

**SHAREDINTEREST**  
**FOUNDATION**  
ANNUAL REVIEW 2025



# Resilience in Action

A group of women in a rural setting are carrying large metal pots on their heads. They are dressed in colorful, patterned traditional clothing. The background shows a dry, brushy landscape under a clear sky. The women are walking along a path, and their expressions are focused on their task.

Participants of the Improving Livelihoods Through Shea Agro-Processing project carry water to mix with raw shea nuts to form shea butter.

**“The shea project has helped me to start my own business. Now I have money to feed my children and to supply their school needs.”**

Project participant Fatoumata Traore





Halimata Sawadogo, Seed to Stall project participant in Burkina Faso.



# Welcome

As we publish this year's Annual Review, the global trading environment remains uncertain. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis, fluctuating interest rates and continuing geopolitical instability have added pressure to an already challenging landscape for farmers and artisans. 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 have continued to deliver vital work providing technical support, enhancing business skills, and promoting sustainable production methods to strengthen local enterprises. During the year, we delivered 15 projects focussing on climate adaptation, financial management, and women's leadership, helping producer organisations to develop practical skills and embed long-term resilience. These initiatives, supported by our donors and partners, have advanced our work in climate resilience, gender equality, youth engagement, and income diversification. Our projects span diverse communities, including coffee, cocoa, handcraft, shea and groundnut farmers. These projects have enabled us to support the establishment of six new enterprises, providing a source of income to over 800 farmers (74% women).

Moreover, almost 1,000 women received training in a range of topics including agro-processing, soilless farming, Climate Smart Agriculture, business skills and leadership. We also provided training, tools and farming inputs to help over 100 young coffee and cocoa farmers establish sustainable cocoa farms and explore income diversification opportunities. Additionally, 107,200 trees were planted, including coffee seedlings and agroforestry trees, supporting 710 coffee farmers.

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

As Chair, I am proud of our achievements, and the meaningful difference we continue to make in rural communities. Our work is contributing to a world in which trade fosters the opportunity for justice and inclusivity. This year's activities reaffirm our strong commitment to supporting sustainable livelihoods and empowering communities.

**Chair, Dr Yvonne Gale**

# EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH

## 58

**YOUNG COFFEE FARMERS**

were supported to diversify into dehydrated coffee pulp production



## 115

**WOMEN**

trained in soilless farming techniques to increase financial resilience



## 193

**WOMEN**

trained in leadership and entrepreneurship skills



**75 WOMEN**

with disabilities trained in soilless production methods, growing

## 5,171 KG

of organic vegetables



## 200

**FEMALE GROUNDNUT PRODUCERS**

supported to form three registered co-operatives, boosting their economic empowerment



## OUR PROJECTS

### WOMEN AND YOUTH

# Soilless farming in Burkina Faso

This project, funded by the EA Foundation, supported 75 economically vulnerable women with disabilities in Burkina Faso to establish a sustainable, organic vegetable production enterprise using soilless farming methods. This climate-resilient approach does not require fertile land and is particularly well suited to people with physical disabilities, as the use of technology makes it less labour-intensive than traditional farming practices.

All of the women involved are members of the Association Fraternité des Personnes Handicapées Physique de Bobo (AFPHPB). The 13-month project was delivered in partnership with Groupe d'Action des Femmes pour la Relance Économique du Houet (GAFREH), a local NGO supporting the economic development of more than 6,000 women, and the Plateforme Nationale du Commerce Équitable Burkina Faso (PNCEB), the country's fair trade network.

*"This project has unified us even more than ever and it is fulfilling to see us working together to grow organic vegetables to sell to the public. It has given us the opportunity to prove that despite our disability, we can also work to support ourselves and our families. At the greenhouse we feel at home, we are like a big family. I am very satisfied with the quality of the vegetables produced. Our products looked even better than what is typically found on the market."*

*"I used to be seen as useless even within my own family. But since we got this greenhouse and I have been actively participating, my family has started to respect me. It feels as if I finally have a job. I am no longer sad."*

**Mariam Traore,**  
project participant,  
pictured right



**“I am beginning to feel hopeful ... I finally have a job. I am no longer sad.”**



## WOMEN AND YOUTH

# Growing Fairer Futures

This five year project, launched in December 2020, is working in partnership with cocoa co-operative CAYAT to support 50 young farmers to establish a new cocoa farm or expand an existing one, and implement improved farming practices to increase yield and income.

Total production has increased by 146% between years three and four, as the trees have matured and cocoa pod production increased. In the final year of this project, farmers have continued to receive support with farm maintenance and harvest activities.

## Noel Kouakou Kouman

**Noel (pictured above) manages a two-hectare farm.**

Through the project, he has received training in soil management techniques, including mulching, which he is now implementing across his farm. He has also received fertiliser to support the continued growth of his trees.

As a result, Noel has reported an increase in production. Noel's cocoa harvest in October 2023 was 94kg. By November 2024 this had increased to 209kg, and his income from the sale of cocoa subsequently increased from £122 to £409.

This income from cocoa has also enabled Noel to establish new enterprises;

*"Part of this income from cocoa was also invested in creating a corn and cassava field, as well as trading Chinese bamboo. Cocoa has also allowed me to start a small local chicken farm. The income from cocoa is not enough on its own, but it helps us a lot."*

## WOMEN AND YOUTH

# Empowering women through vegetable cultivation

In Nicaragua, we partnered with coffee co-operative Sacaclí, to support 40 women farmers to produce cherry tomatoes and chilli peppers as a source of additional income. Vegetables are being grown using semi-hydroponic methods which is not dependent on rainfall or fertile land. This provides greater resistance to pests and disease, and allows for year-round production. Two greenhouses have been constructed and fitted with growing beds filled with an organic substrate which is more sustainable than regular soil, and equipped with drip irrigation systems.

To enable the women to manage these new farms, they received practical training in semi-hydroponic farming methods. An additional 20 women involved in Sacaclí's existing women's empowerment projects joined this group of 40 women to receive financial literacy training, strengthening their capacity to manage and sustain their enterprises.



Project participant Elvira del Socorro Herrera Blandon, from the co-operative, harvesting tomatoes.



Doris Cruz and Mirna Liz Cruz Tórrez in the production area as they hold freshly harvested bell peppers.

## WOMEN AND YOUTH

# Boosting farmers' resilience through coffee pulp

Delivered in partnership with Peruvian coffee co-operative CACVI, this project increased the income of 58 young coffee farmers in the district of Inkawasi, in the southern highlands of Peru.

As a result of the project, the young farmers produced dehydrated coffee pulp, which will be used as an ingredient in caffeine based drinks. Coffee pulp is a by-product obtained from the wet processing of coffee, representing up to 40% of the fruit's weight. Incorrect disposal of coffee pulp poses environmental threats as it can pollute water sources and farmland.

Following the first production cycle, 6,000kg of pulp was produced and sold for the equivalent of £11,297. Beyond immediate financial gains, the project brought a notable change in mindset among the young coffee farmers. Previously relying on a single cash crop, they are now equipped with the technical and business skills to pursue new income opportunities and to add value to what was previously regarded as agricultural waste.

**58** young coffee farmers increased their income



Coffee beans drying in the sun.

## WOMEN AND YOUTH

# Crafting Fairer Futures: supporting artisans with sustainable crafts

In western Uganda, we partnered with Rwenzori Sustainable Trade Centre (RSTC), to support 200 artisans (80% women and youth) from four craft associations to enhance their livelihoods through the sustainable use of banana fibre as an alternative eco-friendly production material.

To provide technical support and training to the producer groups, we are also working with Ugandan social enterprise, TEXFAD. Based in Kampala, TEXFAD process waste banana stems into a fibre for the production of handwoven textiles for the domestic and export market.

Through the provision of equipment and technical training delivered by TEXFAD, the artisans will learn to process the waste stems into a fibre, which can be used to weave baskets and other handcraft items.

**(Top right) Muhindo Waridah, artisan at RSTC, weaving banana fibre using a handloom.**

**(Right) Artisans at RSTC display banana fibre mats developed during weaving training provided by Ugandan social enterprise TEXFAD.**

Additional training in product design and development will enable the artisans to diversify into new product designs to meet changing consumer demands and attract new eco-conscious buyers.

To promote the products, RSTC will work closely with WFTO Africa, to co-ordinate participation in exhibitions and establish a marketing campaign. A production centre has been constructed and equipped with two fibre processing machines and 30 handlooms.



# BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

# 100,000

climate resilient coffee seedlings have been planted to support **500 FARMERS**



# 200

**COCOA FARMERS**

received training in biopesticide production and pest management



# 7,200

agroforestry trees planted supporting **210 UGANDAN COFFEE FARMERS**



# 210

**COFFEE FARMERS**

received training in agroforestry skills and soil management



## CLIMATE RESILIENCE

# Côte d'Ivoire Growing better cocoa, naturally

In partnership with the Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, University of Ghana, and the Ivorian Fair Trade Network (RICE), this project is developing a cost-effective biopesticide to protect cocoa trees from pests and disease and increase cocoa production.

Over the past 12 months, the project has developed and extensively tested a biopesticide formula. In July 2025, a field trial was conducted across four co-operatives working with 200 cocoa farmers. The farmers were trained in how to identify different pests and how to prepare and apply the biopesticide.

## What is a biopesticide?

Biopesticides are made from living organisms or naturally occurring sources and used to control pests, either by killing them directly or by disrupting their life cycle, such as preventing the development of resistant strains.

One of the main benefits of biopesticides is that they are environmentally friendly and can be used without harming non-target organisms. Overall, biopesticides offer several advantages, including being eco-friendly, cost-effective, and safer for human health.



**(Above)** Cocoa farmers from co-operative ECAKOOG participate in the preparation and application of biopesticide.

**(Left)** Farmers at the cocoa co-operative SOCAAN, a participant in this biopesticide project, prepare to apply the biopesticide to a sample of cocoa trees during a field trial to assess its effectiveness.



# DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES

## 591

**PRODUCERS  
(64% WOMEN)**

have received training and equipment to establish a new, profitable enterprise



Two value addition enterprises in shea butter and peanut butter production have been established supporting

## 351

**WOMEN**



## 21

**PRODUCER  
ORGANISATIONS**

received training in financial and business management skills



## 351

**COFFEE  
FARMERS  
(40% WOMEN)**

received training in agri-business skills to increase farm sustainability



## SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES

# Improving lives through shea agro-processing

In partnership with Plateforme Nationale du Commerce Equitable Burkina Faso (PNCE-B) and COPRONOS, a local shea and nut co-operative, this project supported 40 women to process shea nuts into high-value shea butter.

The women received training in butter production techniques, marketing and entrepreneurship skills. Following the first production cycle, 3,418 kg of butter was produced and sold for £5,335. The women reported using this income to purchase food for their family, increase their savings, make improvements to their home and pay the school fees of their children.

By moving up the value chain, these women have transitioned from being raw material suppliers to active entrepreneurs with greater control over their income and decision-making.

*“When school reopens, I struggled to supply my children’s school needs, but since I started earning some money through the shea project, my income has increased and I supply the children’s school needs with ease.”*

**Mariam Kone,**  
project participant,  
pictured right.

In August 2025, we launched a third shea processing project, funded by Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, to increase the group size to 151 women (the whole female membership of COPRONOS) and to transition into mechanical production to improve productivity and income. As part of this project, a borehole has also been established to provide access to water, a vital component in butter production, and access to clean water for 300 rural households.

**“My income has increased and I supply the children’s school needs with ease.”**



## SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES

# Bees for Business Kabwohe

In partnership with Ugandan coffee co-operative, Banyankole Coffee Services (BCS), we supported 210 coffee farmers (46% women) in western Uganda to diversify into beekeeping, providing them with a second source of income alongside coffee farming.

Farmers were each provided with modern beehives, and beekeeping equipment and received training in beekeeping and honey harvesting. A honey processing shop was established where BCS farmers received training in honey processing methods. Following the first harvest, 2,018 kg of honey was produced and sold for £8,704.

By integrating beekeeping into coffee farming, the bees will cross-pollinate

the coffee trees leading to an increase in yield. As a result of these project activities, 81% (141) of farmers were confident or very confident that their production would increase and that coffee would provide them with a sustainable income.

The achievements of this project show how strategic livelihood diversification can boost the resilience and economic security of coffee-farming households. By enabling smallholder farmers to integrate beekeeping with coffee farming, the project reduced farmers' reliance on a single crop that is vulnerable to climate and market fluctuations. This change lays the foundation for more stable incomes and improved household well-being.



# 210

coffee farmers supported  
(46% women)

(Below left) Members from Banyankole Coffee Services (L) visit project participants Jackson and Sylvia Muyambi (R).

(Below) Beekeeper and coffee farmer Beebwa Joseph Baryamutuha inspects his beekeeping equipment.





**“My plan is to expand and grow from 10 beehives to at least 50 beehives.”**

Sylvia Muyambi, a beekeeper and coffee farmer from Sheema district inspects her beehives that she received from Banyankole Coffee Services.

## SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES

# Bees for Business Rwenzori

Working in partnership with Ugandan coffee co-operative, Bukonzo Organic Co-operative Union (Bukonzo), this project supported 141 coffee farmers (30% women) in western Uganda to diversify into beekeeping. Technical support was provided by local beekeeping co-operative, Bunyangabu Bee Keepers (BBC).

A honey house was constructed to provide a clean space designed for the processing of honey and training in processing methods was delivered to Bukonzo staff.

At the end of the project, 2,293 kg of honey has been produced and sold, generating income of over £5,000. Bukonzo have also showcased their honey at local exhibitions to promote their products and attract buyers.

This project has provided smallholder farmers with the resources, skills, and market access needed to integrate beekeeping into their livelihoods successfully. This dual-income strategy enhances resilience against economic and environmental shocks, supports sustainable rural development, and strengthens the capacity of local co-operatives to drive inclusive growth.



Honey harvested by the coffee farmers is bottled at Bukonzo's honey house following quality checks.



Coffee farmers, participants in this Bees for Business project, observe practical demonstrations in honey extraction methods.

*“The establishment of the Bees for Business project will supplement the farmer income. Farmers will be able to meet their basic needs and save for the future in their saving groups.”*

**Josinta Kabugho,**  
General Manager of Bukonzo

**141**  
coffee farmers  
supported  
(30% women)

## SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES

# Brian's Legacy ~ SEED (Sustainable Empowerment through Enterprise Development)

Launched in 2023, this project supports 200 female groundnut farmers in adding value to their crops by processing them into products like peanut butter.

After a pause, the project resumed in June 2025. Since then, activities have focused on forming three registered co-operatives and providing training in group management and financial literacy. Groundnut processing is set to begin in January 2026, after the December harvest.



## SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES

# Technical Assistance to grow and thrive

Launched in February 2024, 21 organisations, participated in a 12-month training programme designed to address identified business needs and areas of weakness.

To deliver the training in East and West Africa we worked in partnership with Belgian non-profit COLEAD, and in South and Central America we partnered with Peruvian consultant Jose Fernando Reyes, and his team of experts.

Topics covered included; Business and Financial Planning, Climate Awareness, Strategic Planning and Price Risk Management.

In Africa, all organisations were supported to enhance business and management plans to support member and staff engagement and governance compliance.

In Latin America, organisations made significant improvements to their Governance and Leadership Succession Plan with a focus on gender and strategy.

Lauben Enock, General Manager of participating organisation Banyankole Coffee Services, commented;

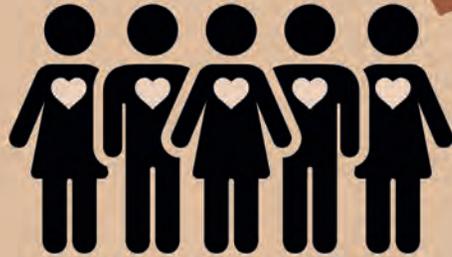
*"We now have a financial reporting procedure. We know where the transaction begins up to the approval. This has created transparency and accountability within our organisation."*

# SHARED INTEREST FOUNDATION 2025

With the support of

# 1,878

**DONORS**  
& 8 GRANT MAKERS



We delivered

# 15

**PROJECTS**  
in 7 countries  
across Africa and  
Latin America



We worked with

# 15

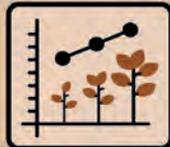
**LOCAL  
PARTNERS**  
including 7  
co-operatives



To deliver training to

# 1,852

**FARMERS**  
(49% WOMEN)



Supporting producers of

# 8

**DIFFERENT  
COMMODITIES**  
(cocoa, coffee, groundnut,  
handcrafts, hibiscus, honey,  
shea and vegetables)



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Shared Interest Foundation receives grants from donor organisations, which enable us to deliver our projects. These funds account for around 26% of all our income, with the balance coming from the generous donations of individuals, groups, trusts and legacies, for which we are deeply grateful. 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:

**Chocolonely Foundation**

**Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission**

**The Marr-Munning Trust**

**Smallholder SustainAbility Upscaling Programme (SSNUP)**

	Year ended 30 September 2024			Year ended 30 September 2025		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Donations & grants	335	172	507	493	175	668
Interest income	18	-	16	15	-	15
<b>Total income</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>683</b>
Cost of fundraising	18	-	18	19	-	19
Charitable activities	251	209	460	362	143	505
Governance costs	4	-	4	5	-	5
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>529</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit)	78	(37)	41	122	32	154
Funds brought forward	417	128	545	495	91	586
Funds carried forward*	495	91	586	617	123	740

\*Of the unrestricted funds carried forward, £300k (2024: £387k) 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.



**RICHARD  
ANDERSON**



**KERREY  
BAKER**



**MELISSA  
DUNCAN**



**YVONNE  
GALE**



**JAMIE  
MILLER**



**CRISTINA  
TALENS**



**PAUL  
VALENTIN**



# Looking forward

As we enter 2026, our commitment remains strong to help communities break the cycle of poverty through the creation of sustainable, resilient businesses.

We continue to navigate an increasingly complex global landscape, where ongoing climate shocks and volatile market conditions have placed pressure on the farmers and artisans we support.

Our work continues to focus on three key themes; Developing Sustainable Enterprises, Building Climate Resilience and Empowering Women and Youth. We believe this focus reflects our commitment to improving livelihoods by driving transformative change within the most vulnerable and disadvantaged parts of the world.

We have secured restricted funding to implement two projects in West Africa aimed at empowering women economically. In addition, we will utilise designated unrestricted funds to deliver four further projects across Côte d'Ivoire, Peru, Rwanda and Uganda. These initiatives will enhance the climate resilience of coffee and cocoa farmers through innovations in biofertiliser, tailored training, and value addition.

We are also excited to have begun our first joint Strategic Review with our sister and founding organisation, Shared Interest Society, which will see us closer aligned to achieve our joint mission. We believe that together we are stronger, and able to make a meaningful and lasting impact for the most marginalised communities across the globe.

Salamata Barro, participant of our shea agro-processing project in Burkina Faso.

**In the past 21 years,  
thanks to supporters like you,  
we have delivered**

**66 projects,  
in 15 countries,  
reaching over  
14,000 farmers  
and artisans.**

**[shared-interest.com/foundation](https://shared-interest.com/foundation)**



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