

COCOA LIFE PROJECT

Background

Mondelez Cocoa Life program is being implemented and led by Mondelez International with CARE as an anchor implementing organization in collaboration with other partners at Wassa East District in Western Region. The project is working with 3,198 (M-1967: F-1,231) cocoa life registered farmers in 52 cocoa-producing communities on farmer-based intervention. The project also supports the 52 communities to implement projects on CAPs and reviewing CAPs. The project goal is to empower thriving cocoa communities as the essential foundation for sustainable cocoa.

The Cocoa program began in 2008 in Ghana, but currently CARE is being contracted to implement the Cocoa Life Extension project in Wassa East from September 2020 to end in December 2022.

Project Objectives

- The Mondelez International Cocoa Life is designed around three key focus areas namely:
Sustainable cocoa farming businesses
Working hand-in-hand with cocoa farmers to make cocoa farming a business of choice. We help farmers become more productive, so they can increase their income from cocoa.
- **Empowered cocoa communities**
Empowering the men, women, and youth within cocoa communities to lead their own development and improve their livelihoods through entrepreneurship.
- **Conserved and restored forests**
Protecting and restoring the land and forests where cocoa is grown, together with the farmers and communities.

Intervention in Combatting Deforestation and Building Climate Change Resilience

Cocoa Life is committed to eliminating deforestation, maintaining cocoa ecosystems, and protecting the land and the forests

Our Strategy

Cocoa Life is protecting the environment and ecosystems where cocoa is grown. We provide training in sustainable practices to increase productivity, protect forests, and make our communities more resilient to climate change. Our strategy is focused on three areas

Produce:

The project seeks to support cocoa farmers to increase their productivity, not only to increase their net income from cocoa but also to prevent them from expanding their farms to a new land and encroaching on protected forest

Cocoa Life farmers are expected to be farming and harvesting cocoa in a way that protects their future productivity by respecting the environment. The project continues to develop and include Good Environmental Practices in the productivity curriculum to train farmers

Farmers under the project are encouraged to plant more shade trees on their cocoa farms. This will retain humidity and reduce the impact of droughts, as well as support biodiversity.

Progress to date:

- Trained more than 3,000 registered Cocoa Life farmers and over 8,000 non-cocoa life farmers indirectly in 2021 on Good Agricultural Practices, like how to best use pesticides and how to plant shade trees.
- Collaborated with Cocoa Health and Extension Division (CHED) to distribute more than 120,000 thousand climate-smart cocoa hybrid seedlings in 2021 to increase productivity.
- Planted over 25,000 non-cocoa trees on cocoa farms in the district last year. Non-cocoa trees make cocoa farms more productive. Through diversification and providing shade, they help absorb carbon emissions and thus

Protect:

We believe a shared understanding of the challenge and common definitions is needed to discuss and align our strategies to tackle climate change

Progress to date:

- As an anchor implementing organization, CARE collaborates with our implementing partners and national entities to monitor rates of tree cover loss and to work toward restoring degraded forests
- Supported the Mapping of over 3,000 registered Cocoa Life farmers' farms to identify areas at risk, and with Global Forest Watch, monitoring tree cover losses and restoring degraded forests.

People:

Providing farmers and community members with financial management support to strengthen their resilience and ensuring that Community Action Plans prioritize forest protection

Progress to date:

- We support 239 youth within cocoa communities to run tree nurseries, which supply trees such as mahogany acacia, and fruit trees to cocoa farmers, to provide shade for the cocoa farms and work as a source of additional income.
- We are working with 102 VSLAs with a total membership of 2,620 (M-807: F-1813) in the district to empower women financially and to improve their standard of livelihood.
- 52 Communities in the district have had their CAPs reviewed or developed to incorporate into the district developmental plans by the assembly.