	-18,5%
D. Partnership Management and Coordination	€500,083	€703,779	€487,982	-30,7%
TOTAL	€10,860,153	€14,659,607	€13,021,606	-11,2%

Figure 12: The final Budget 2022 was € 14,659,607, which includes the reported budget balance from 2021 of € 3,496,204. In addition, we prioritised an additional investment of € 203,249 for innovations (see SECTION 4 GLOBAL LINKING & LEARNING). Over the course of 2022, we managed to catch up with the delays from 2021, as evidenced by the table above. Despite this, 2022 sees an underspending of -11.2%, which is caused by reported delays as described in SECTION 2 GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAMMES. In addition, the Mid Term Review (MTR), under Budget Line C), was originally budgeted and scheduled to start by the end of 2022, and it has been postponed to Q1-Q2 2023.

The Partnership Management and Coordination budget line underspend of -30.7% is related to the Consortium communication activities being concentrated in 2023, as well as projected monitoring travels and staff costs that were not realised, but will be undertaken in future periods. Finally, additional funds were reallocated from China’s Budget, due to a significant underspend in China in 2022, as a result of persistent Covid-19 restrictions.

Figure 13: shows actual expenditure per continent: 44.2% was spent in Africa, 19.5% Asia, 7.1% in Latin America and 9.6% in Europe. The remaining 19.5% was spent on the global budget lines; Innovation & Digitalisation, Global Linking and Learning, and Partnership Management and Coordination.

FIGURE 13. EXPENDITURE PER CONTINENT

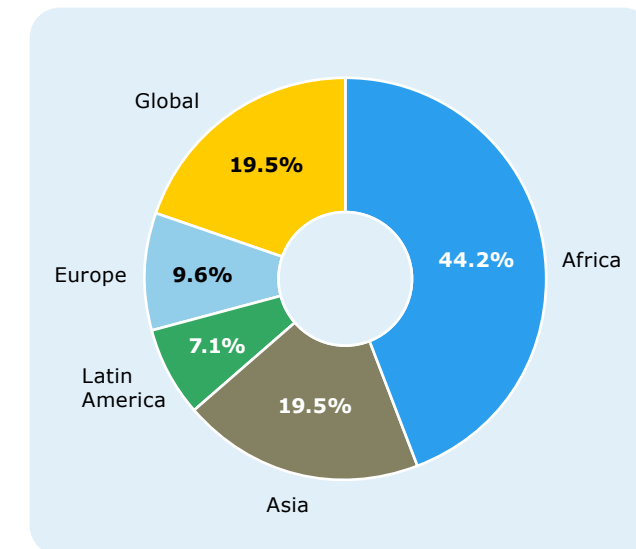


Figure 14 below shows the budget versus actual per country, as well as per continent. Overall deviation accounts to -11% (€ 1,638,001) of the 2022 budget.

In **Africa**, the deviation of -3% is a reflection of an accelerated plan adopted by most countries. This includes deployment of staff to areas of implementation, increased collaboration among the implementing teams in the various RECLAIM Sustainability! sectors and alignment of resources, based on the absorption capacity among the partners. Most countries experienced a fairly stable political environment and had most of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions lifted. However, Zambia, Malawi and Ethiopia presented deviations higher than -10%. **Zambia** had a deviation of -18%, majorly caused by prolonged time taken to get a buy-in from government and other stakeholders in the cotton sector toward formation of a National Cotton Platform planned for 2022. The MSP has now been established and has started working on its activities and deliverables. In **Malawi**, the tea industry was reluctant to set-up systems to move into E-Auction, and there was a delay in determining the areas for capacity building for the National Smallholder Tea Growers Association. As a result, these activities will be implemented in 2023. In **Ethiopia**, the -11% deviation is mainly caused by political instability in the Tigray region, which resulted in gathering and communication restrictions imposed by the government and that delayed most of our activities.

Asia shows a relatively high deviation at -24%. **Bangladesh** had a deviation of -47% as a result of delayed programme activities. In 2022 we conducted an inaugural sectoral multi-stakeholder platform and a policy landscape study to review Bangladesh’s Ready-made Garment (RMG) sector, which informs our planned policy advocacy initiatives for year 2023. However, the study took longer than anticipated to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders. **China** had a -37% deviation, which is attributable to extensive implementation hurdles related to Covid-19 lockdowns. **India** had a deviation of -16% which was attributable to high budget carried over from 2021 (see figure 14), comparison of actual expenditure against budget(s). Considering the above, we are closely monitoring implementation of the programme in Asia, especially in Bangladesh and China.

In **Latin America**, the deviation of -16% in **Honduras** is attributable to social and political situation, particularly to the conflict in the palm-growing areas, storms and floods also compelled rescheduling of some programme activities to 2023.

FIGURE 14. BUDGET VS ACTUAL 2022 PER COUNTRY

	Budget 2022	Adjusted Budget 2022	Actuals 2022	Deviation
Africa	€4,390,721	€5,954,928	€5,761,888	-3%
Egypt	€218,384	€286,734	€261,893	-9%
Ghana	€700,336	€930,961	€920,041	-1%
Ivory Coast	€450,059	€445,124	€442,710	-1%
Sierra Leone	€386,927	€467,418	€486,547	4%
Ethiopia	€148,415	€228,543	€203,831	-11%
Kenya	€732,790	€1,060,970	€1,064,568	0%
Uganda	€586,868	€845,101	€887,712	5%
Zambia	€396,859	€598,777	€493,288	-18%
Malawi	€209,939	€291,856	€253,471	-13%
Mozambique	€560,144	€799,446	€747,827	-6%
ASIA	€2,395,035	€3,337,887	€2,544,558	-24%
Bangladesh	€430,082	€648,583	€346,852	-47%
India	€848,650	€1,285,178	€1,085,878	-16%
Indonesia	€622,620	€786,418	€723,808	-8%
China	€493,683	€617,709	€388,020	-37%
Central and South America	€894,187	€1,056,736	€921,321	-13%
Honduras	€436,865	€558,301	€468,267	-16%
Peru	€457,322	€498,435	€453,054	-9%
Europe	€1,019,147	€1,233,615	€1,255,868	1,80%
Europe	€1,019,147	€1,233,615	€1,255,868	2%
Global	€2,161,064	€3,076,441	€2,537,971	-18%
Global	€2,161,064	€3,076,441	€2,537,971	-18%
TOTAL	€10,860,153	€14,659,607	€13,021,606	-11%

FIGURE 15. AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE AND ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR THE REMAINING PERIOD

	Aggregated expenditure (2021+2022)	Estimate expenditure remaining grants (2023-2025)	Total 2021-2025
Europe	€2,115,611	€3,819,390	€5,935,000
Honduras	€761,608	€1,288,392	€2,050,000
Peru	€742,719	€1,307,281	€2,050,000
Bangladesh	€462,078	€1,884,349	€2,346,427
India	€1,381,748	€3,022,808	€4,404,556
Indonesia	€1,202,759	€2,175,435	€3,378,194
China	€529,440	€1,298,696	€1,828,136
Egypt	€426,648	€498,352	€925,000
Zambia	€698,357	€1,213,129	€1,911,486
Malawi	€374,115	€686,429	€1,060,544
Mozambique	€1,122,746	€1,657,625	€2,780,371
Ghana	€1,524,487	€1,963,456	€3,487,944
Ivory Coast	€836,985	€1,297,492	€2,134,477
Sierra Leone	€843,188	€1,149,808	€1,992,995
Ethiopia	€282,945	€437,966	€720,912
Kenya	€1,462,131	€1,728,345	€3,190,476
Uganda	€1,208,955	€1,451,339	€2,660,294
Global	€4,100,523	€6,755,076	€10,855,600
TOTAL	€20,077,043	€33,635,368	€53,712,412

Figure 15 shows the aggregate expenditure per country and the estimated expenditure for the remaining period of the grant.



Annexes





ANNEX 1

FINANCIAL REPORT 2022 - PER BUDGET LINE

	Global Supply Chain Programmes	Global Innovation & Digitalisation	Global Linking & Learning	Partnership Management & Coordination	Total	
I Direct staff costs (country/regional/continental/global)						
I.1	Staff costs	€2,583,606	€273,199	€253,868	€0	€3,110,673
I.2	Local staff costs	€1,104,644	€49,999	€142,450	€0	€1,297,093
I.3	Consultants and advisers	€669,414	€81,619	€17,304	€0	€768,337
Subtotal I		€4,357,663	€404,817	€413,622	€0	€5,176,103
II Other direct programme costs (country/regional/continental/global)						
II.1	Activity costs	€4,255,810	€235,485	€771,498	€210,963	€5,473,756
II.2	Costs relevant to consortium partners	€0	€0	€0	€228,656	€228,656
II.3	Activity-related travel costs	€540,572	€116,087	€16,255	€4,787	€677,702
II.4	Project office costs	€139,665	€0	€0	€0	€139,665
II.5	Equipment and investments	€89,178	€7,464	€0	€0	€96,642
II.6	Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	€195,770	€0	€23,335	€20,000	€239,105
Subtotal II		€5,220,995	€359,036	€811,088	€464,407	€6,855,526
Total of I and II		€9,578,658	€763,854	€1,224,710	€464,407	€12,031,629
III Overheads/indirect costs						
III.1	Costs of support staff	€460,246	€12,350	€0	€0	€472,596
III.2	Not directly allocable administrative costs	€188,659	€18,160	€0	€0	€206,818
III.3	Other non-allocable costs	€256,072	€30,916	€0	€23,575	€310,563
Total III		€904,977	€61,425	€0	€23,575	€989,977
TOTAL		€10,483,635	€825,279	€1,224,710	€487,982	€13,021,606

ANNEX 2

FINANCIAL REPORT 2022 - PER COUNTRY

Countries	Europe	Egypt	Honduras	Peru	Ghana	Ivory Coast	Sierra Leone	Ethiopia	Kenya	Uganda	Zambia	Malawi	Mozambique	Bangladesh	India	Indonesia	China	Global Digitalisation & Innovation	Global Linking & Learning	Global Partnership Management & Coordination	TOTAL	
I Direct staff costs (country/regional/continental/global)																						
I.1	Staff costs	€777,434	€60,000	€156,843	€234,075	€181,889	€114,652	€102,156	€31,730	€175,034	€83,297	€99,643	€30,059	€104,505	€84,256	€137,805	€115,454	€94,774	€273,199	€253,868	€0	€3,110,673
I.2	Local staff costs	€0	€103,266	€55,004	€0	€52,156	€34,667	€34,667	€26,556	€48,283	€69,378	€81,476	€38,194	€108,692	€113,576	€123,066	€139,415	€76,248	€49,999	€142,450	€0	€1,297,093
I.3	Consultants and advisers	€138,596	€35,060	€26,610	€21,246	€29,462	€22,829	€21,468	€1,495	€50,836	€2,418	€70,954	€21,559	€53,148	€0	€130,471	€11,763	€31,500	€81,619	€17,304	€0	€768,337
	Subtotal I	€916,030	€198,326	€238,457	€255,321	€263,507	€172,148	€158,291	€59,781	€274,153	€155,093	€252,073	€89,812	€266,345	€197,832	€391,342	€266,632	€202,522	€404,817	€413,622	€0	€5,176,103
II Other direct programme costs (country/regional/continental/global)																						
II.1	Activity costs	€179,456	€17,305	€154,877	€88,214	€479,303	€175,621	€233,918	€90,878	€651,245	€625,944	€114,598	€115,787	€273,204	€108,210	€532,228	€259,375	€155,647	€235,485	€771,498	€210,963	€5,473,756
II.2	Costs relevant to consortium partners	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€228,656	€0	€228,656
II.3	Activity-related travel costs	€22,907	€1,358	€41,224	€31,035	€72,048	€29,682	€38,812	€27,959	€34,694	€25,950	€20,441	€4,714	€39,852	€3,357	€69,464	€76,264	€814	€116,087	€16,255	€4,787	€677,702
II.4	Project office costs	€0	€6,930	€0	€3,922	€10,540	€6,391	€5,345	€943	€1,860	€1,860	€18,762	€4,011	€31,321	€10,720	€0	€36,469	€591	€0	€0	€0	€139,665
II.5	Equipment and investments	€0	€0	€6,542	€8,460	€7,076	€1,759	€1,099	€594	€23,627	€1,172	€2,159	€935	€21,102	€987	€9,282	€4,385	€0	€7,464	€0	€0	€96,642
II.6	Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	€17,109	€9,914	€0	€9,777	€17,161	€12,132	€12,424	€399	€3,920	€680	€28,017	€7,767	€24,961	€4,393	€16,713	€25,843	€4,560	€0	€23,335	€20,000	€239,105
	Subtotal II	€219,472	€35,507	€202,643	€141,408	€586,129	€225,585	€291,597	€120,773	€715,346	€655,605	€183,977	€133,214	€390,439	€127,667	€627,687	€402,335	€161,612	€359,036	€811,088	€464,407	€6,855,526
	Total of I and II	€1,135,501	€233,833	€441,099	€396,729	€849,636	€397,733	€449,888	€180,554	€989,498	€810,698	€436,049	€223,025	€656,784	€325,499	€1,019,029	€668,967	€364,134	€763,854	€1,224,710	€464,407	€12,031,629
III Overheads/indirect costs																						
III.1	Costs of support staff	€0	€0	€8,243	€33,391	€63,860	€41,474	€34,470	€17,763	€46,069	€46,408	€30,498	€17,440	€49,752	€7,389	€23,132	€32,092	€8,265	€12,350	€0	€0	€472,596
III.2	Not directly allocable administrative costs	€0	€28,060	€8,243	€8,748	€1,300	€698	€436	€590	€10,010	€9,929	€25,460	€11,495	€38,341	€6,868	€21,502	€9,295	€7,683	€18,160	€0	€0	€206,818
III.3	Other non-allocable costs	€120,367	€0	€10,682	€14,185	€5,246	€2,805	€1,753	€4,923	€18,990	€20,677	€1,280	€1,510	€2,950	€7,096	€22,215	€13,454	€7,938	€30,916	€0	€23,575	€310,563
	Total III	€120,367	€28,060	€27,168	€56,325	€70,406	€44,977	€36,659	€23,277	€75,069	€77,014	€57,238	€30,445	€91,043	€21,353	€66,849	€54,841	€23,886	€61,425	€0	€23,575	€989,977
	TOTAL	€1,255,868	€261,893	€468,267	€453,054	€920,041	€442,710	€486,547	€203,831	€1,064,568	€887,712	€493,288	€253,471	€747,827	€346,852	€1,085,878	€723,808	€388,020	€825,279	€1,224,710	€487,982	€13,021,606

ANNEX 3

GLOSSARY

Abbreviation	Full Name
AGT	Agreement on Sustainable Garment and Textiles
APOA	Asian Palm Oil Alliance
ASGM	Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
ASM	Artisanal and Small Scale Mining
ATA	Asia Tea Alliance
BLF	Bought Leaf Factory
CFRPP	Common Framework for responsible Purchasing Practices
CPOS	China Palm Oil Standards
CRAFT	Code of Risk-mitigation for ASM engaging in Formal Trade
CSDDD	Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTMA	China Tea Marketing Association
DISCO	Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa
EATTA	East Africa Tea Trade Association
ECI	European Citizens Initiative
EPRM	European Partnership for Responsible Minerals
ETI	Ethical Trade Initiative
EU	European Union
FFB	Fresh Fruit Bunches
FVD	Fair Value Distribution
FWF	Fair Wear Foundation
GCCP	Ghana Civil Society Cocoa Platform
GCP	Global Coffee Platform
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GhG	Greenhouse Gas
IDH	The Sustainable Trade Initiative
ILO	International Labor Organisation
IPOS	Indian Palm Oil Sustainability
ISCO	Initiatives for sustainable cocoa
ISPO	Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil
KUSSTO	Kenya Union of Small Scale Tea Owners
MSIs	Multi-Stakeholders Initiatives
MSPO	Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil
MSPs	Multi-Stakeholder Platforms
MTR	Mid-Term review
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSTGA	National Small Tea Growers Association
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPDAG	Oil Palm Development Association of Ghana
POV	Power of Voices
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SAC	Sustainable Apparel Coalition
SCC	Sustainable Coffee Challenge
SEA	Solvent Extractor's Association
SLNOPP	Sierra Leone National Oil Palm Platform
SPOC	Sustainable Palm Oil Choice
STGs	Small Tea Growers
STITCH	Sustainable Textile Initiative: Together for Change
TCDA	Tree Crop Development Authority
USSD	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data
ZamGap	Zambia Good Agricultural Practices

ANNEX 4

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MIDTERM REVIEW (MTR)



Terms of Reference MID TERM REVIEW

RECLAIM SUSTAINABILITY! PROGRAMME

Date: 14 February 2023
Contact: Arjen Mulder (arjen.mulder@solidaridadnetwork.org)



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1. Background

1.1. Introduction

A consortium consisting of Solidaridad, Fairfood, TrustAfrica and Business Watch Indonesia (BWI) is working together in a joint programme: RECLAIM Sustainability! This five-year programme (2021-2025) is implemented in strategic partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and is part of the Ministry policy framework *Power of Voices*. Together with its partners, the consortium aims to 'contribute to inclusive sustainable value chains and trade in an innovative way, in which the interests, voices and rights of farmers, workers and citizens (m/f) are represented and heard in decisions making for sustainable use of natural resources, decent work, fair value distribution and sustainable consumption.' Gender and social inclusion are an integral part of its programming and envisioned impact.

Being at the mid-way point of its implementation, the consortium partners are interested to take stock of the progress and developments within the programme so far in order to support strategic decision making and translate the findings into future strategic choices for 2023 and beyond. The RECLAIM Sustainability! Consortium seeks the support of an external consultant to guide this process. This document provides the outline for the assignment of the Mid Term Review of the RECLAIM Sustainability! Programme.

1.2. About the consortium partners

Solidaridad West Africa, Solidaridad Southern Africa Solidaridad East & Central Africa, Solidaridad Asia, Fundación Solidaridad Latinoamericana and Solidaridad Europe (lead applicant) are part of the 'Solidaridad Network'. Solidaridad is spread across the globe with around 1,000 staff worldwide in over 40 countries and has over 50 years of global experience developing inclusive and sustainable value chains and trade.

Fairfood is a Dutch mission driven tech Civil Society Organization (CSO), bringing strong knowledge and tools on digitalisation and fair data.

TrustAfrica is a locally- registered African CSO, operating on a continental scale in raising the voices of African farmers, workers and CSOs.

Business Watch Indonesia (BWI) is one of the oldest non-governmental organisations in Indonesia garnering a reputation as a prominent sustainability organisation.

1.3. About the RECLAIM Sustainability! Programme

The RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium partners find that sustainability seems to have lost its true meaning. The consortium partners believe that there can be no such thing as sustainable products when the people who produce those goods live in poverty, when natural resources are not managed sustainably and working conditions are poor. However, space for farmers and workers to improve their position in the chain, to bargain for better prices and working conditions or to influence equitable access and use of natural resources is limited. To change this, a systemic, transformative change is required by reclaiming the essence of sustainability through an enabled civic space that sets the right conditions for this to happen.

The RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium believes that the situation of farmers and workers can be improved. But this requires that 1) civil society is strengthened; 2) civic space is increased and maintained; and 3) interventions in trade and value chains apply a specific gender and social inclusion

approach. If this happens, then the public and private sector may change in such a way that they will adapt and implement sustainability norms.

To achieve its vision of inclusive and sustainable value chains, the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium partners believe that it needs:

A vibrant and strong civil society that engages and debates with public and private decision makers, monitors implementation and enforcement of policies and mechanisms, holds decision makers accountable safeguards gender and social inclusion and demands and consumes sustainable products;

A responsible private sector implementing comprehensive policies and innovative inclusive business models for truly sustainable sourcing, production, trade and investment;

A supportive public sector enforcing national, regional and international comprehensive norms and regulatory frameworks that ensure sustainable production, trade and consumption.

Strengthened interaction between these three can ultimately alleviate the poverty of farmers and workers.

How does the programme aim to achieve this?

By **strengthening civil society through:**

- **Capacitating** CSOs in their knowledge and understanding, negotiation skills and resources, through training, ongoing technical, material and financial support;
- **Collecting** data to support evidence based advocacy;
- **Consulting** our constituencies, generating data to support advocacy;
- **Connecting** to (digital) social, political and knowledge networks;
- **Convening** in dialogue through active mobilisation, participation and providing inclusive spaces to congregate;
- **Creating** new partnerships to directly provide knowledge, advice and practical tools to public and private decision-makers; and to jointly;
- **Co-design new solutions** (i.e. ideation workshops and learning & peer exchange visits).



By **increasing and maintaining civic space through:**

- **Advocating** through inclusive dialogue: influencing agenda's and developing evidence-based solutions to address socio-economic and environmental shortcomings in trade and value chains;
- **Accelerating disruptive innovations** that aim to optimise the bargaining position of farmers and workers in the supply chains;
- **Amplifying** the voice of citizenry: mobilising, activating and engaging citizens and CSOs to change norms, and influence the policy agenda on issues related to unsustainable and non inclusive trade and value chains.

By **applying a transformative gender and social inclusion approach, which:**

- Challenges the underlying causes of social exclusion and gender inequality, such as restrictive norms, relations and institutional structures that perpetuate discrimination and power imbalances;
- Fosters gender equality and social inclusion and ultimately enables women, youth, indigenous groups across supply chains to empower themselves and benefit from formal participation.

In the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium partners expect that these different elements interact and together should lead to the long-term objective of inclusive sustainable trade and value chains in which the interest, voices and rights of farmers, workers and citizens are represented and heard.

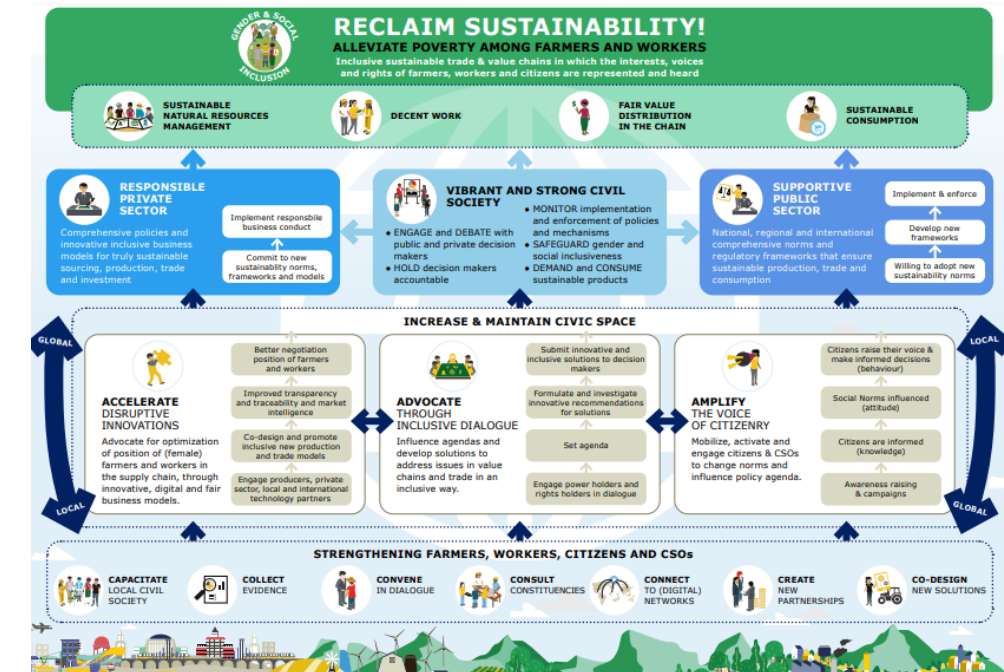


Figure 1: TOC Reclaim Sustainability!

The programme is being implemented in 17 countries¹ across seven different value chains: cocoa, coffee, tea, palm oil, cotton & textiles, gold and food crops (see figure 2). The total portfolio of the RECLAIM Sustainability! Programme consists of 45 projects (commodity-country combinations). More information on specific goals and targets of the programme can be found in Annex 1.

In addition to the strategic supply chain programmes, the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme includes two overarching interventions to support ambitions as formulated in the supply programmes.

Firstly, through **Global Innovation and Digitalisation**, the consortium aims to accelerate innovative solutions that amplify the voices of smallholders, improve farmers' and workers' bargaining power and increase transparency in the value chains. Innovative solutions include, for example, transparency connection models, fair investment models, new shareholder models, circular models, steward ownership and local food systems.

In addition, a **Global Linking and Learning Coordination Team** has been set up, to coordinate evaluation and learning, with the purpose of strengthening capacities and thought leadership, as well as thematic advocacy strategies and interventions.

More detailed information on the programme can be found [here](#).

¹ Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt, China, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Honduras, Peru, and the Netherlands (in the larger European context).

	Cocoa	Coffee	Tea	Palm Oil	Cotton/Textiles	Gold	Food Products
AFRICA							
Côte d'Ivoire	█						
Egypt					█		
Ethiopia					█		
Ghana	█						
Kenya		█					
Malawi			█				
Mozambique			█				
Sierra Leone	█						
Uganda		█					
Zambia					█		
ASIA							
Bangladesh			█				
China			█				
India			█				
Indonesia			█				
LATIN AMERICA							
Honduras		█					
Peru						█	
OTHER							
Global	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
the Netherlands	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

figure 2: country commodity table.

2. Purpose and audience of the Mid Term Review

The purposes of the Mid Term Review are multiple. First, of all, the Mid Term Review should provide **insights** on the relevance, coherence, level of effectiveness, sustainability, and partnership collaboration. Challenges, good practices and lessons learned related to each of these elements need to be identified. These insights will be translated into **recommendations for necessary modifications** within the lifetime of the current RECLAIM Sustainability! Programme. Additionally, the obtained knowledge should lead to **recommendations for strategic focus of future programming after 2025**. Preparations and strategic development for this phase is expected to start up by the end of 2024.

The primary audience of this Mid Term Review are the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium partners, who will use the findings for the revision of the 2024-2025 planning, programming and eventually beyond 2025. The full report will be made available to the donor, along with a management response signed by the consortium partners.

The report will also be made publicly available, and will be shared in IATI, and on the public websites of the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium partners.

Data, findings and recommendations of the Mid Term Review are expected to provide solid evidence to inform the external End Evaluation of the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, scheduled for the first half of 2025. Methodologies and tools should therefore be replicable.

3. Scope

The focus of the Mid Term Review of the RECLAIM Sustainability! Programme will be on three areas:

- 1) Overall programme level;
- 2) Implementation level (country/commodity);
- 3) Partnership collaboration.

The analysis on overall programme level will be supported by knowledge generated through a selection of case studies from the overall project portfolio on implementation level (country/commodity) (see methodology).

The focus of the Mid Term Review **on overall programme and implementation level** will be on relevance, coherence, effectiveness and sustainability, whereas:²

In terms of **relevance**, the aim is to establish the extent to which the programme and its projects contribute to the achievement/realisation of addressing the identified problems and opportunities in the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme. The analysis should include an assessment of changes in the validity and relevance of the programme and its projects over time.

In terms of **coherence** the aim is to establish the internal synergies and linkages between the interventions and the overall priorities as set in the overall RECLAIM Sustainability! programme.

In terms of **effectiveness** the aim is to establish the extent to which the programme has attained the foreseen results in the first 2 years, and is likely to reach its end targets. This includes an assessment of influencing factors for achievement and/or failure.

In terms of **sustainability**, the aim is to establish the extent the effect and changes to which the programme contributed are likely to continue and last, and to what extent we are progressing with our exit strategy ((focussing on institutional sustainability and local ownership).

The analysis on **partnership collaboration** will focus on both internal and external partnerships of the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, whereas:

Internal partnership collaboration refers to the partnership with different stakeholders within the consortium, such as the collaboration between the various Solidaridad Regional Offices, Fairfood, TrustAfrica and Business Watch Indonesia; the collaboration between different internal coordination units, the collaboration with implementing partners and with target groups.

External partnership collaboration refers to the strategic partnership between the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, relevant embassies, and the other alliances within the Ministry's policy framework of Power of Voices (STITCH, FairforAll and Fair Green & Global Alliance).

The focus related to partnerships will be on the complementarity of the partners involved and the internal alignment of their strategies.

The Mid Term Review will focus on and limit itself to the implementation period of RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, from 01 January 2021 until 31 December 2022.

² Information on effectiveness will be gathered for all projects in the portfolio.

4. Evaluation questions

In line with the scope of the evaluation, evaluation questions have been formulated (see 4.1, in **bold** the main evaluation questions). The evaluator is requested to optimise these questions in the inception report, if considered necessary.

4.1. Overall programme and implementation level

4.1.1 Relevance

- 1) To what extent has the design of the programme resulted in a Theory of Change that is addressing the most urgent problems and opportunities of our target groups (farmers, workers and miners) and opportunities?
- 2) **To what extent is the programme on its way to address the identified problems and opportunities?**

4.1.2 Coherence

- 3) **To what extent are the projects and their strategic choices in line with the programmatic Theory of Change?**
- 4) To what extent are there interventions proposed in the programme interlinked to create synergies in order to be more effective?
- 5) To what extent have the voices of the South been sufficiently integrated in the programme design and implementation and have the projects in the Global South informed the policy interventions in the Global North?

4.1.3 Effectiveness

- 6) **What are the (intended and unintended) results (outcomes) achieved so far and to what extent are they contributing to the intended objectives?**
 - 6.1) To what extent can these results be linked or attributed to the RECLAIM Sustainability! Programme and its consortium partners?
 - 6.2) To what extent are the achieved results (milestones) according to planning and what does this mean for the targets that are set for the end of the programme?
 - 6.3) What were the major factors (internal and external) influencing the achievement or non-achievement of results?
- 7) To what extent have the assumptions related to the strategies under the three impact pathways been validated?

4.1.4 Sustainability

- 8) **To what extent is the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme sustainable in terms of institutional ownership:**
 - 8.1) to what extent have stakeholders, especially women, youth, and other marginalised stakeholders, been involved in the design and implementation of the projects?
 - 8.2) Have structures been set in place to allow for local ownership and proper exit strategies?
- 9) Is there any evidence that the programme initiated initiatives that are expected to continue and last after the end of the programme?

4.2 Partnership collaboration

4.2.1 Internal partnership collaboration

- 10) To what extent has the consortium partnership and the programme's governance structure (e.g. Global Linking and Learning Team, Global Innovation & Digitalisation Team, and Programme Coordination Unit and Partnership Steering Committee) been appropriate and effective?
- 11) To what extent have partnerships with implementing partners been strengthening local ownership?
- 12) To what extent is the consortium adopting and executing the programme's inclusivity implementation strategy?
 - 12.1) How is power situated within the programme consortium, and are there ways that displays of power reproduce hierarchies and inequalities that hinder the possibility of creating inclusive environments and interventions?
 - 12.2) How do approaches to information and data gathering contribute to a comprehensive understanding of inclusion/exclusion within the programme contexts for consortium members and other stakeholders?

4.2.2 External partnership collaboration

- 13) Has the cooperation between the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant Dutch Embassies been appropriate and effective?
- 14) Has the cooperation between the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium and with other alliances within the Ministry's policy framework of Power of Voices (STITCH, Fair for All and Fair Green & Global Alliance) been appropriate and effective?
- 15) Has the cooperation between the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium and external partners been appropriate and effective?

5. Requirements proposed methodology and guiding principles

5.1. Requirements proposed methodology

The RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium is looking for an independent consultant / consultancy team (hereinafter referred to as consultant) who can provide guidance and coordinate locally/regionally the MTR process of the consortium partners.

The consultant is expected to select and design appropriate mid-term evaluation methodologies which will allow for solid evidence for answering the evaluation questions as described above, thereby taking into account the [requirements of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Mid Term Review](#), the [thereto related IOB criteria](#) and -at the same time- existing PME practices being implemented within the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme. Additionally, the consultant is expected to take into account that methodologies and tools should be well documented and be replicable to inform the external end evaluation of the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, scheduled for the first half of 2025.

The proposed mid-term evaluation strategy will need to utilise a **mixed-methods** for which both **quantitative and qualitative assessment** methods should be employed. **Triangulation** of results should be encouraged from different information resources, including sufficient independent information sources. **Possible bias** should be mentioned as well as **possible limitations** of the review.

A **participatory approach** is required in which the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium, various internal coordination units, directors, programme managers, as well as internal experts and thought leaders will be engaged in the evaluation, co-analyse findings and make recommendations. We envision that the consultant will provide a standard methodology that country teams will use to do an outcome harvesting, reflection/analysis process facilitated by internal PMEL advisors (or external local consultants if they have budgeted for that themselves, outside the total budget mentioned in this Terms of Reference). The reports of these country-level processes will be used as input for the external evaluation by the consultant and will be assessed during the desk study.

Methodologies to be included in the inception report should include, amongst other things, the following:

Desk Study

We expect the consultant to carry out extensive desk study to understand the programme strategies and visions, and programmatic decisions. The primary sources for the desk study are:

- Reports of the above-mentioned country-level outcome harvesting and reflection/analysis processes (guided by a standard methodology selected by the consultant);
- Programme documents: the RECLAIM Sustainability! proposal documents, annual plans, annual reports and consolidated numbers related to our programme KPIs (that are aligned with the indicators used by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
- Project documents: project proposal documents, project annual plans, project annual reports, and monitoring data collected at project level.
- Management documents: Programme Coordination Unit papers and messages, governance related documents, monitoring protocol including methodological notes);

Case Studies

We expect the consultants to propose a justified selection of a number of case studies from the overall RECLAIM Sustainability! project portfolio for a deeper understanding and recommendations for improvements of the RECLAIM Sustainability! strategy.

Field Visits

As part of the selected case studies, we expect the consultant to carry out field visits to a selection of countries in the regions where the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme is being implemented (Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Netherlands/global) to review projects in the portfolio, interview key stakeholders and staff involved in the programme and (if possible) share conclusions and recommendations from each field visit for sense making. The number of field visits and selection of countries will be based on solid substantiation of choice and agreed upon by the steering group of this mid term review. Field visits will be planned in coordination with the Reclaim Sustainability! consortium partners.

5.2 Guiding principles

The RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium considers the following standards and guiding principles important:

- **Utility:** the review serves the practical information needs of the intended usage and users as defined in paragraph 2 (Purpose and audience of the Mid Term Review).
- **Accuracy:** the review reveals accurate information, that is founded with evidence or supportive argumentation, with clear reference to sources or analyses;
- **Feasibility:** the review is planned and carried out in a realistic, diplomatic and frugal manner;
- **Propriety:** the review is carried out legally, ethically, and with due regard for the welfare of those involved in the review as well as those affected by the results. This includes the protection of the rights and confidentiality of persons interviewed. The proposed methodology requires full compliance with the GDPR. Due to GDPR requirements, data required in the research should not be traceable to individuals. This can either be done through full anonymization or through aggregation of data. If it is required for identifiable information to be

made public due to the nature of the research, informed written consent is required and the rights of data-subjects under GDPR are still in place.

6. Evaluation process

The consultant will prepare an evaluation inception report and work plan that will operationalize the Terms of Reference. The **inception report** will describe how the evaluation is to be carried out, bringing refinements, specificity and methodological elaboration to the Terms of Reference. Input for this inception report will be gathered through initial documentary data collection, and interviews and a workshop with key stakeholders of the Programme Coordination Unit and the Evaluation Coordination Team in which Programme Leads or PMEL advisors of the consortium partners are represented. This ensures a reality check to determine if the proposed methodologies are feasible in the different contexts.

The consultant will present the inception report to the Evaluation Coordination Team, that finally approves the inception report which will form the basis for the evaluation process. The Evaluation Coordination Team will consult with PMEL advisors of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs during this approval process. Details on the expectation for the inception report can be found in paragraph 7 (Deliverables).

The consultant is expected to develop a standard methodology that guides the outcome harvesting and reflection / analysis processes at country-level. The consultant will organise a **workshop or any other means** to ensure the standard methodology will be implemented well by PMEL advisors of the consortium partners.

When the evaluation is executed, the consultant will prepare a **draft evaluation report** that describes the evaluation methodology, findings, recommendations and lessons learned. The consultant will develop an initial outline as part of the workplan and inception report.³ The draft evaluation report will be presented to the RECLAIM Sustainability! Evaluation Coordination Team for feedback and corrections. The PMEL advisors of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be asked to provide their feedback in this process too. Preliminary findings and recommendations will be shared during the planned RECLAIM Sustainability! Global Linking & Learning workshop in June 2023.

The **final evaluation report** will be accompanied by a **presentation** (webinar) for key stakeholders in the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme. Potential participating stakeholders will be defined by the consortium.

After the submission of the evaluation report, the consultant will make **data, methodologies and tools** available to the consortium, for possible future use for the end evaluation of the programme.

7. Deliverables

The consultant will develop:

- 1) A **kick off workshop** with the evaluation team to reach consensus on the evaluation approach and methodologies.
- 2) An **Inception Report**, which will form the basis for the ultimate agreement between parties for how the Mid Term Review is to be conducted. The Inception Report shall include:
 - Final purpose, objective, scope and subject of the Review;
 - An evaluative matrix, specifying the review criteria, and indicators or benchmarks against which the criteria will be assessed in order to answer the research questions in a valid and reliable manner;

³ Guidelines can be found in deliverables mentioned in this Terms of Reference.

- Data collection methodology, the criteria on which these methodologies are selected, and criteria for case selection;
 - Information collection, analysis and reporting;
 - List of sources, and criteria against which these are selected;
 - Any limitations of the MTR;
 - Detailed Work plan and time schedule, including a plan to (co-) organise the field visits;
 - Division of work within the team of consultants and the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium;
 - Detailed budget;
 - Risk and Mitigation strategy.
- 3) A **workshop and/or other means** which provides clear, feasible instructions for consortium members with regard to the outcome harvesting, reflection and analysis processes at country level.
- 4) Documents and presentations with the **findings** from the case studies (field visits) and provide (tailor made) recommendations for improvement of the individual projects in the portfolio. The presentation facilitates an exchange with country teams at the end of field visits and shared findings can then inform and support the consortium's internal Annual Planning Cycle. The consultant is invited to propose an appropriate form to disseminate these findings to the intended users;
- 5) Presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations during a RECLAIM Sustainability! Global Linking & Learning workshop in June.
- 6) A concise **draft Mid Term Review Report** (<50 pages, excluding Annexes):
- In English
 - All conclusions and recommendations should be based on solid and verifiable facts and/or argumentation
 - Recommendations should be formulated in a constructive manner
 - Include the following chapters:
 - i) Title page
 - ii) Table of contents
 - iii) Glossary of Acronyms
 - iv) Executive Summary
 - v) Introduction to the programme under review and objectives of the Mid term Review
 - vi) Evaluation methodology, challenges, possible bias and limitation
 - vii) Findings
 - viii) Lessons learned
 - ix) Conclusions
 - x) Recommendations
 - xi) Annexes will include -amongst other things- more detailed information on implementation level.
- 7) A concise **final Mid Term Review Report** (<50 pages, excluding Annexes), in which the feedback of the Evaluation Coordination Team and the PMEL advisors of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been processed.
- 8) A **presentation of the main outcomes** of the Mid Term Review to a selected audience.
- 9) A digital folder containing **data, methodologies and tools** for possible future use.

Dissemination and communication related to the review (input or outcomes) is the sole responsibility of the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium.

8. Team, organisation and coordination

The contact person and overall responsible for the coordination and management of the MTR process is the RECLAIM Sustainability! Global Linking and Learning coordinator, Arjen Mulder (arjen.mulder@solidaridadnetwork.org). He will be working with an internal Evaluation Coordination Team, consisting of various key stakeholders of the consortium. The members of the Evaluation

Coordination Team will be responsible for providing feedback and advice on the final Terms of Reference, supporting the final selection of consultants, providing feedback on the (feasibility of the) draft inception report, coordinating the implementation of the Mid Term Evaluation at country level, providing the necessary information required for this review, providing feedback on case studies, and providing feedback on the draft Mid Term Review Report.

The Evaluation Coordination Team will be advised by external PMEL advisors of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The assignment is led by one Lead Consultant. They are the main contact person for the RECLAIM Sustainability! Consortium. They will be responsible for the overall assignment, and will make the necessary internal arrangements to manage his / her team and the work. One or more junior positions could be accepted, for instance for collection and organisation of information.

9. Requirements of the Consultant(s)

9.1 Mandatory requirements

- Proven track record in undertaking complex, multi country evaluations;
- Proven track record in participatory approaches;
 - Demonstrated experience with the use of quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analyses;
- Demonstrated experience in evaluation of (inter)national advocacy processes;
- Demonstrated knowledge of Multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships;
- Demonstrated experience with sustainable development in supply chains / sectors in rural settings in development areas;
- Relevant university degree (Masters).

9.2 Preferred skills

- The assignment is to be fulfilled by a team of consultants with various expertise and access to a network of consultants with expertise in the various regions where the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium is active;
- Demonstrated expertise in operationalising gender transformative aspects;
- Demonstrated experience with sector development and a good understanding of its various stakeholders, their roles and positions;
- Demonstrated knowledge of supply chain development and inclusive business development, and the development of service delivery models, flexibility and openness to work collaboratively with the RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium partners, the Global linking and learning coordinator, the project teams and partners, the steering groups and the External Reference Group in a co-creative evaluation process;
- Excellent intercultural and interpersonal communication skills, including coordination, facilitation and presentation;
- Fluent in English, both spoken and written. Spanish and/or French is encouraged.

10. Timeframe and Planning

Date	Evaluation process
March 12	Proposals received
March 17	Consultant identified by Evaluation Coordination Team
March 22	Start inception phase Kick-off workshop
April 7	Draft Inception Report, including proposed standardised methodology for country level outcome harvesting and reflection / analysis processes and proposed case studies / field visits.
April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Inception Report approved by Evaluation Coordination Team Case studies confirmed by Evaluation Coordination Team
April 28	Start implementation and reporting phase PMEL advisors in consortium partners instructed and standardised methodology for country level outcome harvesting and reflection / analysis processes
June 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country-level outcome harvesting and reflection / analysis processes implemented and reported to consultant Case studies / field visits done by consultant (possibly linked to some of the outcome harvesting sessions at national level)
July 7	Preliminary findings and recommendations shared and discussed during planned RECLAIM Sustainability! Global Linking & Learning workshop
July 14	Preliminary findings and recommendations shared and discussed with RECLAIM Sustainability! Partnership Steering Committee (PSC). N.B. The PSC will use this input in the instructions for Planning 2024 (-2025), so RECLAIM Sustainability! consortium partners can include the recommendations in their Annual Plans for 2024.
1 September	Draft MTR report
15 September	Evaluation Coordination Team provides feedback on draft MTR Report
1 November	Final MTR report

11. Budget

For this Mid Term Review, a maximum budget of **EURO 135.000,-** is made available, inclusive of VAT and inclusive of international and local transportation, accommodation, subsistence and insurance.

12. Recruitment and appointment

Interested applicants are invited to submit proposals containing the following information:

1. A short introduction of no more than 3 pages, introducing the evaluator (or members of the evaluation team) and describing how the skills and competencies described in this ToR are met, with concrete examples as appropriate, including previous experience working as a team;
2. A short application outlining per research question (see section 3) the proposed methodology, tools and key deliverables;
3. A work plan, indicating also the expected role of RECLAIMSustainability! consortium partners;
4. A detailed budget, with a breakdown per activity of daily rates for each team member involved, number of days and other costs. The budget will be evaluated alongside the technical proposal and we reserve the right to make alternative suggestions on costing;
5. CV(s) of all team members, and information about their availability during the Mid Term Review process;
6. At least two relevant references from previous clients, including contact details;
7. At least two examples of recent and relevant evaluation reports. Please share a web link if it is published online.

The deadline for submission of proposals must be by the latest **Sunday 12 March 2023, 23:59 (CET)**.

Proposals should be send to Arjen Mulder (arjen.mulder@solidaridadnetwork.org)

For questions and more information about the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, please contact **arjen.mulder@solidaridadnetwork.org**. (+31 (0)30 272 0313)

Proposals will be assessed by the RECLAIM Sustainability! Mid Term Review steering committee in the period 5-8 March 2023 on experience, skills and competences, track record, quality and elaboration of the research proposal and methodological framework, feasibility and budget.

Outcomes of the assessment will be communicated with the applicant latest Friday **17 March 2023**.

All submitted proposals will be treated confidentially.

COLOPHON

Contacts Heske Verburg (heske.verburg@solidaridadnetwork.org)
Seth Tallvik (seth.tallvik@solidaridadnetwork.org)

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