## GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HL</th>
<th>SPOs</th>
<th>Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cocoa, Banana, Nuts, Fruits, Shea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shea, Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Cocoa, Banana, Nuts, Fruits, Shea, Cotton, Coconut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cocoa, Nuts, Fruits, Shea, Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Cocoa, Banana, Nuts, Fruits, Shea, Coconut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cocoa, Nuts, Fruits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cocoa, Nuts, Fruits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cocoa, Banana, Nuts, Fruits, Shea, Cotton, Coconut
KEY FIGURES

PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AFRICA</th>
<th>WAN</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hired Labour</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Producer Organisations</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source, Ecert 2017

FARMERS AND WORKERS 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>MALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>2,707</td>
<td>554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>109,289</td>
<td>39,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits (fresh/dried)</td>
<td>4,676</td>
<td>3,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts and oilseeds*</td>
<td>4,220</td>
<td>1,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others**</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>5,410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are the number of registered members in the cooperative. In terms of production, the number of women is higher however they are not members

* This includes Nuts and the products in the oilseeds and oleaginous fruits i.e. Shea butter and coconut
** This includes Cotton, herbs and spices

TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMERS AND WORKERS IN THE WEST AFRICA REGION BY KEY PRODUCTS

Total number of farmers and workers in Fairtrade Africa 1,062,757

17% of this is represented by West Africa farmers and workers (Farmers 176,398/4,338 workers)

FAIRTRADE SALES (2013 - 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>24,141,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>200,284,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits (fresh/dried)</td>
<td>5,643,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts and oilseeds*</td>
<td>4,122,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>237,625,437</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRODUCTION (MT) IN WEST AFRICA NETWORK (2013-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>154,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>486,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits (Fresh/dried)</td>
<td>220,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts &amp; oilseeds*</td>
<td>43,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed cotton</td>
<td>20,625</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAIRTRADE PREMIUM RECEIVED (2013-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>1,792,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>23,951,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit (fresh/dried)</td>
<td>399,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts and oilseeds*</td>
<td>339,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26,751,712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source, CodImpact Monitoring Dataset 2015
WHO WE ARE

Fairtrade Africa is a member organization representing Fairtrade certified producers in Africa and the Middle East. We are a member of Fairtrade International, the umbrella organisation for Fairtrade worldwide.

Fairtrade works to benefit small-scale farmers and workers, who are amongst the most marginalised groups globally, through trade rather than aid to enable them to maintain their livelihoods and reach their potential.

We currently support over 480 producer organizations in 33 countries, ensuring they get better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. It’s about supporting the development of thriving farming and worker communities that have more control over their futures and protecting the environment in which they live and work.

FAIRTRADE AFRICA VISION

A world in which all producers can enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential and decide on their future.

FAIRTRADE AFRICA MISSION

1. To support our members to strengthen their organisations in line with Fairtrade Standards.
2. To improve and increase our members’ ability to access Fairtrade markets.
3. To engage with our members, advocate for their interests and take active ownership of the global Fairtrade system.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Fairtrade Africa is governed by a set of goals emanating from the workings within the Fairtrade system and with strategic partnerships. The Strategy for 2016-2020 is centred on driving change for smallholder farmers and workers; we will deliver on the following:
FAIRTRADE’S THEORY OF CHANGE

FAIRTRADE GOALS

- FOSTER SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS
- EMPOWER SMALL PRODUCERS AND WORKERS
- MAKE TRADE FAIR

SPHERES OF CHANGE

- Small producer and worker organizations
- Civil Society action
- Supply chain business practices
- Consumer behavior
FAIRTRADE SUPPORTS

- A more secure and stable income for smallholder farmers;
- Stronger organizations which strengthen farmer access to markets on fairer terms, including access to affordable credit;
- Adoption of the highest standard of sustainable farming methods.
- Crop and income diversification e.g., the planting of yam for food security and increased incomes.
- A more equal voice for women through better representation in Fairtrade certified organizations;
- Leadership programmes for women cooperative members for example the women school of leadership;
- Equal opportunities for women through the Fairtrade Hired Labour Standard;
- Education on and protection from gender based violence;
- The participation of women in education or community life, by addressing women’s burden of care through investment of the Fairtrade Premium.

- Better working conditions – for workers on Fairtrade plantations.
- Workers in the formal sector to negotiate for better pay and conditions, working in partnership with trade unions and labour rights organizations.
- Collaboration with other standard-setters to ensure common approaches to calculating and paying a living wage.

- Development of new markets for ethical consumption Globally.
- Adoption of ethical procurement policies that include the highest standards of environmental performance to meet sustainable production criteria.

- Development of tools and training of farmers to help adapt to climate change, and reduce impacts;
- Advocacy for farmers’ needs, such as access to finance for adaptation and mitigation;
- Cooperative development which builds capacity to deal with climate change
- Implementation and enforcement of the highest environmental standards, including Implementing projects that advocate for alternative sources of energy.

- Formation and capacity building of representative local, national and regional structures of small producers;
- Raising the voices of smallholders and workers in key debates;
- Expert support to producers, private sector and government on tackling human rights abuses in supply chains;
- Provision of data and information to equip producer organizations and networks to understand and advocate for removal of key barriers to effective agriculture and trade;
- Consumer pressure for change, in consuming and producing countries.

- Research and advocacy to ensure policy coherence that is Human Rights Based and inclusive.
- Organizational development to strengthen farmer and worker organization and empower them to become full participants in the SDGs agenda;
- Extending the benefits of Fairtrade, including policy and market access for farmers to southern markets;
- A multi-stakeholder approach to catalyse innovations and new sources of investment in agricultural development;
- Producer inclusive public-private partnerships.
## Projects in West Africa Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Project</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Funding Partner</th>
<th>Implementing Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Africa Cocoa Programme</td>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>Ghana CDI Cote D’Ivoire</td>
<td>To create strong and viable Fairtrade SPOs with clear benefits to members and commercial partners</td>
<td>Fairtrade System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>CDI Cote D’Ivoire</td>
<td>To Empower women through information, skills and mentorship to become leaders in Producer Organisations and in their communities</td>
<td>Co-operative Group Ltd and Compass Group UK &amp; Ireland Ltd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity Project</td>
<td>Cocoa, Shea, fruit, cashew and crafts</td>
<td>Burkina-Faso, Cote D’Ivoire, Mali, Ghana, Togo and Senegal</td>
<td>To contribute to sustainable economic development of West African countries and fight against poverty, enhance family agriculture by supporting the development of fair and sustainable industries.</td>
<td>French Development Agency, (AFD) and French Facility Fund for Global Environment (FFEM)</td>
<td>Agronomies and Veterinaries Sans Frontiers (AVSF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliances for Action Project</td>
<td>Cocoa, Yam (for income diversification)</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>To diversify the income of Fairtrade cocoa farmers and empower their women economically in the project areas.</td>
<td>International Trade Centre, Yam Development Council and Chocolats Halba</td>
<td>International Trade Centre (ITC), Yam Development Council of Ghana, Chocolats Halba, Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union, Kukuom Cocoa Farmers’ Cooperative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initiated in 2015, the West Africa Cocoa Programme (WACP) is part of the global cocoa plan of the Fairtrade System with the main goal of ensuring Cocoa Producer organizations in West Africa are strong, viable and inclusive, leading to clear benefits for members and commercial partners.

With Fairtrade needing to evolve its support services to enable cooperatives to become strong supply chain partners, after developments in the cocoa industry and increased requirements of commercial partners to meet robust sustainability targets and secure cocoa yields in the long term, the WACP has become central to Fairtrade’s efforts in this endeavour. The programme aims to improve household income, assets and standards of living; increase cooperation and gender equity within communities as well as increase food security and intergenerational sustainability of rural communities.

The WACP addresses both improved core service to meet certification standards and progressively targets Small Producer Organisations (SPOs) to increase social, environmental and economic sustainability. This is achieved by implementing activities related to core services, enhanced core services, strategic support and thematic trainings.

Targeting 112 SPOs in Ghana and 67 in Ivory Coast, WACP has improved the strength, viability and capacity of the SPOs over the past year, evidenced by the development of five-year strategic development plans by six unions, approved during their respective AGMs in 2017.

The Business development initiative has also improved with SPOs increasingly investing in income diversification and livelihood resilience interventions with projects such as fish ponds, poultry farms and input (agro-chemicals and seedlings) distribution systems.

SPOs like Asunafo North Union in Ghana have trained and resourced women to produce soap on a commercial basis for additional income using cocoa husks, and trainings provided to SPOs on financial management have also resulted in SPOs investing in savings and loan schemes that have enhanced financial inclusion and access to credit for their respective members and communities.
The Asunafo-North Municipal Cooperative Cocoa Farmers and Marketing Union Limited was registered as a cooperative in 2011. With an initial membership of 17 primary societies representing 1052 members, the union has grown in the last six years to a membership of 67 primary societies with a membership of 6490, comprising of 3667 men and 2823 women respectively.

The union was Fairtrade Certified in 2012 and received its first premium in 2012 and by the end of 2016 had received an accumulative premium of US$ 2,158,000. This premium has gone toward several projects benefitting over 67 communities with an average population of 124,685. The premiums have benefited the farmers through;

A) PROVISION OF BURSARIES FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The premium has been used to build eighteen schools and to provide bursaries to students in Senior High School. Ms. Rabiatu Alhassan, a year 3 high school student, says that, “The bursary was timely! It was a challenging time for me studying from home. I had to attend to household chores impacting my performance in school. With the support I received, I am now a boarder and focus on my studies.” She further stated “Continue to buy Fairtrade and support other girls like me.”

B) INITIATION OF A MICROFINANCE SAVINGS AND LOAN COMPANY

The premium was also instrumental in the initiation of a Microfinance savings and Loan company a subsidiary of Asunafo North Union. This was initiated in 2015 in response to the limited access to finance for the farmers, before the initiative, when the cocoa was off season; farmers would rely on Purchasing Clerks (PCs) for financing. PCs being agents of licensed buying companies (LBS) would collect and transport the beans from farmers and deliver to the LBS offices. Acting as middlemen, they would pay farmers directly at marginal prices compared to what they would generally receive from the market. With lack of funds, farmers often used their cocoa as collateral and ‘pre-buy’ the cocoa. In addition to limited access to loans from financial institutions, in the event the farmers were able to provide security; loans were charged at an interest of approximately 30% per annum. With the recurrent exploitation by the PCs and the very high interest rates, the farmers decided to develop a fund.

The initial 4% of the premiums received in 2015 was used as seed money, totalling to $24,000. They later initiated a funds mobilisation with registered farmers contributing for a period of six months. This enabled them start to provide soft loads to the farmers for school fees, initiating income generating projects, raise funds for funerals and purchase farm inputs. In one year the fund grew to $68,000 in 2016 and doubled a year later in 2017.

To guarantee the projects’ sustainability, farmers are given a 12 month period to re-pay their loans with consideration given during the low season. At present there is a 95-98% recovery rate. Disbursement of a loan follows a guarantor system of two or more depending on the amount borrowed and the farmers can borrow up to two times the amount saved. For large sums lease documents are provided for collateral.

The microfinance has since expanded and opened a new branch in Asumara, where the membership stands at 2300 farmers, 41% of whom are women.

Farmers have reported that children are now accessing education; they receive advisory financial services and now realise the importance of income diversification.

The manager Mr. Agyei stated, “the ability to withdraw money from one’s account has built a saving culture among the farmer, and they realise it is pointless spending all the monies they receive from the sale of cocoa without saving”.

ASUNAFO NORTH UNION:
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF GHANAIAN FARMERS

“The bursary was timely! It was a challenging time for me studying from home. I had to attend to household chores impacting my performance in school. With the support I received, I am now in boarding school and focus on my studies.” She further stated “Continue to buy Fairtrade and support other girls like me.”

Ms. Rabiatu Alhassan
C) GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Through implementing the Fairtrade Standards and training received on GAP, farmers have seen an increase in productivity.

Mr. Sarpong, the Chairman of the Union shared, “in 2009 I used to harvest an average of 1.86 bags per acre. I now harvest an average of 4.5 bags per acre. Not only have the volumes increased but also the quality of the cocoa.

He added “I have improved the drying process, the quality of insecticides I use and observe safety of the farmers and the environment.”

D) WOMEN EMPOWEREMENT

The women reported that through being a Fairtrade Certified farmer they are empowered. Ms Janet Asiamah, the Vice chair of the Union stated that, “because of Fairtrade, women are recognised and are able to contribute to the finances of the home. I am able to access finances from the micro finance institution and have direct access to inputs.

I now have the courage to speak up. I am empowered from within. I can contribute to discussions.

I HAVE A VOICE!

- Total Number of Schools built: 18
- Numbers benefitting from Bursaries: 45 in Senior High School; 17 for Tertiary education (37 Females and 30 Males)
- Number of water tanks put up: 3
- Number of boreholes provided: 4
- Beneficiaries of Micro finance institution: 2300 farmers
- Asunafo Headquarter building under construction. Will provide income through rental

![Premium received by Asunafo](chart.png)
The Alliance for Action Project, in partnership with ITC, Yam Development Council, Max Havelaar Switzerland and Chocolate Halba, brings together multiple stakeholders in both the private and public sector using a market systems development approach. Initiated in 2015 and based in Ghana, the Alliance, through global-level governance systems and participatory approaches, has ensured that the farmer perspective is at the centre of the intervention, and relies on both local and globally connected alliances, helping to build ownership at all levels. Together with cocoa-producing farmer communities, multi-product and multi-market approaches are adopted in order to boost household income and diversify risk in order to address issues of resilience.

With this approach, aspects of income, food security, nutrition, and gender as well as crop diversification are addressed, simultaneously enhancing the ability of the value chain actors to adapt to changing climactic conditions. The three pillars of the project: income diversification, women’s empowerment and climate smart agriculture, are well aligned to Fairtrade Key Thematic areas.

By supporting farmers and encouraging them to establish yam plots, the initiative, the number of lead farmers has increased in the second phase of the project. Most lead farmers were able to register a profit from the sale of yams as depicted in the table below.

The Model as demonstrated that through yam sales, farmers are able to receive up to 12 times more revenue per acre, with women receiving double what they would previously get with only coca. It allows farmers with smaller pieces of land available for cultivation to improve their livelihoods through the productions of yam and associated crops.

As a result of project training on gender, the women on the project are allowed by their husbands to keep the proceeds from the sale of the yam, signalling a major culture shift where the man in in the homestead would previously keep all the income, thus encouraging women empowerment, as well as improving income generation and diversification, food security, local trade dynamics and environmental protection.

With support from all the project partners, the project will be expanded to include Fairtrade producers in other areas of Ghana, with the Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union (a project partner) acquiring seed yam for women in the union to cultivate and diversify their income and ensure food security in their households. The women in the project will additionally be trained on how to use yam flour to prepare pastries for value addition at source.

Most lead farmers were able to register a profit from the sale of yams as depicted below:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount in USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cost of Production (US$) | Profits (US$)
```

KEY AREAS OF CAPACITY BUILDING

- Pre-harvest preparation, harvesting, post-harvest handling and recording of weights of harvested tubers
- Record keeping, farm management and accounting
- Pricing and negotiation skills
- Women Empowerment
- Yam and Associated Crops Planting & Quality
- Sustainable Land Preparation & Plot Design
- Health Empowerment
- Dynamic Agroforestry
- Women Empowerment (gender inequality and gender based violence)
- Group Dynamics
- Participatory Land Use Analysis
- Agroforestry
Women cocoa farmers in Côte d’Ivoire face many barriers in engaging as leaders in their local communities or in Small Producer Organisations (SPOs). The main barriers include; traditional social and cultural norms around the roles of women in communities, limited access to agricultural inputs, information, credit and extension services.

Fairtrade Africa is keen on achieving gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls in Côte d’Ivoire is one of the sustainable development goals that we have identified as being critical for the achievement of Fair Trade within the region.

Initiated in May 2017, the Women School of Leadership (WSOL) programme was designed to address the gaps limiting participation & inclusion of women in decision making. Funded by Co-operative Group Ltd (UK) and Compass Group UK & Ireland Ltd, WSOL is a training and mentorship programme delivered over a 12 month period.

The Côte d’Ivoire 2012 Demographic and Health Survey (DVS) report indicates that between the ages of 15-49 years, more than half of women (53%) have not received any formal education, compared to 34% of men. The limited access to education limits girls’ opportunities from an early age. It undermines their confidence in themselves as to what they can achieve.

The Women School of Leadership (WSOL) programme is aimed at training women and men on gender principles with a focus on building women’s agency. This pilot project is engaging a cohort of eighteen women and four men, and is being implemented in the Eastern part of Côte d’Ivoire in the Abengorou Region. The programmes focus is on the Cocoa value chain with participation from seven Cocoa SPOs.

This pilot project has already demonstrated intermediate outcomes with beneficiaries reporting confidence in expression and decision making within the SPOs. Some of the benefits experienced by participants include;

- They have formed themselves into a group where they raise money on a monthly basis to fund income-generating activities.
- They have identified the need for water packaging and for sale in the area.
- Opportunities to hold managerial and board positions within the SPOs and savings and loan projects.

According to Ms. Kathy Kouakou, the duly elected chairperson, she echoes the sentiments of the importance of inclusion of women in decision making within the society.

“For a long time, the role of women in society has been minimised. It was thought that men could do all things and women had to stay at home.” She further states that, “today, I understand that women have a role, they have a place in society, they can do all things in the same way as men do… through this training … it is necessary to give all the skills to the women so that they can help the society to advance.”

Due to the success of the pilot project in Côte d’Ivoire, the Women School of Leadership programme is scheduled for rollout in Ethiopia in 2019, to address the challenges and constraints facing women in the development of high-value supply chains in flower farms.
**WOMEN SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP PROJECT OUTLINE**

**LAUNCH**
- Launch of the program attended by participants, community members, representative from the donor and Fairtrade Africa Staff.

**QUARTER 01**
- **MODULE 1**: Human Rights and Women’s Human Rights
- **MODULE 2**: Fairtrade Standards and Gender Strategy
- **MODULE 3**: Developing Self Confidence, Self-Esteem and Resilience

**QUARTER 02**
- **MODULE 4**: Group Cohesion And Principles Of Cooperation
- **MODULE 5**: Women And Leadership
- **MODULE 6**: Women And The Economy

**QUARTER 03**
- **MODULE 7**: Women Understanding Money
- **MODULE 8**: Income Diversification & Project Management
- **MODULE 9**: Strategic Negotiation And Influencing
- **MODULE 10**: Masculinity And Gender Equality

**QUARTER 04**
- Project presentation by individual participants to the community members, producers and partners.
- GRADUATION
Established in 1988, Volta River Estate Limited (VREL) is one of two Fairtrade Certified Hired Labour organisations in Ghana. It has 5 plantations within the Asuogyman / Dangme west district and sits on 240 hectares. Certified in 1996, VREL has received Fairtrade Premiums for the past twenty years.

The Fairtrade Premium has been invested in furthering the education of the workers children. It caters for about 2/3rds of the cost of Senior High School (SHS) fees for all the workers, capped at a limit of three children per worker. The fund also supports vocational training those who do not qualify for SHS. Information Communication Technology (ICT) labs based in the community have been set up to prepare the children to be competitive in a changing digital environment. A minimal maintenance fee is charged to pay for general upkeep including utility bills and a community volunteer manages the facility.

VREL has improved access to finance for the workers through the provision of loans to set up businesses. This is deducted from payroll at a minimal interest rate of 2% per annum. In addition a provident (pension) fund has been set up where the workers contribute 5%, Fairtrade premium 2.5% and management 3%.

The impact of Fairtrade beyond the premium has been noted by VREL. The Director, Van Den Broek stated that, Regarding gender empowerment and inclusion, Juliet the Fairtrade Premium Committee chair said,

“Fairtrade is important because it improves the entire value chain… we are happy we can improve the lives of our workers. Because of the support we provide the workers, many of them stay until retirement stabilising the company.” He further shared that, “VREL sells 75% of its produce under Fairtrade terms… minimum price has provided a safety net for the company during times of fluctuating prices.”

Across from the Junior School, the premium also supported the construction of a permanent structure for the South Senchi Senior High School that has 154 students, 35% male. Before the Fairtrade Premium was invested in the school, students used to study under a tree and were referred to as squatters by the neighbouring community. Classes were heavily dependent on the weather of the day. During the wet season, classes were cancelled, posing a challenge in completing the school syllabus in time. With the construction of the school, students no longer have to worry about the weather. Not only are they able to go to class no matter the season, they are able to stay longer for preps. This has resulted in greatly improved grades. In the past 3 years the school has topped the circuit in both co-curricular activities and academics. Last year a girl in the school scored the highest marks in the circuit and was called to one of the best schools in Ghana. The headmaster Mr. Emmanuel Luwortey stated that,

“God richly bless you (Fairtrade buyers) for doing this for us. My neck would pain from carrying heavy loads of water from the river, now I now can access the water easily and do not have to make long trips. I am also able to drink safe water.”

“I was shy and quiet when first employed, with empowerment and recognition “I can sit with the big men… I started as a data entry clerk and now I have been promoted to management. Because of the Fairtrade Premium, our school is now a grade A school.”

“Fairtrade bananas in Ghana VOLTA RIVER ESTATE LIMITED”

“Because of the Fairtrade Premium, our school is now a grade A school.”