

Roadmap: Solidaridad Deutschland e.V.

Background

At the 2022 General Meeting of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO), members decided to publish individual roadmaps with commitments and milestones as well as progress reports on these commitments.

The individual roadmaps are based on the [GISCO roadmap](#) which lists the goals, targeted indicators and recommendations for action on the focus topics of certified cocoa/cocoa from company programmes, traceability, deforestation/agroforestry, child labor and living income.

These public individual commitments complement the annual monitoring process carried out in cooperation with the ISCOs (European Initiatives for sustainable cocoa), give visibility of the members' contributions to the [GISCO objectives](#) and strengthen individual accountability.

Commitments

- [Traceability](#)
- [Certified cocoa and cocoa from company programmes](#)
- [Deforestation/Agroforestry](#)
- [Child Labour](#)
- [Living Income](#)

Comment of the member on the roadmap:

-

Traceability

Commitment (submitted in December 2022):

By 2025 Cocoa farmers in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone have equitable access to digital market intelligence and increased bargaining power through a digital traceability platform for market and trade intelligence.

In our projects, we work towards traceable and transparent supply chains. In our global network, we develop innovative digital traceability solutions and work with partners on piloting and implementation.

Milestone 1:

By 2025, 1200 cocoa farmers are digitally connected to new Traceability Tools, hereby improving their bargaining position.

Milestone 2:

By 2025, 1 new disruptive traceability tool COCOA TRACE co-developed and in place.

Progress (submitted in December 2024):

Progress Milestone 1:

- Despite the pushbacks to the implementation of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the downwatering of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) before its adoption, Solidaridad continues its ambitions to support the governments in origin countries in their efforts to align/improve their legal and institutional framework and unify traceability systems.
- In Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and the Produce Monitoring Board (PMB) agreed to sign an MoU with Solidaridad and Fairfood in which the latter 2 will support Sierra Leone in meeting the requirements of the EUDR nationally and in preparing for compliance with the CSDDD. The MoU is expected to be signed this year in February 2025.
- Our partner Fairfood International designed the risk monitoring tool that would be used at national level and is aligned with international standards, to support the EUDR requirement and in preparation for compliance with the CSDDD.
- We contributed through the Voice network to the review of the Fern paper on "Transformative Traceability: How robust traceability systems can help implement the EUDR and fight the drivers of deforestation.

Progress Milestone 2:

- The partnership with Dutch cocoa trader Tradin Organic to develop and improve the Cocoa Trace traceability tool is working well and their engagement has been extended beyond the pilot in Sierra Leone. The partnership agreement aims to introduce fully traceable chocolate to the EU (and US) market, while increasing the income of 15,000 farmers in Sierra Leone.
- In 2024, VGAN chocolate committed to paying a 6% price increase to Fairfood's partner Tradin Organic. Of this price increase, 1% goes to Tradin Organic and Fairfood for the work done on traceability/ transparency. The other 5% will go directly to the farmers. Proof of this direct payment will be verified and made available through Trace.
- Follow-up discussions at CHOCOA 2025 in Amsterdam with a PMD representative from Sierra Leone invited by Fairfood and Solidaridad to participate in Fairfood's Living Wage & Income Lab. A series of meetings are planned with the private sector and some MEPs present at the event.



Challenge:

For Solidaridad to influence the agenda and priorities of key decision makers: currently brands, and farmers put less importance on sustainability as they focus on economic and physical survival. Possible support: GISCO can support our mission and facilitate our involvement and engagement within GISCO and its networks in order for Solidaridad to keep the dialogue with brands to make sure we respond directly when needed.

The pushbacks and the EUDR implementation report have had an impact on the momentum of actors in the countries of origin, starting with governments in their efforts to set up national traceability systems. Through cocoa coalitions and platforms, Cocoa CSOs have continued to lobby at EU level to ensure that legislation is not unraveled too much. The postponement of the EUDR should therefore serve to better prepare at EU and home country level.

Certified cocoa and cocoa from company programmes

Commitment (submitted in December 2022):

Certification has not shown to be a systemic solution to unsustainable cocoa
Almost all of the sector wide efforts in cocoa reach only those farmers who are loosely organised in cooperatives.
The majority of farmers however are not organised and are not being reached.
In our projects, we work towards establishing traceable and transparent supply chains and go beyond certification where possible or else support farmers' certification against leading sustainability standards.

Milestone 1:

-

Milestone 2:

-

Progress (submitted in December 2024):

-

Challenge:

While many studies analyzed effects of sustainability standards, such as Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance most did not sufficiently find systematic differences between certified and non-certified farmers. The sector has come to realize that voluntary corporate social responsibility initiatives by companies alone cannot prevent human rights violations and environmental degradation and that the systemic failure of voluntary initiatives gives strong evidence that legislative measure on ecological and human rights due diligence are needed. As a result, in December 2019 a group of companies (Barry Callebaut AG, Mars Wrigley and Mondelez International, the VOICE Network and voluntary standards (Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade called on the European Union to strengthen human rights and environmental due diligence requirements of companies in global supply chains.

Possible support: Join forces with leading companies and the VOICE Network to lobby for stronger EU legislation, align GISCO agenda with other ISCOs to move beyond certification

Deforestation/Agroforestry

Commitment (submitted in December 2023):

Until 2025 and beyond, Solidaridad will continue to implement of good climate smart agricultural practices and regenerative agriculture (i.e. agroforestry and carbon sequestration) and tree planting in Western African cocoa communities).

In our projects, we systematically integrate regenerative agriculture and agroforestry approaches. At policy level and with our partner, we advocate for deforestation-free supply chains and adequate legislation.

Milestone 1:

Objectives/milestones are not formulated specifically per commodity but rather per region/ country thus these milestones also include Palm Oil besides Cocoa.

Milestone 2:

-

Progress: (submitted in December 2024):

- The five years partnership between Solidaridad and the JBS Fund, RestaurAmazônia, launched in June 2021 aims to serve 1,500 families in four cities in Pará (Amazon) by promoting a production model that combines cocoa agroforestry systems (SAF), livestock and preservation of forest areas and unites the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. The main targets are a 22% increase in livestock productivity, a 40% increase in cocoa productivity, the preservation of more than 20 thousand hectares of forest, and a 30% income increase. 1185 farming households and 786 cocoa producers reached.
- With our regional offices in West Africa, we continue to advocate with policy makers in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire for improved on-farm tree ownership, land tenure, land access, and ownership security. This remains a major obstacle to farm resilience through agroforestry and other forest restoration schemes. We'll explore the opportunities of climate finance including carbon credits and payment for environmental services (PES) to improve farmers' income in origin countries (e.g. the newly launched partnership between Solidaridad and the World Bank in Ghana).
- We support origin country governments to align/improve their legal and institutional framework and unify the traceability systems, not only to comply with the EUDR, but also to create an enabling environment to preserve forests and strengthen the resilience of cocoa communities.

Challenge:

Changes in climatic conditions could affect producer organisations, productivity and economic feasibility of cocoa and the project at large.

Possible support: GISCO can support the joint programming with GISCO members of the enhanced coordination and cooperation amongst farmers to build resilience towards climate risks. Further, by supporting member's activities to establish strong cooperatives or to lobby government to support and enforce climate change policies

Child Labour

Commitment (submitted in December 2023):

By 2025 living income for cocoa farmers, the elimination of child labour has been put strongly on the agenda of public and private policy makers.

We collaborate in multiple alliances (e.g. European NGOs, VOICE, Ghanaian stakeholders, private sector partnerships and others to address and end child labour.

Milestone 1:

By 2025, 2 new private sector policies were developed, that address Child Labour, fair value, deforestation and women inclusion

Milestone 2:

By 2025, 15 dialogues initiative, strengthened or joined to engage Civil Society and Civil Society's agenda in debate with public and private decision makers

Progress (submitted in December 2024):

- We continue our lobbying and advocacy work with the EU for smallholder-inclusive legislation that creates a positive impact in origin countries and for farmers.
- In collaboration with representatives of the private sector, civil society organisations and other stakeholders, we contribute to the strategic direction of ICI's work on child labour in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, We are part of the working group on the CLMRS core criteria.
- We continue to engage with companies through various platforms and encourage them to improve, develop and invest in CLMRS in their supply chain, including the definition of more robust and accurate KPIs for ISCO companies.

We advocate a multi-dimensional approach to combating child labour, including recognition of the importance of cultural and socio-economic context in the root causes of child labour.

Challenge:

MSIs and networks are often not well aligned and tend to take different approaches and develop different end goals that do not match with each other. Thus, institutional synergies are limited.

The main challenge is that the space for civil society to have its voice heard on this issue is shrinking. As an example, civil society has been left out of this process of signing the new CLCCG Framework for Action in Abidjan in November 2024 between the governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, the US and WCF for 2024-2029, aimed at preventing and progressively eliminating child labour in cocoa-growing communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. But civil society, through platforms such as VOICE, the Ivorian PICD and the Ghanaian GCCP and the US-based Child Labor Coalition, continues to push for this to change.

Possible support: GISCO can support the advocacy work at political level (consuming and producing countries (with regard to ending child labour).

Living Income

Commitment (submitted in December 2024):

By 2025 and beyond Solidaridad engages to move cocoa and chocolate companies in Europe to commit to and implement measures for a living income for cocoa farmers
Solidaridad works with companies to move towards living income, via sharing good practices, providing research and advice and launching campaigns.

Milestone 1:

By 2025 living income for farmers has been put strongly on the agenda of public and private policy makers

Milestone 2:

Cocoa and chocolate companies in Europe commit to and implement measure for a living income for cocoa farmers

Progress (submitted in December 2026):

- We support the roll-out of the joint statement on LI and procurement practices developed by the ISCOs secretariats and endorsed by all ISCOs during the WCC in Brussels. If and where feasible, improve the compromise with a set of unified and ambitious principles to place responsible procurement practices on top of the living income agendas.
- We support initiatives and strategies (studies, calls for action, campaigns, etc.) that promote a fair distribution of value in the supply chain, better management of risks for cocoa producers and enable a living income for cocoa farmers as a key aspect of economic sustainability. We will do that, among others, in cooperation with the VOICE Network and through the publication of the upcoming Cocoa Barometer and related consultation papers.
- Through the CSOs in ISCOs platform, we'll support monitoring and reporting on the ISCO objectives, including on procurement practices, using a set of jointly defined KPIs to track progress and strengthen the accountability of all members
- Through Solidaridad regional offices in West Africa, we'll continue to engage with relevant stakeholders on the ground (government, private sector and civil society organisations) to implement a smart-mix of LI strategies to be able to close living income gaps, as defined in the Voice Consultative Paper, and ensure that most cocoa families reach a LI by 2030.
- We support the implementation of the recently adopted CSDDD for its potential of providing benefits to smallholder farmers through human right protection, shared responsibilities and fair purchasing practices, and contribute to the development of sector guidance and thematic guidelines when developed by the European Commission.
- We will disseminate findings of the 2024 cocoa Barometer to accelerate progress towards reducing the average living income gap of cocoa producers and adopting responsible purchasing practices.
- Despite the recent development on the Living Income Referential Price (LIRP), we continue to advocate that all farmers need a living income. We have published on January 31 a joint statement with the most influential VOICE members urging Fairtrade to reconsider the LIRP calculation to maintain its integrity.



Challenge:

MSIs and networks are often not well aligned and tend to take different approaches or develop different end goals that do not match with each other. Thus, institutional synergies are limited.

Possible support: GISCO should support alignment and agreement on a shared definition of living income amongst their membership and integrate living income as part of their binding membership commitments for companies with a clear strategy and timed roadmaps for implementation and monitoring of progress)