

# EVERYONE DESERVES

**Annual Review 2020**

This Annual Review covers the period from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020



# THE CHANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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Bukonzo coffee farmer, Kabugho Meresi harvests fresh coffee cherries in Kinoni village, Kasese District, Uganda >  
Cover image: Bukonzo coffee farmer Mary Kalyatha and her granddaughter Biira Unice at their home in Kinoni village, Kasese District, Uganda





# Welcome

**It has been a year of achievement for Shared Interest Foundation, as we delivered seven projects across six countries in the last 12 months.**

In direct response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we relaunched our Livelihood Security Fund this year. The Fund is in place to help sustain businesses and support income levels, but in the first instance we must respond to basic needs. Shared Interest Society customer, Bukonzo Organic Farmers Co-operative Union (BOCU), became the first beneficiary. They were subsequently able to offer food and shelter to 1,200 Ugandan farmers displaced by extreme flooding.

Despite the challenges faced in the latter part of the year, we continued to provide training and business support to small-scale producer groups in Africa and Latin America. Working with in-country partners, we launched four new projects and concluded three. Being collaborative has helped us broaden our reach, and this year we supported 25 co-operatives in Kenya, Uganda and Malawi, 50 young cocoa farmers in Ghana, and 84 coffee farmers in Nicaragua.

We also launched two new projects in Burkina Faso to support women beekeepers. One project will help an established group to diversify into sesame, and the other will support a community to move away from the precarious goldmining industry they currently rely on.

With the growing impact of climate change, much of our training this year focussed on Good Agricultural Practice. Our project in Malawi saw farmers reporting improvements to their crops, and an increase in household income. In Ghana, young cocoa farmers have a new income source and food supply after learning how to plant maize and plantain amongst their cocoa tree seedlings.

Meanwhile, using carbon-offset funds, our Nicaraguan project encouraged coffee farmers to consider reforestation, increase soil fertility, and improve their yield through improved water management techniques and strategic tree planting.

We believe everyone has the right to provide for themselves and their families. It is the support of donors, trusts, and grant-giving bodies that helps us work towards this. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone involved.

**Chair, Mary Coyle**


**Bwambale Stephen operates a mechanised pulper at a BOCU micro-processing station in Uganda >**





## PROJECT 1

# Livelihood Security Fund

 **LOCATION:**  
Across Africa and  
Latin America

 **BENEFICIARIES:**  
1,200 coffee farmers

 **1: NO POVERTY**  
**2: ZERO HUNGER**

As the global impact of Covid-19 continues to unfold, it remains unclear how developing world communities will cope with the health, economic, and social hardship caused. In addition to restrictions on movement and trade, producers are also dealing with floods and delayed harvests, which are threatening livelihoods and increasing food insecurity.

In direct response to these challenges we re-launched our Livelihood Security Fund, to help farmers and workers in Africa and Latin America, meet their basic needs and support their income levels, during and beyond the pandemic.

In May 2020, the Fund enabled us to support Bukonzo Organic Farmers Co-operative Union (BOCU) growing coffee in Western Uganda, when 1,200 of their farmers were displaced by flooding.

Coffee farmer, Masereka Exavia said:

**“All the crops I had grown in the valley were washed away.”**

Bukonzo was able to provide food and shelter for farmers, and additional support for pregnant women and children. Some had lost everything they owned and were sleeping in schools and churches.

Masereka continued:

**“It relieved us from the hunger that we were facing.”**



**Donate to our  
Livelihood Security Fund here:**

[shared-interest.com/  
livelihood-security-fund](https://shared-interest.com/livelihood-security-fund)

Bukonzo farmer Ithungu Kezia sorts fresh coffee beans with her infant son at a coffee micro processing station in Uganda >





## PROJECT 2

# Sustainable solutions to poverty in Malawi



LOCATION:  
Malawi



BENEFICIARIES:  
81 tea, macadamia  
and groundnut  
farmers (32% female)



1: NO POVERTY  
8: DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH  
17: PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

In March 2020, we concluded our three-year project in Malawi, which was funded by the Marr-Munning Trust.

The project was designed to improve the income of five co-operatives through the implementation of agricultural training, business support, and a mentoring programme.

Working in partnership with Malawi Fairtrade Network (MFTN), we supported three tea co-operatives in southern Malawi as well as a groundnut co-operative, and a macadamia co-operative in the northern regions.

The training and mentoring on good agricultural practices enabled the co-operatives to increase their production and sales.

“I am now very happy because I am now harvesting my good leaf. You can observe that my farm is clean of weeds. My friends and I have established our small nursery that will help us to access seedlings to fill the farm gaps in order to increase the number of trees and production.”

**STELLA MAGALASI,  
FARMER AT THUCHIRA TEA ASSOCIATION**

“With my increased income I have managed to construct a good house with an iron sheet roof, much better than it was before.”

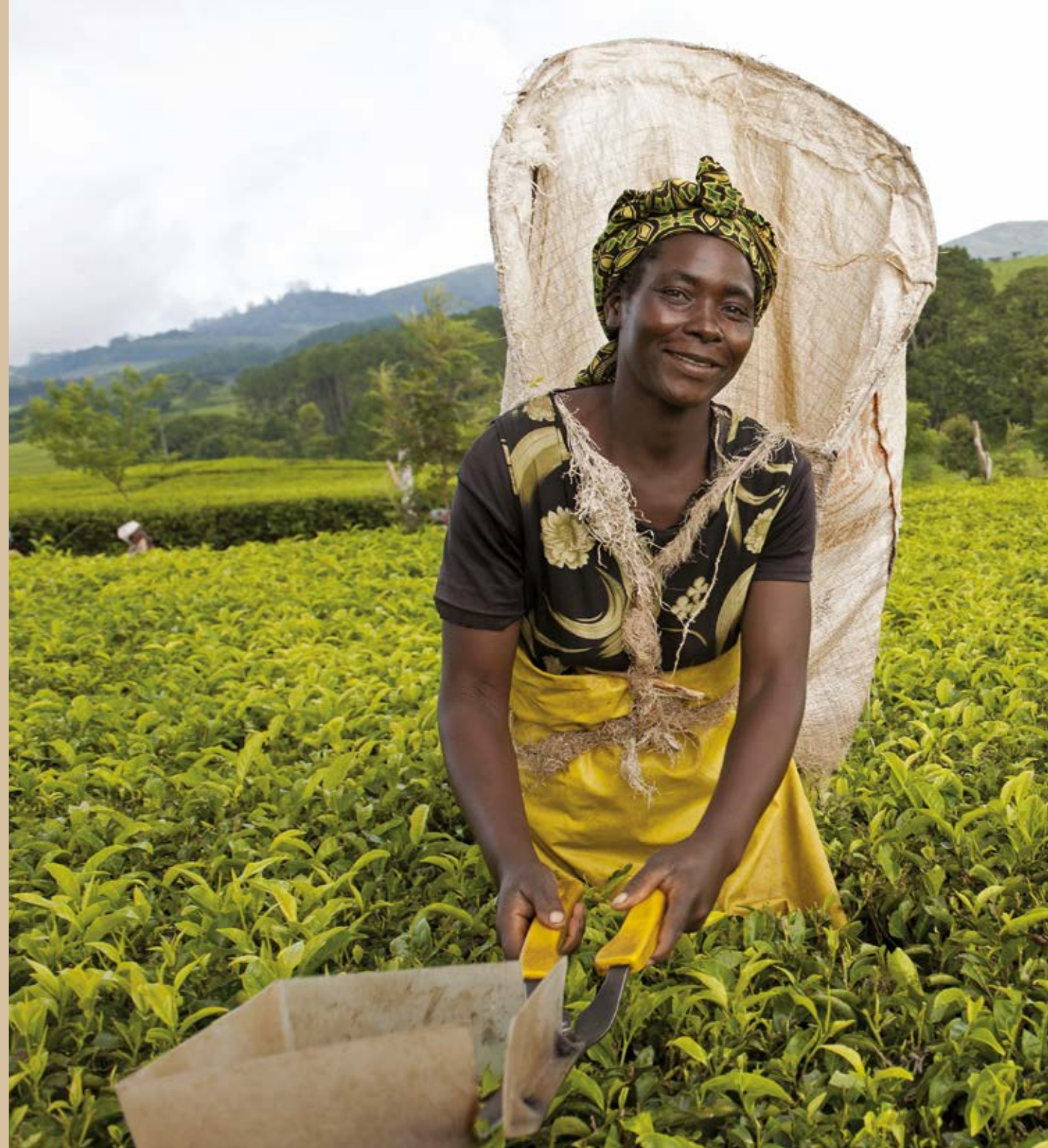
**HIMACUL, MACADAMIA FARMER**

Since the launch of the project, tea production has increased by

**33%**

and total sales have increased by

**114%**





PROJECT 3

# Growing Fairer Futures



LOCATION:  
Ghana



BENEFICIARIES:  
50 young cocoa farmers  
(32% women)  
aged between 18 and 35



1: NO POVERTY  
8: DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH  
13: CLIMATE ACTION  
17: PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

In January 2020, we launched Growing Fairer Futures, to support 50 young cocoa farmers from 10 communities, in the Osino District of eastern Ghana. Match funded with the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, this project aims to establish a robust and sustainable cocoa farm to provide farmers with a source of income and reduce rural to urban migration.

Although this project is ongoing, the young cocoa farmers have already recorded an improvement in their livelihoods. After learning how to plant maize and plantain amongst their cocoa tree seedlings, the subsequent harvest has enabled farmers to feed their families, whilst also having a proportion available to sell at the local market. During the second phase of this project

the young farmers will be trained in business and finance skills to help them run their new business profitably and sustainably.

**“This project will reduce rural to urban migration in these communities. It will expand production of cocoa beans and enhance cocoa sustainability in the cocoa value chain.”**

DANIEL ADDO, PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

**“The farm tools provided is a great support which will reduce the burden of hiring tools to work on farms. It has also provided a source of motivation for young farmers and it will reduce our man power efforts and labour.”**

PROJECT PARTICIPANT

IN TOTAL

# 20,500

cocoa seedlings have been planted. We also supported the farmers in planting maize and plantain which provide shade to the young cocoa trees, and food for the families.





PROJECT 4

Environmental sustainability



LOCATION:  
Nicaragua



BENEFICIARIES:  
84 coffee farmers  
(27% women)



1: NO POVERTY  
8: DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH  
13: CLIMATE ACTION  
15: LIFE ON LAND

In August 2020, we concluded this project, which was supported by the Shared Interest Carbon Offset Fund.

We worked closely with a Nicaraguan coffee co-operative over the course of a year, to help farmers reduce their environmental impact.

The project supported 84 farmers from Unión de Cooperativas Agropecuarias de San Juan del Río Coco (UCA SJRC), to learn how to manage the wastewater created by coffee production and their own households. As well as impacting upon the health of farmers, the wastewater was damaging soil and disrupting the growth of their coffee.

Together with UCA SJRC, we provided materials to construct water treatment filters on the farmers' land, to prevent the contamination of soil and water sources from wastewater.

The project beneficiaries have reported improvements in their coffee farming. Over time we expect these changes to lead to improved yield and increased household income from the sale of coffee.

Female farmer Lillian, said:

**“Before, the wastewater was spilling and where the water was passing there were coffee plants that were dying. I didn’t use to sow coffee on the areas affected by the water spill but now that I no longer have that problem I have already sowed coffee and I will have more production.”**

Farmer Cesar told us:

**“This will bring a lot of change because we will be able to improve the quality of the coffee with the well-established shade.”**

IN TOTAL

3,000

tree seedlings were distributed to 84 farmers to encourage reforestation, increase soil fertility, reduce erosion and provide shade to the coffee plants

Producer picks fresh coffee berries >





## PROJECT 5

# East Africa Governance and Finance Training

**LOCATION:**  
Kenya and Uganda



**BENEFICIARIES:**  
100 management staff  
(22% women)  
from 20 co-operatives



**8: DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

In February 2020, we concluded our two year project, part funded by KMF Maxwell Stuart Charitable Trust, supporting 20 tea, coffee, cocoa and handcraft co-operatives in Uganda and Kenya.

This project aimed to strengthen the governance and finance management skills of the co-operatives, to increase their sustainability and access to financial support. To achieve this we worked in partnership with two local consultants to deliver training workshops and mentoring sessions.

“This training was useful because it enabled us to look at our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The new things I learnt included planning for succession at the board level. So the changes we expect are structured leadership and management and growth in the company going forward.”

**RACHEL MURIITHI, AFRICA YETU  
CREATIVE CENTRE DIRECTOR**

“After using the board evaluation forms, the board performance has improved. There is vivid change in participation for example in contributions during meetings. There is also improved board commitment in attending board meetings. It is now usually 100% attendance.”

**JOHN BOSCO ABAHO,  
GENERAL MANAGER, RUKIGA**

## PROJECT IMPACT:

# 70%

of co-operatives reported an increase in knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of the board members

# 80%

developed an organisational strategic plan

# 90%

have new organisational policies including HR, gender, finance and risk management

Tarazo Africana, handcraft producer works on hand painted products in Kenya. Tarazo took part in the East Africa Governance and Finance Training this year >





# New Projects

LOCATION:  
Burkina Faso

In July and August 2020 we launched two new projects in Burkina Faso. Following the success of our pilot Bees for Business project in Dakaro last year, we secured funding from Guernsey Overseas Aid to replicate the project in a nearby community called Sideradougou.

In this community, many families rely on the dangerous task of gold mining as their only source of income. This project is supporting 75 women to become beekeepers, as a safe and sustainable way to support their families.

LOCATION:  
Burkina Faso

With funding from the Evan Cornish Foundation, we are also supporting the now fully established beekeeping group in Dakoro with additional training, to develop their honey business and help them to diversify into sesame farming.



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

1: NO POVERTY  
5: GENDER EQUALITY  
8: DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH  
13: CLIMATE ACTION





# Using money wisely

Shared Interest Foundation receives restricted fund grants from donor organisations, trusts and individuals, which enable us to deliver specific projects. Over the last eight years these funds account for almost half of our income, with the balance coming from the generous unrestricted fund donations by individuals, groups, trusts and legacies. These donations are vital as they allow us to develop and grow new projects based on robust needs analysis. We would particularly like to thank the following for their funding in the 2019/20 year:

Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust  
Evan Cornish Foundation  
Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission  
The Marr-Munning Trust

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Year ended 30 September 2019			Year ended 30 September 2020		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Donations & grants	134	9	143	219	130	349
Interest income	1	-	1	1	-	1
<b>Total income</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>350</b>
Cost of fundraising	13	-	13	13	-	13
Charitable activities	110	130	240	152	30	182
Governance costs	3	-	3	3	-	3
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>198</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit)	9	(121)	(112)	52	100	152
Funds brought forward	158	128	286	167	7	174
Funds carried forward	167	7	174	219	107	326




Muhindo Kihuka pours washed coffee beans onto a drying bed at a BOCU micro-processing station in Uganda

## 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	DAVID BOWMAN	PAUL CHANDLER	MARY COYLE	YVONNE GALE	MARTIN KYNDT	CRISTINA TALENS





**68%**

feel familiar  
or very familiar  
with our mission




**78%**


would recommend  
the charity  
to a friend

# 2021 AND BEYOND

This year, Shared Interest Foundation carried out a Strategic Review to provide a new direction for the next five years.


As part of this process, we sent a survey to 640 donors and we received 185 anonymous responses.





**92%**

felt the process of  
donating was easy  
and transparent



**97%**

felt we explained  
well or very well  
how their donation  
would be spent

We also conducted external interviews with our partners, funders, and supporters. These included Comic Relief, Traidcraft Exchange and World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO). Outcomes of these interviews informed the development our new strategic plan >

**RWANDA:** We will be replicating our Growing Fairer Futures project to support 50 young coffee farmers to establish a robust and profitable coffee farming business and generate a sustainable source of income.

**NORTHERN GHANA:** We will support 120 basket weavers to increase their income through soilless farming.

**PERU:** We will work with coffee farmers to improve their production through reducing the application of chemicals

to control disease and increasing the production of organic coffee for a higher income.

**NICARAGUA:** We will support 40 female farmers to diversify into organic sesame farming to increase their household income.

**COTE D'IVOIRE:** We are launching our second Growing Fairer Futures project working in partnership with cocoa co-operative CAYAT.

Alobnii Akolbire, a member of Amongtaaba Basket Weavers Group (working with TradeAID), displays a woven straw basket she has just completed in Ghana >





# Looking forward

There is no denying that the latter part of 2020 brought new hurdles for international development organisations, and this was not only due to Covid-19. Following the merger of the Department for International Development (DFID) into the Foreign Office, the government announced a cut to the UK's foreign aid budget, from 0.7% of gross national income to 0.5%.

This means that, as we move into 2021, it is with the knowledge that people in Africa and Latin America will face many challenges, including the implications of the pandemic and effects of climate change. With the help of our supporters, we can continue to change lives, breaking the cycle of poverty through the creation of resilient businesses.

Along with the range of projects detailed in this booklet, the coming year will see us work with cocoa farmers in Rwanda and Côte d'Ivoire, basket weavers in Northern Ghana, female sesame farmers in Nicaragua and coffee farmers in Peru.

**We believe everyone deserves the right to provide for themselves and their families, and this year more than ever, developing world communities need our support.**

**Women from Asungtaaba Basket Weavers Group (working with TradeAID) weave together in Vea Village, Bolgatanga District, Ghana >**

As we move into

# 2021

**we know that people in Africa and Latin America will face many challenges, including the implications of the pandemic and effects of climate change.**






**Find out how you can  
support our work:  
[shared-interest.com/  
foundation](http://shared-interest.com/foundation)**

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