A woman wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned dress and a pink headwrap stands in a greenhouse. She is surrounded by rows of green tomato plants supported by orange strings. The greenhouse has a metal frame and a translucent roof. The overall scene is bright and lush.

SHAREDINTEREST
FOUNDATION

Annual Review 2023

BUILDING RESILIENCE

DEVELOPING PIONEERING INITIATIVES TO GENERATE VITAL INCOME FOR COMMUNITIES

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THIS REPORT COVERS SHARED INTEREST FOUNDATION'S FINANCIAL YEAR FROM 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023. REFERENCES TO 'THIS YEAR' AND '2023' SHOULD THEREFORE BE READ AS THE ABOVE 12-MONTH PERIOD.

Front cover: Project participant Salimata Karambiri who is taking part in our 'Seed to Stall: Increasing self-sustainability through soilless vegetable farming' project.



**Project participant
Salimata Kirakoya.**

FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 16



WELCOME

It has been a year of achievement for Shared Interest Foundation, as we delivered a record number of projects across six countries.

We worked together with farmers, artisans and communities to establish and strengthen enterprises, increase employment opportunities and implement innovative methods of sustainable production. Thanks to our supporters, we have worked with organisations in Africa and Latin America to build their climate resilience and delivered projects aimed at increasing gender equality and the involvement of young people in agriculture and product diversification.

Over the past year, we have implemented 14 projects, helping develop pioneering initiatives to generate vital income for rural communities. Overall, this involved 3,408 farmers across six countries. These projects have enabled us to establish seven new enterprises including a shea butter enterprise and production and sale of organic vegetables, providing a source of income to 705 farmers, 69% of whom are women. Over 800 women received training in a range of topics including agro-processing, soilless farming, Climate Smart Agriculture, business skills and leadership. In Ivory Coast and Rwanda, we provided training, tools and

farming inputs to help over 200 young farmers establish sustainable cocoa and coffee farms. Additionally, 143,269 trees were planted including coffee seedlings, agroforestry trees and fruit trees supporting 1,423 coffee farmers.

Partnership plays a huge part in all of our projects and it is only with the support of partners, colleagues, volunteers, donors and grants from trusts and foundations that we are able to continue to support the talents of rural businesses. This year, we worked with 11 in-country partners, supporting producers of seven different commodities.

This year, the team had the opportunity to visit projects in East and West Africa to meet with project participants, monitor ongoing activities and conduct impact assessments. They also performed due diligence checks on potential partners and conducted needs assessments to inform our work and priorities.

As I embark on my term as Chair of the Trustees, I feel immensely privileged to take on this role. The activities detailed in this review underscore the significant impact our projects have had, and we take great pride in our achievements this year.

Chair, Dr Yvonne Gale



PROJECTS: ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



PARTICIPANTS:

Uganda: **365 coffee farmers (146 women)**

Burkina Faso: **50 female shea nut collectors**



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

Uganda: Increasing the resilience of coffee farming households

In rural Uganda, passion fruit farming has played an important role in supporting 365 coffee farmers, of whom 40% are women, by offering them a means to diversify their income sources. This diversification has not only increased household resilience but has also led to improvements in their coffee production. This two-year project, funded by The Marr-Munning Trust, was successfully delivered in partnership with local co-operative, Bukonzo Organic Farmers Cooperative Union (BOCU).

Under the initiative, participating farmers underwent training in passion fruit farm management. Additionally, each farmer was provided with 50 passion fruit plants for intercropping on their coffee farms, as well as essential farming tools. Furthermore, training in Good

Agricultural Practices, Climate Smart Agriculture and organic fertiliser production equipped farmers with the knowledge and skills required to effectively manage their coffee farms.

The project also extended its support to financial empowerment by delivering training in Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) Management. This resulted in the formation of 10 savings groups, with a total of 151 active members, with women constituting a significant 70% of the membership. Each group member contributes on a weekly basis and between February and May 2023, a sum of £1,638 was disbursed in the form of loans.

“The project has helped me obtain a second income in addition to coffee. I am able to cater for my basic needs. For example, I am able to pay school fees for my children, take care of other needs at home such as buying salt, soap and drinking juice as I wait for coffee to mature for sale.”

(Project participant)

“The co-operative has helped me, sometimes they give me premiums after selling, they pay for my coffee, they have also given us gardening tools to do activities like pruning and stamping of our coffee and many other things.”

Baluku Nason Kahangiro



Burkina Faso: Improving livelihoods through agro-processing

In partnership with Plateforme Nationale du Commerce Equitable Burkina Faso (PNCE-B) and COPRONOS, a local shea and nut co-operative, a 12-month value addition project was successfully implemented to enhance the resilience of 50 female shea nut collectors in southern Burkina Faso.

This project involved providing agro-processing training and tools to 40 participants, enabling them to transform shea nuts into butter and soap. The project extended support to a further 10 women in the production of soubala, a popular local spice made from the seeds of the néré tree, renowned for its high protein and dietary mineral content.

Before the project

84% reported having some knowledge in shea and local spice processing, but

82% said they were not able to engage in it due to high cost of equipment, limited knowledge of business management and lack of materials.

At the end of the project

100% of the group said they now have the skills and equipment to enable them to continue engaging in agro-processing activities.

Project participants working with the shea butter.





“Before, I was working – but in a traditional method due to lack of equipment and kits. I was producing at home, I didn’t have the right kits but I was managing. I didn’t have a table or knives. I was moulding with bare hands and producing for home consumption.

“Today, we are able to produce in commercial quantity. It will improve local consumption. My vision is to see the project grow to cover all women in the community.”

Salimata Barro, pictured above,
Chairperson of COPRONOS women’s group
and project participant.



**35 MANAGEMENT
TEAM MEMBERS**
from two co-operatives
were trained in business
and finance skills and
rural entrepreneurship



**705 PRODUCERS
(486 WOMEN)
INCREASED
THEIR INCOME**
through the development
of new enterprises



**7 NEW
ENTERPRISES
WERE DEVELOPED**
including shea butter and
passion fruit production,
and production and sale
of organic vegetables



**PRODUCER INCOME
INCREASED BY
170%**
(on average) as a result
of new enterprise
development

PROJECTS: WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



PARTICIPANTS:

Ivory Coast and Rwanda: **243 young coffee and cocoa farmers**

Ghana and Burkina Faso: **290 women**



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

Ivory Coast: Growing Fairer Futures

In Ivory Coast, this project is being delivered in partnership with local cocoa co-operative, CAYAT. During the first year, farmers received training in Good Agricultural Practices, Climate Smart Agriculture and agri-business skills. They were also provided with 37,500 cocoa seedlings and 625 shade trees. Currently, we are in the third year of this project, and the young farmers continue to receive essential farming inputs to maintain their farms, along with ongoing support and guidance from extension officers at CAYAT. The first harvest commenced in early November, with each farm projected to yield between 35 and 50 kg of cocoa.

Anita Akaffou (pictured right) is a cocoa producer who, before joining this project, had been assisting her parents in their family cocoa farm. Securing land for women presents a significant challenge, as societal norms often dictate that women will marry and relocate, while land is traditionally given to male family members.

With the support Anita received through this project, she managed to establish her own cocoa farm on land given to her by her father. She planted 500 cocoa trees and banana trees to offer crucial shade. These trees are thriving, and Anita is expecting to see her first harvest in November 2023. Her plan is to reinvest the income earned from this harvest to expand her farm, thus increasing her household income.



Rwanda:

Growing Fairer Futures

In Rwanda, we worked in partnership with coffee co-operative KOPAKAMA to support 193 young coffee farmers. Each participant underwent training to improve their farm management skills, bolster climate resilience and enable them to operate their businesses profitably. To facilitate practical group training, two demonstration plots were established. These plots, comprising 3,500 coffee trees, were strategically intercropped with soy beans, which the farmers sell on the local market for additional income. In total, 100,000 coffee seedlings were distributed to the farmers and the first harvest is expected early 2024.

Moreover, as part of this project, all young farmers have become members of a savings group. These groups were established with elected leaders, fostering a sense of community and financial empowerment among the participants.

Before the project

80%

of participants told us that they had poor or very poor access to tools and equipment.

By the end of the project

100%

of participants rated their access to tools as good or very good.

Before the project

50%

of participants rated their knowledge of disease and pest control as low or very low.

At the end of the project

100%

of participants rated their knowledge as average or above, with 42% rating their knowledge as high or very high.

Coffee berries are collected on a farm in Rwanda.





Burkina Faso: Bees for Business Dakoro solar panels

In Burkina Faso, we have maintained our partnership with PNCE-B to continue supporting the Benkadi de Dakoro women's group, located in the rural community of Dakoro. This group initially participated in our Bees for Business project in 2018. As part of our ongoing support, we facilitated the installation of solar panels to enable the group to process honey after dark when the bees are less active. This not only marked the community's first access to electricity but also empowered the group to significantly increase their honey processing capacity, subsequently boosting their income.

Furthermore, this newfound access to electricity has prompted the group to diversify into the production and sale of fruit juice. In addition to supporting the group's honey business, these solar panels are now supplying electricity to 20 households, benefitting 318 individuals including 201 children.

“We no longer fear to stay outside at night. The whole community is lit and we are able to stay out and do our chores.”

Djata Ouattara, member of Benkadi de Dakoro women's group.



Members of the Benkadi de Dakoro women's beekeeping group holding a group meeting outside their storage building next to the solar panel.



Naima Assiata Ouattara, a member of Benkadi de Dakoro women's beekeeping group, plugging in the new fridge powered by the solar panel.

“With the electricity we have installed fans in the honey processing facility and the room is no longer warm. We are able to work there at anytime.”

Massata Ouattara, member of Benkadi de Dakoro women's group.

In West Africa, soilless farming is providing an opportunity for women to increase their income through the production and sale of organic vegetables.

The technique is practised on land unsuitable for traditional farming and requires less water, enabling crops to be grown throughout the year.

Ghana: **Soilless vegetable farming**

In northern Ghana, in partnership with TradeAID Integrated, a handcraft producer and registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) located in the Bolgatanga region, we provided support to 60 economically vulnerable basket weavers to establish a soilless farming enterprise. This initiative led to the creation of six farms, each equipped with drip irrigation watering systems. Participants underwent training in soilless farming techniques, with guidance from

the Crop Science Department of the University of Ghana. In addition, they received comprehensive training in agri-business skills, rural entrepreneurship and nutritional education.

Upon completion of the first harvest, these farms yielded 6,038 kg of vegetables, including lettuce, peppers and aubergines. These fresh produce items were sold to 206 customers, resulting in total sales amounting to £1,932.



Project participant works on a group farm in the Sirigu Akondone community, Bolgatanga, Ghana.

Burkina Faso:

Soilless vegetable farming

In Burkina Faso, soilless farming has provided an opportunity for women residing in the semi-urban communities around the major city of Bobo-Dioulasso to engage in vegetable farming. This innovative approach has enabled them to cultivate organic vegetables for sale in the local market and for consumption at home. Funded by Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission, this project established two greenhouses with a combined area of 400m², supporting 200 women.

Each of the greenhouses has been equipped with a solar-powered drip irrigation system, connected to a borehole and water reservoir. Besides offering a sustainable water source for the farms, this borehole also addressed a longstanding need in the local community, which previously lacked consistent access to water.

Groupe d'Action des Femmes pour la Relance Economique du Houet (GAFREH), is a women-led organisation based in Bobo-Dioulasso which supports over 6,000 women to become economically empowered. GAFREH estimates that between 100 and 150 households have benefitted from this water source, with each household paying a nominal social fee of 250 XOF (£0.32) per 200 litres – this rate is half the price charged by the government. The income from the sale of water is being used to pay the salary of a security guard for the greenhouses and also support borehole maintenance.

Zeynab Ouedrago, Project Officer at GAFREH commented:

“The project has given visibility to GAFREH both locally and nationally. The Central Government, through the Minister of Social Action, has requested GAFREH to help train internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups to go into soilless farming.”

“Before participating in this project I had no activity as such. I only took care of household chores. My husband took care of everything. Even for my small needs you have to fall back on the husband. It was difficult for me.

“This project has led to changes in my life. I have received training and I have new knowledge about soilless agriculture. We also consume healthy products. Thanks to the income I receive here, I save it in our VSLA and I take the money to invest in the small business. It’s a new activity that keeps me busy.

“Soilless farming has many advantages: you no longer pay for the products you produce, you consume organic vegetables to stay healthy and you don’t need a lot of space to produce. You spend your free time and you don’t get bored.

“We will stay the course, gradually improve and diversify our production so that within the next two years we can build another greenhouse to train and integrate other women.”

Boulguissa Mandé, project participant, pictured on the following page.





Burkina Faso: Seed to Stall Increasing self-sustainability

Project participant Boulguissa Mandé tends to her vegetable plants.

Through funding from Evan Cornish Foundation, we extended our support to an additional 30 women, enabling them to establish soilless vegetable gardens at their homes. Following the training, each participant was provided with a production kit comprising tools, equipment and inputs, equipping them to create soilless gardens at home.

Since the training, some women have taken the initiative to establish locally made greenhouses to provide additional protection to their crops. In these expanded vegetable gardens, they are cultivating a diverse range of vegetables, including tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, peppers and aubergines.

During the baseline data collection

53%

(16 participants) told us they never ate vegetables at home.

At the end of the project

100%

of participants told us they now eat vegetables a minimum of once a week, with 27% saying they eat vegetables either daily or with every meal.



“I never heard of soilless farming and did not know I could grow vegetables at home using this technique. After the training we were given kits to start producing vegetables at home. I still doubted this technique until I saw the vegetables growing well at the collective greenhouse. This motivated me to start mine and the vegetables are growing well. I was so excited that I started another garden on a small space I got from my neighbour.”

Irene Ouédraogo, pictured below, watering her garden.



The baseline data also told us that at the start of the project, none of the 30 participants consumed organic produce due to its high cost and limited availability. At the end of the project, all the participants are now consuming the organic vegetables they produced on their farm at home.



563 WOMEN WERE TRAINED in leadership, entrepreneurship and business skills



348 WOMEN WERE SUPPORTED to join a VSLA (savings group) saving on average £0.20 each week



234 YOUNG FARMERS WERE TRAINED in GAP and provided with farming inputs to increase profitability



243 COCOA AND COFFEE FARMS WERE BUILT or expanded by young farmers in East & West Africa



A 125% INCREASE IN MONTHLY INCOME is predicted for young farmers based on projected yield

PROJECTS: BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE



PARTICIPANTS:

Peru: 225 sphagnum moss harvesters (85 women)

Rwanda: 625 coffee farmers (122 women)

Uganda: 300 coffee farmers (79 women)



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

Peru: Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation

Sphagnum moss, naturally found in the Andean region of central Peru, can serve as a sustainable source of income for rural communities when managed correctly. In partnership with Inka Moss, this 12-month project aimed to support 225 harvesters from five communities in the Huánuco region of the Andean area, enabling them to increase their income through the sustainable harvesting of sphagnum moss.

As the project progressed and awareness of the moss harvesting activities and income potential grew, the number of communities involved expanded from five to 28, benefiting over 1,000 harvesters. The participants underwent training in sustainable moss harvesting

techniques and environmental conservation methods. In order to improve the efficiency of the harvesting process, a winch system was installed. Prior to this installation, the 40kg sacks of moss would be transported down the hillside using pack animals (usually llamas), or the harvesters would carry them on their shoulders, often for up to two hours.

Before this project farmers earned income from growing vegetables, potato cultivation and livestock. 100% of the original participants had not harvested moss before.

Following this project, the average monthly income of participants increased from £165 to £300.

Juanjo Ladines, Project Supervisor and Impact Manager at Inka Moss, said: “The introduction of moss harvesting in a community allows it to thrive in its own land using its own natural resources in a sustainable way.”



Inka Moss harvesters using the newly installed winch system to transport sacks of moss.

Rwanda: Strengthening coffee producers' resilience to climate change

Working with Tropic Coffee, a Rwandan coffee co-operative, this two-year project, launched in February 2022, is supporting 625 coffee farmers (18% women) to enhance their coffee production while placing a strong emphasis on building resilience to climate change.

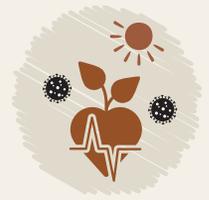
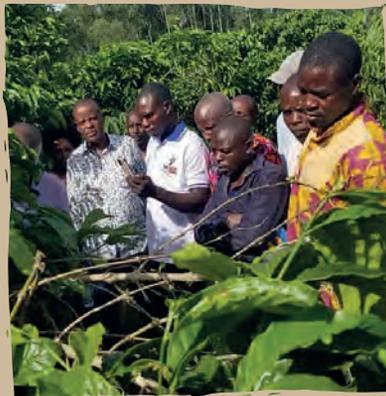
The farmers underwent training in Good Agricultural Practices, Climate Smart Agriculture and organic compost production. Following the training, all farmers have transitioned to producing compost collectively in groups, which has not only reduced

their production costs but also improved the quality of their coffee.

As part of this project, a total of 86,050 coffee seedlings and 10,919 shade trees were distributed among the participating farmers. Additionally, farmers received training in agri-business and financial management skills. Following this, Tropic Coffee opened a Savings and Credit Co-operative Organisation (SACCO). Currently 70% of farmers are saving within the SACCO and Tropic Coffee has set an ambitious goal of reaching 100% participation by the end of the project.

Uganda: Coffee farmers and agroforestry

In April 2023, we launched a project in western Uganda to increase the climate resilience of coffee farmers through agroforestry. Working with local coffee co-operative Banyankole Coffee Services (BCS), this project is supporting 300 of their members (26% women). The farmers have been trained in agroforestry, climate resilience strategies and eco-friendly farming practices in preparation for expanding their coffee farms. Twelve thousand disease and climate resistant coffee seedlings and 4,300 agroforestry trees have also been distributed among the farmers.



128,050 CLIMATE AND DISEASE RESISTANT coffee seedlings were planted by 1,068 farmers



15,219 AGROFORESTRY TREES were planted supporting 1,068 farmers



1,223 FARMERS (504 WOMEN) were trained in eco-friendly farming practices



768 FARMERS (189 WOMEN) were trained in organic fertiliser production



5,000 HECTARES OF UNCULTIVATED LAND PROTECTED from disruptive farming practices through sustainable moss harvesting

SHARED INTEREST FOUNDATION IN 2023



With the support of
2,089 DONORS
& 7 GRANT MAKERS



We delivered
14 PROJECTS IN
6 COUNTRIES
across Africa and
Latin America



We worked with
11 LOCAL
PARTNERS
including nine
co-operatives



3,408 FARMERS
AND ARTISANS
(27% WOMEN)
accessed training



We supported
producers of
7 DIFFERENT
COMMODITIES



Shared Interest Foundation receives grants from donor organisations, which enable us to deliver our projects. Over many years, 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 and we would like to thank them for their contribution to our achievements:

**Brian Taylor Fund
Guernsey Overseas Aid
& Development Commission**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Year ended 30 September 2022			Year ended 30 September 2023		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Donations & grants	217	93	310	387	143	530
Interest income	1	-	1	6	-	6
Total income	218	93	311	393	143	536
Cost of fundraising	12	-	12	15	-	15
Charitable activities	255	64	319	213	119	332
Governance costs	4	-	4	4	-	4
Total expenditure	271	64	335	232	119	351
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit)	(54)	30	(24)	161	24	185
Funds brought forward	310	74	384	256	104	360
Funds carried forward*	256	104	360	417	128	545

*Of the unrestricted funds carried forward, £322k (2022: £122k) 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.



PATRICIA
ALEXANDER

RICHARD
ANDERSON

MELISSA
DUNCAN

YVONNE
GALE

JAMIE
MILLER

CRISTINA
TALENS

PAUL
VALENTIN

LOOKING FORWARD

As we enter 2024, we remain committed to our strategy of helping communities break the cycle of poverty through the creation of sustainable, resilient businesses.

Climate change continues to pose a significant challenge to agricultural production, and farmers already dealing with volatile market prices and rising production costs are now dealing with extraordinary weather patterns, prolonged droughts, extreme rainfall and crop diseases.

These changes lead to reduced yields, particularly in areas lacking irrigation systems. Therefore, we remain committed to delivering much needed support for climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

This year, we will complete our projects strengthening the resilience of coffee farmers, supporting 625 farmers in Rwanda and 300 farmers in Uganda. Additionally, we are launching a new 18-month project in rural Uganda, which is funded by a family wishing to leave a legacy for their loved one. In line with our sustainable empowerment through enterprise programme, this project will provide 200 women with training, tools and equipment, enabling them to contribute to a reduction in household poverty through value addition by processing groundnuts into oil, butter and other products. We have also secured additional funding to increase the resilience of 40 female shea nut collectors in Burkina Faso, through the provision of agro-processing training and tools, allowing the women to produce butter and soap for the local and export market.

Building on our successful Bees for Business programme, we will

be launching two projects this year, which combined will support coffee farmers in two Ugandan co-operatives. Both projects will include the provision of equipment and training to enable the farmers to diversify into beekeeping as an additional income generating activity, while increasing their coffee production through the cross-pollination from the bees. To further support the growth of their coffee and increase climate resilience and biodiversity conservation, agroforestry trees will be distributed and the farmers will receive training in agroforestry.

Furthermore, we have allocated designated funding from our unrestricted income to deliver a technical assistance project designed to support 21 co-operatives in Africa and Latin America. Through a training programme encompassing topics such as good governance, co-operative management, financial management, market access and climate change adaptation, the primary goal of this project is to enhance the capacity of these co-operatives to efficiently manage their business and financial resources, thereby ensuring the sustainability of the co-operative itself and the support it offers to its members.





Women refill plastic buckets with substrate as part of the soilless farming project with TraidAID Integrated.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK IN 2024

shared-interest.com/foundation

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