

Soul Cocoa

Solomon Islands



Project Period: 2016-2017
Total Project Budget: \$250,000



Overview



Livelihood Opportunities

The Soul Cocoa project improves the lives of cocoa farmers and their families in the Solomon Islands. The project provides practical training to local farmers and empowers them to improve the quality of their cocoa beans. This enables them to sell their beans at a higher rate and help their families thrive. ADRA hosts an annual Chocolate Week in Honiara which enables farmers to engage with the international chocolate market and sell their beans to overseas buyers. The next phase of this project will see the establishment of a social enterprise to produce and sell fine quality cocoa to overseas chocolate makers.



The Solomon Islands rank 156 on the Human Development Index.



Cocoa farmers have seen a 28% increase in the price of their beans



This project is completely funded by private donations.

Activities

Included in this project are activities such as:

- Hands-on training for farmers focused on cocoa bean quality improvement
- Hosting “Chocolate Week” event attended by international chocolate makers to give local farmers connections to a new market
- Establishing a social enterprise to produce and sell fine quality cocoa to overseas chocolate makers to ensure farmers receive a much higher price for their cocoa than they currently do

Impact

There has been an on average 28% price increase (on local prices) on beans sold by successful farmers to overseas chocolate makers. Farmers placing in the “Chocolate Week” competition have sold beans to visiting buyers at up to 200% of the local price. Value adding activities have helped some families be successful in producing a Milo substitute chocolate drink to sell. Farmers who received training are already reporting an increase in their harvest and income.



Blais's Story

Growing up was a difficult time for Blais. He came from a poor family, and his mother died while he was still in school. But Blais says his life changed when he attended training run by ADRA's Soul Cocoa project. He learnt techniques to improve the process of fermenting and drying cocoa beans, which helped improve the quality of his beans and attract a higher price for his produce.

Blais entered ADRA's Chocolate Week competition and won third place. After this success, Blais went back and taught his community the techniques he had learnt and now inspires others through his achievements.

"I don't want anyone to be left behind – I want everyone to grow and improve together," Blais says.

Join the Circle

You can partner with the Solomon Islands Soul Cocoa project by joining the Soul Cocoa circle. You will receive regular updates from the field and see how you are helping improve literacy rates amongst women and youth in the Solomon Islands.



Donate

Your donation of \$30 per month will enable ADRA Australia to help provide practical training to local farmers in the Solomon Islands.



Pray

Commit to praying regularly for the Soul Cocoa project and for cocoa farmers in the Solomon Islands.



Advocate

Become an ADRA Passion Leader and add your voice to those around Australia who are standing for justice in the Solomon Islands and around the world.

ADRA Australia is the official humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our mission is to work with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action. As a Christian aid and humanitarian agency, we believe our work is a natural expression of our faith, and a continuation of Christ's ministry of compassion.

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