



SHAREDINTEREST
FOUNDATION

Annual Review 2024



A photograph of three women in a field of groundnuts. One woman in the foreground is wearing an orange t-shirt with 'VISIT COMBONI' and an Adidas logo. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. Two other women are in the background, one wearing a purple headwrap and the other an orange and black checkered headwrap. They are all surrounded by a large pile of harvested groundnuts. The background is a lush green field of tall crops.

**Launched in September 2023,
the Brian's Legacy SEED
Project empowers Ugandan
women groundnut farmers
to boost incomes and build
household resilience.**

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Front cover: Project participant and groundnut farmer Kiconco Peace, during the harvest in Kikarara, Uganda.

This image: Project participant and groundnut farmer Twikirize Vastine from Rushebeya, Uganda, works with other groundnut farmers during the harvest.



In Peru's southern highlands, young farmers are transforming coffee waste into an economic opportunity, creating marketable products and building lasting financial resilience.

Elvis Canchaya Macute (right) delivers training in coffee pulp production to young coffee farmer Nore Nieve Sullca.



Welcome

As we publish this year's Annual Review, we remain aware of the ongoing challenges facing farmers and artisans across the world. Factors like climate change, economic instability, and limited resources continue to impact rural communities' ability to build resilience and secure sustainable livelihoods.

In response to these challenges, Shared Interest Foundation has worked alongside farmers, artisans, and communities across Africa and Latin America to foster economic resilience and social empowerment. We were delighted to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Foundation this year. We are proud to say that over the past 20 years, we have delivered 51 projects, in 15 countries, reaching over 13,000 farmers and artisans.

The Foundation continues to deliver vital work providing technical support, enhancing business skills, and promoting sustainable production methods to strengthen local enterprises. These initiatives, supported by our donors and partners, have advanced our work in climate resilience, gender equality, youth involvement, and income diversification.

Our projects span diverse communities, from vegetable farmers with disabilities in Burkina Faso to coffee farmers in Rwanda. In Ivory Coast, we assisted young cocoa farmers in

improving farm productivity through sustainable practices. While new and ongoing initiatives strengthened beekeeping, agroforestry, and governance skills, allowing participants to build more resilient livelihoods.

These achievements were made possible through partnerships with local organisations, and the essential support of our donors. This year, our work contributed towards the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing poverty, promoting gender equality, driving climate action, and fostering strategic partnerships.

Team members visited projects in East and West Africa to meet participants, assess project progress, and conduct needs evaluations. These visits provided invaluable insights that will guide our ongoing and future work, reinforcing our commitment to improving lives through trade.

As Chair, I am deeply inspired by the achievements of our colleagues and partners, and by the positive impact we are making in rural communities. Our projects demonstrate the significant progress towards a world where trade fosters the opportunity for justice and inclusivity. This year's activities underscore our unwavering dedication to supporting sustainable livelihoods and empowering communities.

Chair, Dr Yvonne Gale

Our projects

In southern Burkina Faso, shea nut collectors face limited opportunities to increase their income. Shea butter production, with its high market demand, offers a valuable way for women to improve their financial resilience.

Improving Livelihoods

In 2022, we launched a 12-month project with Burkina Faso’s Fair Trade Network (PNCE-B) and COPRONOS, a local shea nut co-operative, to support 50 women in enhancing their shea butter production and livelihoods. With additional funding from the Evan Cornish Foundation, a second phase launched in March 2024, extending support to 40 more women. Participants are receiving training in shea butter production, marketing, and entrepreneurship skills to build capacity in processing and sales.

The first production cycle yielded 1,540 kg of shea butter, generating 1,800,000 XOF (£2,294), with part of the income reinvested into growing the enterprise further.



Case Study

Salimata Barro (pictured above), President of the COPRONOS Women’s Group, has been involved in agriculture for 18 years, relying mainly on seasonal work to support her family. She helped her husband on their family field and cracked cashew nuts during the dry season to sell to traders. “It was tough because after the cashew season, I had nothing else to do,” Salimata shared.

“The entrepreneurship training has allowed me to become more dynamic and rigorous.”

Through the project, Salimata received training in shea butter and soap production, which she describes as “a new source of employment.” She also gained new skills, explaining, “The entrepreneurship training has allowed me to become more dynamic and rigorous... After the training, I asked my husband for a plot of land, and I now produce beans and sesame.” Confident in the business’s future, Salimata and her group hope to acquire a machine to streamline production.



ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Improving livelihoods and contributing towards a reduction in poverty.



21 co-operatives received training in governance, business and finance skills



6 new enterprises were developed including peanut butter, honey and coffee pulp production



724 producers (64% women) received training in entrepreneurship and agri-business skills



1,755 modern beehives were distributed to 351 farmers to establish two beekeeping enterprises



No Poverty (1) Gender Equality (5) Decent Work and Economic Growth (8) Climate Action (13) Partnerships for the Goals (17)

In February 2024, we launched a 12-month project to strengthen 21 co-operatives across Africa and Latin America.

Securing Futures

The project focuses on improving governance, management, and financial capacity for organisations producing coffee, cocoa, honey, and hibiscus. These groups also receive financial support from our sister organisation, Shared Interest Society.

Key training areas include climate change adaptation, market access, coffee pricing along with risk management, business and financial planning. In Africa, we partnered with COLEAD, a Belgian organisation specialising in management development for agriculture. In Latin America, we are working with a Peruvian consultant experienced in supporting co-operatives in these areas.

Project participants from cocoa co-operative CADESA engaging in technical training in co-operative governance and management in Ivory Coast.



Participants constructing apiaries in Rwenzori, Uganda.



Farmers receiving training in beekeeping management in Rwenzori, Uganda.

Sustainable and climate-smart: this project launched in March 2024, with the first harvest due at the end of this year.

Bees for Business: Rwenzori

Our Rwenzori Bees for Business project, launched in March 2024, is empowering 141 coffee farmers (30% women) from Bukonzo Organic Co-operative Union (Bukonzo) to diversify into beekeeping. This additional source of income is sustainable, as honey can be harvested twice a year, and does not require fertile soil or additional land.

Local co-operative Bunyangabu Beekeepers provided the farmers with practical training in beekeeping skills and each farmer was provided with five hives. Twelve Bukonzo staff received training in apiary management, enabling them to support farmers and expand the initiative through their communities. The first honey harvest is expected to start in January 2025.

141
coffee farmers
(30% women)
have diversified
into beekeeping

In February 2024, we launched a 12-month project empowering coffee farmers in Uganda – nearly half of them women – to diversify their income through beekeeping.

Bees for Business: Kabwohe

Launched in February 2024, this 12-month project is supporting 210 coffee farmers (46% women) in western Uganda to diversify into beekeeping, providing an additional source of income alongside coffee farming. We are working in partnership with Banyankole Coffee Services (BCS), a Ugandan coffee co-operative, to deliver the project.

Over 1,000 modern beehives were locally constructed, with each farmer receiving five hives to place among their coffee trees. To support the hives, farmers also received ‘live stands’, which are strategically planted trees cut to hold the hives at

an optimal height. These live stands were chosen for their durability and shade-providing benefits as they grow, making them more sustainable than traditional metal or wooden frames.

All participants were trained in beekeeping and honey harvesting by an experienced local beekeeper. After the training, they received the necessary tools and equipment to manage their hives. To further enhance climate resilience and support coffee production, farmers also learned agroforestry skills and received agroforestry trees for planting on their coffee farms.

Case Study

Dan Kashurura, a member of Banyankole Coffee Services and a coffee farmer for 15 years, had long hoped to start beekeeping but lacked the resources. Through this project, he received five modern beehives and is now preparing for his first honey harvest.

Reflecting on his experience, Dan shared, “After training I got more knowledge and courage.”

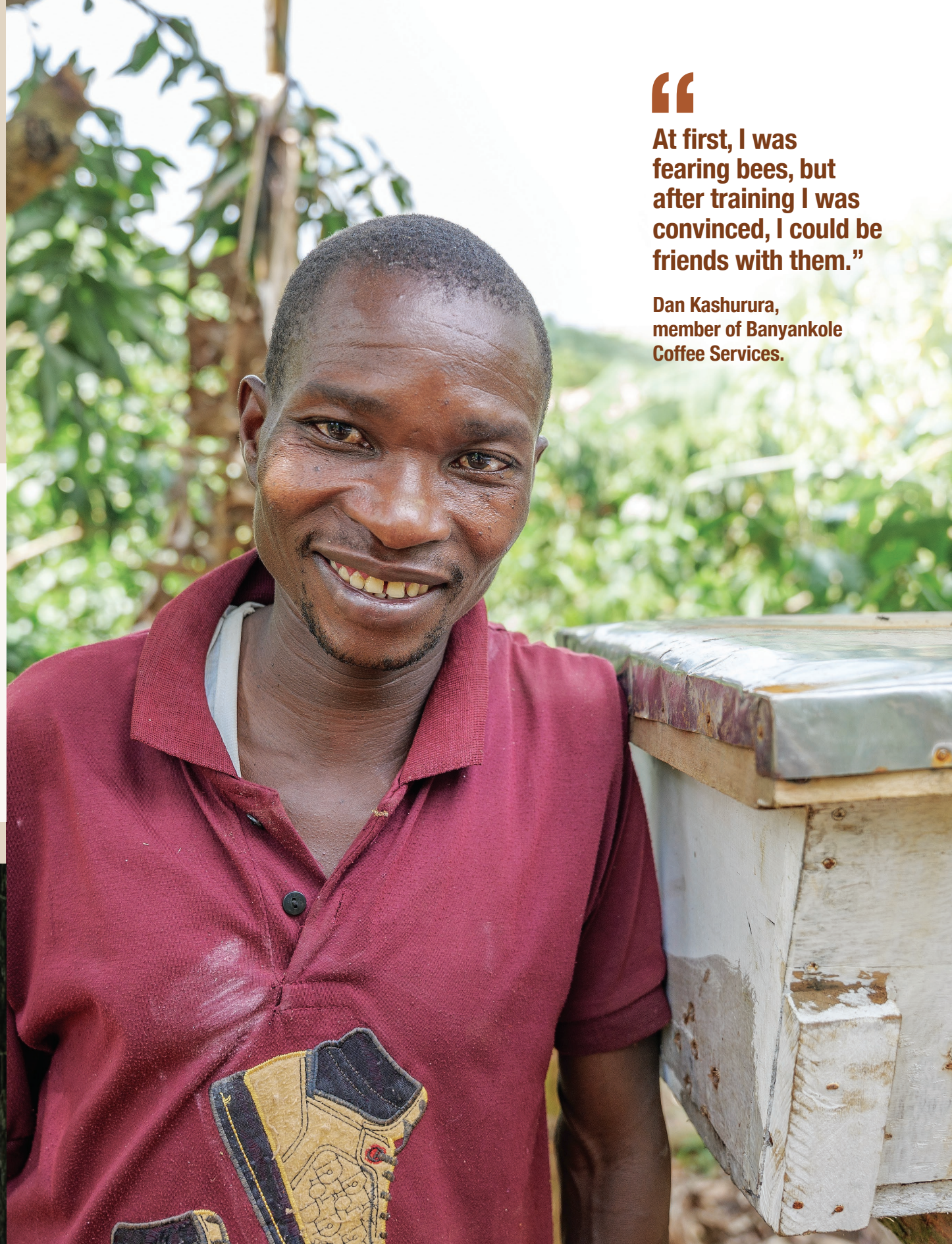
“

At first, I was fearing bees, but after training I was convinced, I could be friends with them.”

Dan Kashurura, member of Banyankole Coffee Services.



Members of the Banyankole Coffee Services receiving training in honey harvesting Kabwohe, Uganda.



In September 2023, we launched an 18-month initiative supporting 200 female groundnut farmers in western Uganda.

Brian’s Legacy SEED Project

Brian’s Legacy ~ SEED (Sustainable Empowerment through Enterprise Development) Project, launched in September 2023 through a partnership with the Ugandan NGO Literacy Action and Development Agency (LADA). The project is an 18-month initiative supporting 200 female groundnut farmers in western Uganda and aims to enhance their production capabilities and add value to crops by processing them into products like peanut butter, boosting income and strengthening household resilience.

This project is designed to generate increased income and build economic resilience for women farmers, helping them move beyond traditional farming practices.

To support the establishment of the groundnut processing enterprise, the following key activities have been delivered:

- Provision of agri-inputs including 6,000 kg of seed, 200 tarpaulins and 900 packaging sacks to project participants.
- Training in group leadership, agri-business skills and agro-processing skills.
- Construction of a Value Addition Centre (VAC), equipped with agro-processing machinery including a roaster and shelling machine, for the safe and controlled production of peanut butter and other products.



Case Study

Project participant Joselini Tumwekwase, pictured above, owns her own farmland and previously grew groundnuts on 0.5 acres of land. With the groundnut seed Joselini received through this project, she was able to expand her farm size to 1.5 acres, and as a result expects her production volume to increase from nine sacks of groundnuts to 17 sacks.

Joselini is also an active participant in her Savings Group which is providing the women an alternative form of finance to money lenders who charge a high interest rate. With the withdrawals she has made, she has been able to pay for school fees and will also employ 30 labourers to support her during the harvest, providing additional employment to her local community.

Joselini has been able to pay for school fees and will also employ 30 labourers to support her during the harvest.



Peanut butter produced as part of the project, western Uganda.



Precious Ayebare presenting her groundnut harvest. With the support from this project, she harvested 22 sacks of groundnut last season in Uganda.

In Peru's southern highlands, young farmers are turning coffee waste into opportunity, transforming coffee pulp into a marketable product and building financial resilience through an innovative project set to impact generations.

Building Resilience

In the southern highlands of Peru, many farmers face challenges in increasing household income due to limited opportunities for diversification. For young farmers, finding additional ways to supplement their income is crucial for building financial resilience. Traditionally, coffee pulp has been treated as a waste product, but now it presents a valuable opportunity to diversify earnings.

This 12-month project, launched in partnership with coffee co-operative Cooperativa Agraria Cafetalera Valle de Incahuasi (CACVI), is supporting 58 young coffee farmers from CACVI's Youth Committee to transform coffee pulp into a marketable product. The farmers

are being trained in producing dehydrated coffee pulp, which will be sold on the export market as an ingredient in energy drinks. For every 55 kg of pulp produced, farmers will earn 45 USD, with a collective target of 4,800 kg in the first year. Fifty-eight drying beds have been constructed for this purpose, and training in pulp production and quality control has been provided.

CACVI will establish a quality control centre to ensure the dehydrated pulp meets export standards, and the project will help build the co-operative's capacity to export independently, ensuring long-term sustainability. The first batch of dehydrated pulp is expected to be sold in January 2025.



Coffee pulp is dried in the southern highlands of Peru.



Coffee berries are laid out to dry on drying beds.

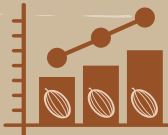
58
drying beds have been constructed to produce coffee pulp.

WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Improving participation in economic activities and increasing income.



352 women were trained in leadership, entrepreneurship and business skills



50 young cocoa farmers increased their monthly income by an average of 59%



193 young cocoa and coffee farmers were supported to increase their yield and income



513 women and youth diversified into new economic activities for increased income



No Poverty (1) Gender Equality (5)
Decent Work and Economic Growth (8)
Climate Action (13)
Partnerships for the Goals (17)

This five-year project, launched in December 2020, is working in partnership with cocoa co-operative CAYAT and continues to support 50 young farmers in establishing and expanding cocoa farms.

Growing Fairer Futures

During year four of this project, the farmers continued to receive support with farm maintenance activities in preparation for their harvest. These activities included the provision of fertiliser and additional labour to support with weeding and harvesting activities. The target yield for the first year of harvesting was 50 kg per farmer. The actual average harvest per farmer was 141 kg, significantly exceeding this target. As the trees continue to grow, the yield will steadily increase.

In 2024, yields massively exceeded expectations, with a

182%

increase per farmer.

In 2024, we expanded our project in Burkina Faso, empowering 75 women with disabilities to create a sustainable, high-yield enterprise.

Soilless Farming

Through funding from the EA Foundation, we expanded our soilless farming project in the city of Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso, supporting 75 economically vulnerable women with disabilities to establish a sustainable, organic vegetable production enterprise.

Using innovative soilless farming methods, which can produce yields 300% higher than traditional agriculture, the women will be able to grow vegetables year-round.

This method is particularly beneficial for people with physical disabilities, as it requires less physical labour due to the incorporation of technology.



Participant being presented a certificate after undertaking soilless farming training in Burkina Faso.



Participants engaging in soilless farming training in Burkina Faso.

In 2024, we have worked across the globe to help farmers implement climate adaptation methods.

Adapting to the Crisis

Protecting cocoa with biopesticide

In partnership with Félix Houphouët-Boigny University in Abidjan and the Ivorian Fair Trade Network (RICE), we launched an 18-month project in August 2024 to develop an innovative cost-effective biopesticide to protect cocoa trees from pests and disease. This groundbreaking initiative aims to increase cocoa production by strengthening farmers' capacity to identify pests, understand their life cycles, and prepare and apply the fungus-based biopesticide.

The project directly supports 200 cocoa farmers from four co-operatives. By gathering data and evidence, we aim to secure additional funding to scale up biopesticide production and distribution, contributing to the sustainability of the cocoa sector.

Climate-smart business skills

During the year we concluded a two-year project, working in partnership with Rwandan coffee co-operative, Tropic Coffee. This project supported 625 coffee farmers (112 women) to strengthen their resilience to climate change to improve their coffee production and increase household income. As part of this project, farmers received training in Good Agricultural Practices, organic compost making, climate smart agriculture and business and finance skills including saving schemes.

Two nurseries were established for the production of coffee seedlings, and native shade trees and fruit trees including avocado and papaya were distributed to farmers. The first coffee harvest from these new seedlings is expected in January 2025 and the fruit harvest is expected in January 2026.

Agroforestry and eco-friendly farming

Concluding in March 2024, this one-year project delivered in partnership with Ugandan coffee co-operative Banyankole Coffee Services (BCS), supported 300 coffee farmers (26% women) to increase their climate resilience through implementing agroforestry activities.

All farmers received training in agroforestry, climate resilience and eco-friendly farming practices. To encourage the farmers to implement eco-friendly farming practices, they were taught how to produce organic fertilisers using locally available materials to support their coffee production and reduce soil contamination.

Farmers also received coffee seedlings and agroforestry seedlings to plant on their farm. In total, 12,000 coffee seedlings and 4,300 agroforestry trees were distributed.



Jackson Mvyambi pictured with his wife Sylvia on their coffee farm in western Uganda.

“When we co-operate we learn more, we produce more and we have a bigger voice.”

Jackson Mvyambi, member of Banyankole Coffee Services.

Case Study

Jackson has been a coffee farmer since 1996 and joined BCS in 2016 because “when we co-operate we learn more, we produce more and we have a bigger voice”.

Jackson manages a 1.5 acre coffee farm which he has intercropped with mangos, bananas and passionfruits for additional income. Prior to this project Jackson was experiencing

challenges of coffee wilt from intense exposure to sunlight and fast absorption of water from the soil which was impacting upon his yield.

Through this project, Jackson received 10 agroforestry trees to plant among his coffee trees (when fully grown each agroforestry tree will provide shade to 40 coffee trees) and 40 disease resistant coffee seedlings to replace some of his

ageing trees. He also received a pruning saw and secateurs to support with coffee harvest and tree maintenance.

Jackson anticipates to start harvesting coffee from his newly planted trees in three to four years, and is hoping to see an improvement in yield from his current trees during the next harvest.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Supporting farmers to build climate resilience and increase environmental protection



12,000 climate and disease resistant coffee seedlings were planted by 300 farmers



11,500 agroforestry trees including fruit trees were planted by 510 farmers



925 farmers (191 women) were trained in eco-friendly farming practices



890 farmers are now producing their own organic compost following training



No Poverty (1)
Decent Work and Economic Growth (8)
Climate Action (13)
Partnerships for the Goals (17)

Shared Interest Foundation in 2024



Namara Scorah preparing her groundnut garden in Kikarara, Uganda.



With the support of
**1,205 DONORS
& 9 GRANT MAKERS**



We delivered
**14 PROJECTS*
IN 7 COUNTRIES**



We worked with
**13 LOCAL
PARTNERS**



To deliver training to
**1,892 FARMERS
(42% WOMEN)**

**We closed three of these 14 projects early in the year, as the activities were completed in 2023 and only the evaluation remained.*

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Year ended 30 September 2023			Year ended 30 September 2024		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Donations & grants	387	143	530	335	172	507
Interest income	6	-	6	16	-	16
Total income	393	143	536	351	172	523
Cost of fundraising	15	-	15	18	-	18
Charitable activities	213	119	332	251	209	460
Governance costs	4	-	4	4	-	4
Total expenditure	232	119	351	273	209	482
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit)	161	24	185	78	(37)	41
Funds brought forward	256	104	360	417	128	545
Funds carried forward*	417	128	545	495	91	586

**Of the unrestricted funds carried forward, £387k (2023: £322k) is committed to be spent on designated projects already underway or commencing in the new financial year.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees' role is to determine and monitor the implementation of the strategy for the Foundation, make sure that risks are managed appropriately, and provide a proper account to donors of the financial and social results of the Foundation.



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DUNCAN



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JAMIE
MILLER



CRISTINA
TALENS



PAUL
VALENTIN

Shared Interest Foundation receives grants from donor organisations, which enable us to deliver our projects. These funds account for around 40% of all our income, with the balance coming from the generous donations of individuals, groups, trusts and legacies, for which we are deeply grateful. These donations are vital as they allow us to develop and grow new projects based on robust needs analysis. Over the year, we have received new funding from the following trusts and

organisations (as well as from one trust that wishes to remain anonymous) and we would like to thank them all for their contribution to our achievements:

Brian Taylor Fund
EA Foundation
Evan Cornish Foundation
Fitzer Lacy Trust
Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission

Looking forward

As we enter 2025, we remain committed to helping communities break the cycle of poverty through the creation of sustainable, resilient businesses.

The climate crises continue to pose a significant challenge, with farmers facing volatile market prices, rising production costs, and extraordinary weather patterns such as prolonged droughts, extreme rainfall, and crop diseases.

These changes lead to reduced agricultural yields, particularly in areas lacking irrigation. Therefore, we will continue to provide vital support for climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

Key projects include the Biopesticide Project in Ivory Coast, where in partnership with Félix

Houphouët-Boigny University and the Ivorian Fair Trade Network, this pioneering initiative will directly support 200 cocoa farmers, aiming to increase yields by strengthening their capacity to manage pests. In Uganda, we will see results from the first honey harvests of our Bees for Business project as coffee farmers diversify into beekeeping to supplement their income. Our project working with 58 young coffee farmers in Peru on the production and sale of dehydrated coffee pulp will also conclude in the year ahead.

Furthermore, we are delighted to have secured a grant which will support our growth and long-term sustainability. Our Trustees have also allocated designated funding from our unrestricted income to deliver new projects next year.

Despite the ongoing challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering communities and creating lasting, positive change.

“

We were taught to make our own fertiliser and we were sensitised on pesticides and their application to increase our harvest.”

Groundnut farmer Jeninah Tumwebaze from Rushebeya, Uganda.




**In the past 20 years,
thanks to supporters like
you, we have delivered
51 projects,
in 15 countries,
reaching over
13,000 farmers
and artisans.**

shared-interest.com/foundation

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