



**Achieving more  
where change  
matters**

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**Featured on front and back page:** Andrea Carranza Salazar (front page), Chief Financial Officer of Café de Altura, an Oikocredit coffee-processing partner in Costa Rica, displays coffee cherries on one of the smallholder-owned company's supplier farms. Greivin Salazar (back page) and his family have grown coffee for three generations, selling to Café de Altura for more than 14 years. Here he's in conversation with Andrea Carranza Salazar on his farm.

**Text and production:** Oikocredit staff and Miles Litvinoff.

**Photos by:** Opmeer Reports except those by Philippe Lissac (pages 12, 22, 30), Marc Ehrmann (pages 8, 24, 32) and Christoph Gabler (page 34).

**Design:** Frank Huijbregts, Made by Frank.

## In brief: numbers that matter

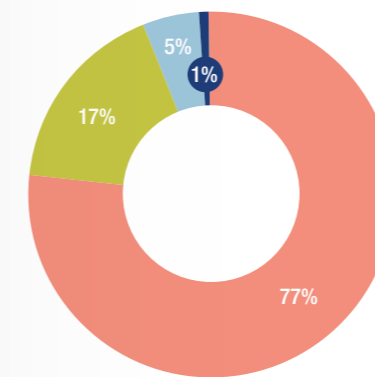
Total financing with partners  
**€ 1,084.7 million**



Partners financed  
**540**

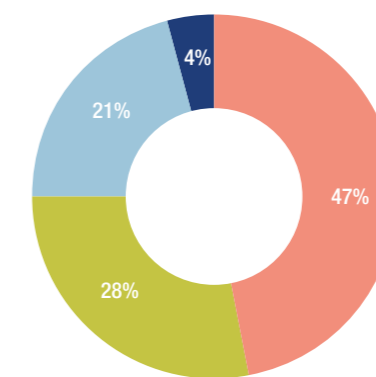


### Financing by sector



Financial inclusion\*    Renewable energy  
Agriculture    Other

### Financing by region



Latin America and the Caribbean    Africa  
Asia    Other



Number of jobs created or sustained by MSMEs financed by our partners\*\*

**12.7 million**

Number of people employed by our financial inclusion partners

**360,000**



Agriculture: farmers reached by our partners

**2.94 million**



Financial inclusion: % of women clients reached by our partners

**87%**



Financial inclusion: % of rural clients reached by our partners

**65%**



Renewable energy: households with access to clean energy

**170,000**



Financial inclusion: clients reached by our partners\*\*\*

**53 million**



Financial inclusion: MSMEs financed by our partners

**4.29 million**

\* Including microfinance and SME finance. \*\* The total number of jobs includes those created or sustained by one of our partners and all its subsidiaries following a merger. \*\*\* The figure includes the clients reached by an organisation acquired by one of our partners.

# Achieving impact for people and communities

Oikocredit\* invests in people living on low incomes so that they can build better livelihoods and strengthen their communities. As a social impact investor and worldwide cooperative operating for nearly five decades, our work of promoting sustainable development is made possible by our members, investors, donors and partners.<sup>1</sup>

Our goal is to support low-income people in improving their lives and in building the resilience of their communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. We prioritise social impact while safeguarding the environment and aim to generate fair financial returns.

Our investing increases access to financing and to non-financial support, such as capacity building, for our partner organisations. In turn, our partners provide support and opportunities to their clients, members, suppliers and employees.

We carefully select, screen and monitor our partners to ensure alignment on values and social goals. We also support our partners in achieving their goals.

Together, we create impact by way of opportunities for low-income people to increase their incomes, benefit from savings arrangements and insurance coverage, build stronger businesses, and access resources they need. All these services help people achieve a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Low-income people are hit hardest during times of crisis. This has proved true during the current period of political and economic instability in many regions and countries, amid mounting threats to livelihoods from climate change and biodiversity loss.

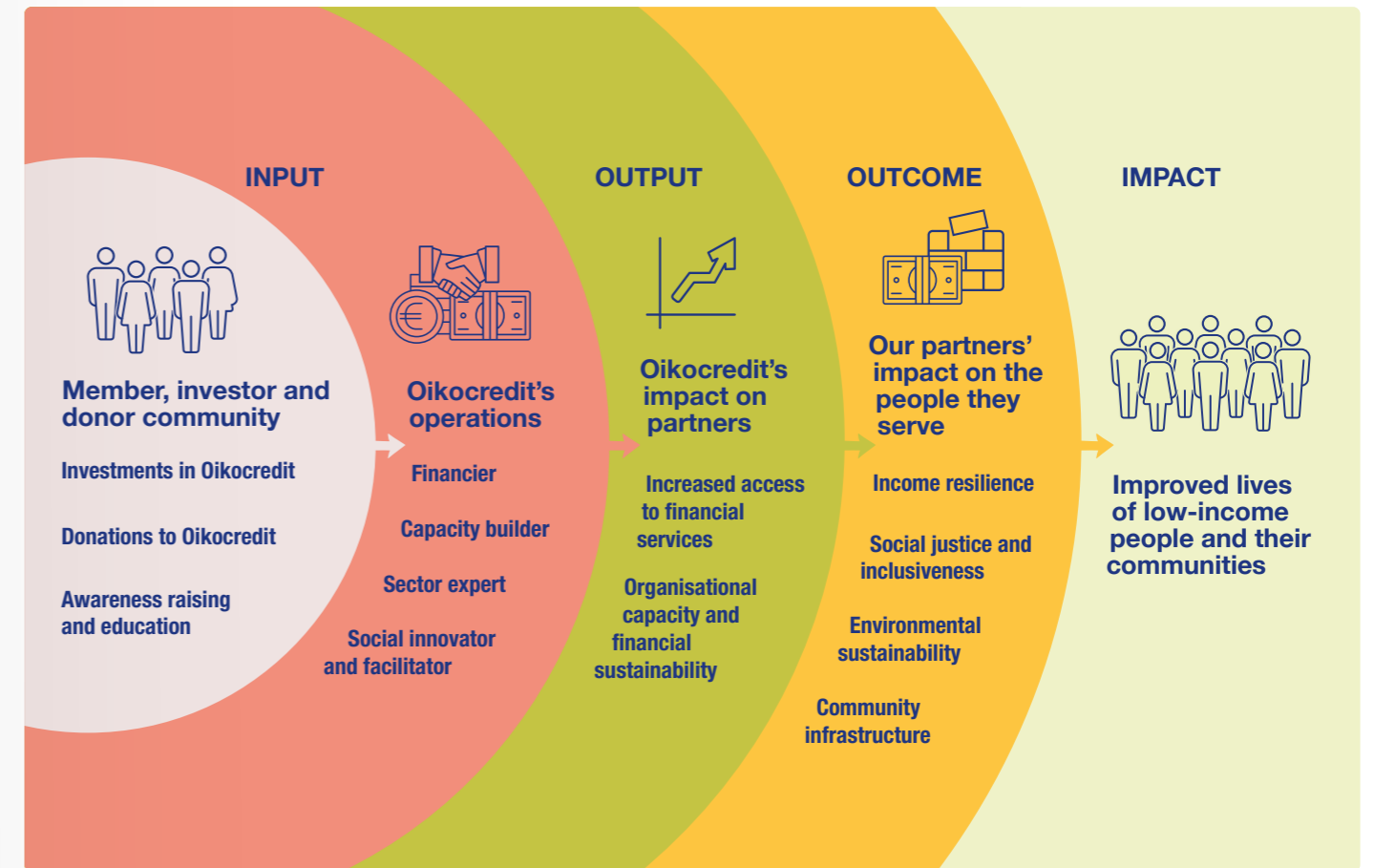
Resilience is key if people are to improve their lives and livelihoods in the medium to long term. This is why we collaborate increasingly with organisations that support low-income communities in building resilience. This community emphasis complements our focus on financial inclusion, agriculture and renewable energy.



Rana S. Budijarto of Indonesian fintech lenders Batumbu talking with Indraria Sri Mulyati of client enterprise Q Job. Jakarta-based Batumbu is a subsidiary of a new Oikocredit partner, Singapore-based digital financier Validus Group, and supports small and medium enterprises in Indonesia.

<sup>1</sup> "Sustainability is about meeting the world's needs of today and tomorrow by creating systems that allow us to live well and within the limits of our planet" – European Environment Agency, 2024.

## How Oikocredit creates impact



The partnerships and projects we undertake in our focus sectors and in community resilience-building are the way we aim to maximise our impact, as this report demonstrates.

A good indication of our impact comes from the people who have benefitted through our partnerships. Seventy-four per cent of more than 41,600 people participating in our 2023 Client Self-Perception Survey indicated that Oikocredit's financial inclusion partners had a positive influence on their wellbeing. Twenty-five per cent responded neutrally. More than half said their income had improved over the past 12 months, and most of those who had savings said their savings grew over the same period.

At a time when the world is experiencing what has been called a polycrisis, we are more committed than ever to maximising our impact alongside our community of members, investors and donors.

We remain dedicated to our guiding values and are actioning new ways to enhance Oikocredit's impact.

\* Oikocredit Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society, which provides its members and investors with the opportunity to invest in the development financing of its partners, and the Oikocredit International Support Foundation (ISUP), which provides capacity building support to Oikocredit partners, both belong to the Oikocredit group ('Oikocredit').



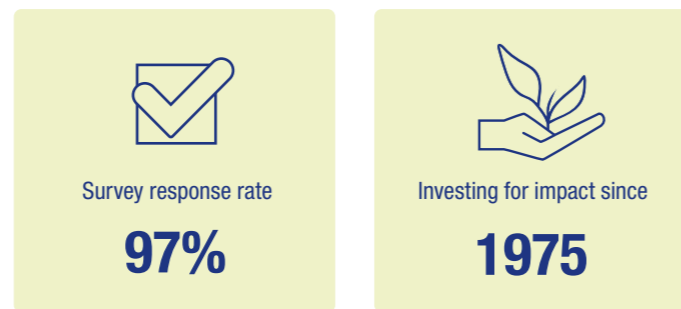
## How we collect our data

Oikocredit's strategy to maximise social impact centres on the careful selection, review and monitoring of our partners, focusing on organisations that align with our mission and social goals. Our physical presence in 12 countries enables us to develop valuable relationships with partners, conduct monitoring visits and identify needs for tailored technical assistance. We have developed several tools to support our investment cycle and collect relevant data at every stage of our impact pathway.

Our environmental, social and governance (ESG) scorecards are among these tools. We apply these scorecards to ensure that Oikocredit engages in relationships with organisations that share our ESG goals and values. We have tailored ESG scorecards for each of our three focus sectors (financial inclusion, agriculture and renewable energy). The scorecards systematically cover ESG topics in line with our investment criteria (which include emphasis on reaching people with low incomes and supporting women's self-empowerment) while aligning with industry standards and best practices.

We use the scorecards for partner screening, due diligence, annual monitoring and learning. They assess how responsible each organisation's practices are towards its clients (or members), staff and other stakeholders. Our partners' ESG scores generally improve over time. About 83% of all our partners with an active investment at the end of 2023 ranked 'strong' or 'excellent' in terms of overall ESG performance. The scorecards also enable us to identify partners' strengths, areas of risk and ways to improve. We jointly develop action plans with partners to mitigate risk.

Each year, we also gather social and environmental performance indicator data to measure how many people our



partners have reached through their products and services and the annual results partners achieve in sustainability areas. In 2024, out of 429 partners that met our monitoring criteria and were invited to complete our performance survey on 2023, 418 (97%) provided valid responses.

With our End-Client Survey programme (see page 16), we support and work with partners to collect data on clients' perception of change in their lives. This helps us know and demonstrate our partnerships' impact on the people and communities we serve, keeps clients' priorities at the centre of our work, and enables our partners to serve clients even better.

The data we collect through these tools plays an important role in supporting Oikocredit's mission of assisting low-income people and their communities in improving their lives sustainably. We publish the data in this report as evidence of our firm commitment to social impact. And we use the data to build our understanding of how we achieve our objectives. Our research and impact evaluation, and the information we gather, help us identify what we are doing well and decide whether and how to continue or expand these activities. They inform how we develop our organisational capacities and adjust the way we work with our strategic, credit and equity partners.



## Our impact investing process



## Our carbon footprint analysis

Oikocredit calculates its annual carbon footprint in line with its strategic ambition of maximising social impact while safeguarding the environment and generating fair financial returns for investors. We are committed to protecting the environment across all our activities, including our operations, investment decisions and capacity building.

Oikocredit's total carbon footprint in 2023 for all the regions where we operate amounted to 891 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This translates into 3.6 tonnes of carbon emissions per Oikocredit full-time-equivalent employee (FTE).

Our average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per FTE increased from 2.7 tonnes in 2022 to 3.6 tonnes in 2023. However, our 2023

emissions per FTE in 2023 were lower than the pre-Covid-19 levels of 3.7 tonnes in 2019 and 5.8 tonnes in 2018.

Oikocredit remains committed to addressing climate change by reducing its carbon emissions and offsetting its carbon impact by buying FairClimateFund Fairtrade Gold Standard carbon credits. We source these credits from projects designed to simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through these efforts, we aim to mitigate the environmental consequences of our carbon emissions while actively supporting sustainable initiatives.

# How we work

Oikocredit offers loans, equity investments and capacity building support (including through the End-Client Survey programme) to organisations reaching low-income people and communities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The funds that our committed investors, members and donors provide make this possible.

Oikocredit focuses its investments on three sectors: financial inclusion (more on pages 20-24), agriculture (pages 25-27) and renewable energy (pages 28-30). As part of our 2022-2026 strategy, we also take a community-focused approach to provide additional support to the people we serve (pages 31-33).

Our regional offices and on-the-ground network are essential for selecting like-minded partners, fostering long-term relationships and providing capacity building (see pages 11-15). Oikocredit's international team in the field serves as our partners' first point of contact for financial, environmental and social performance management and other capacity building support.

Our ambition is to help build strong and financially sustainable social businesses. With this support, our partners can expand

their outreach and improve access to products and services that help low-income people and communities meet their needs.

We measure our impact by linking our social performance data to our theory of change framework (see the graphic on 'How Oikocredit creates impact', page 5) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since 2020, we have supported financial inclusion partners with our innovative End-Client Survey programme (see pages 16-17), which presents direct insights from clients about positive or negative changes to their quality of life. Such insights help our partners and ourselves identify and action areas for improvement in meeting clients' needs.

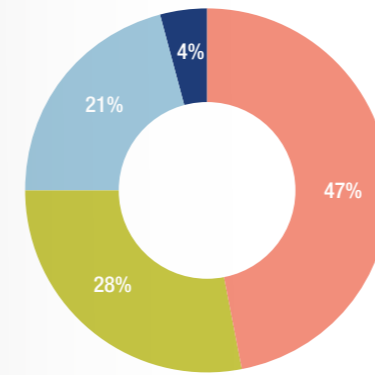


Oikocredit study tour participants meet with a group of women clients of Initiatives for Development Foundation Financial Services (a microfinance partner) in Brahmasandra village, Karnataka, India.



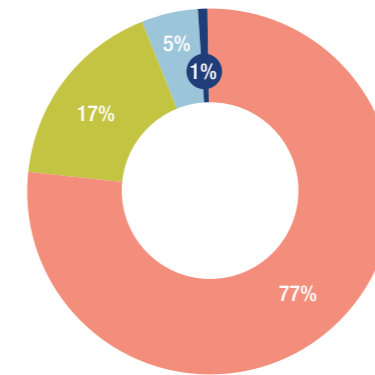
Scan or click on the QR code to watch a short video explaining our 2022-2026 strategy and community-focused approach.

## Financing by region



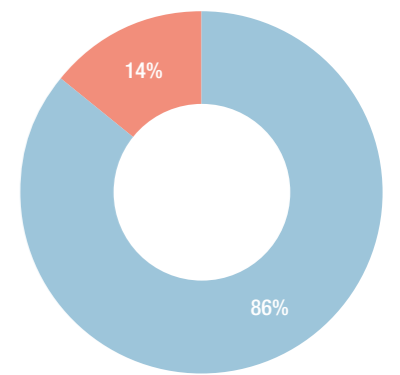
Latin America and the Caribbean  
Africa  
Asia  
Other

## Financing by sector



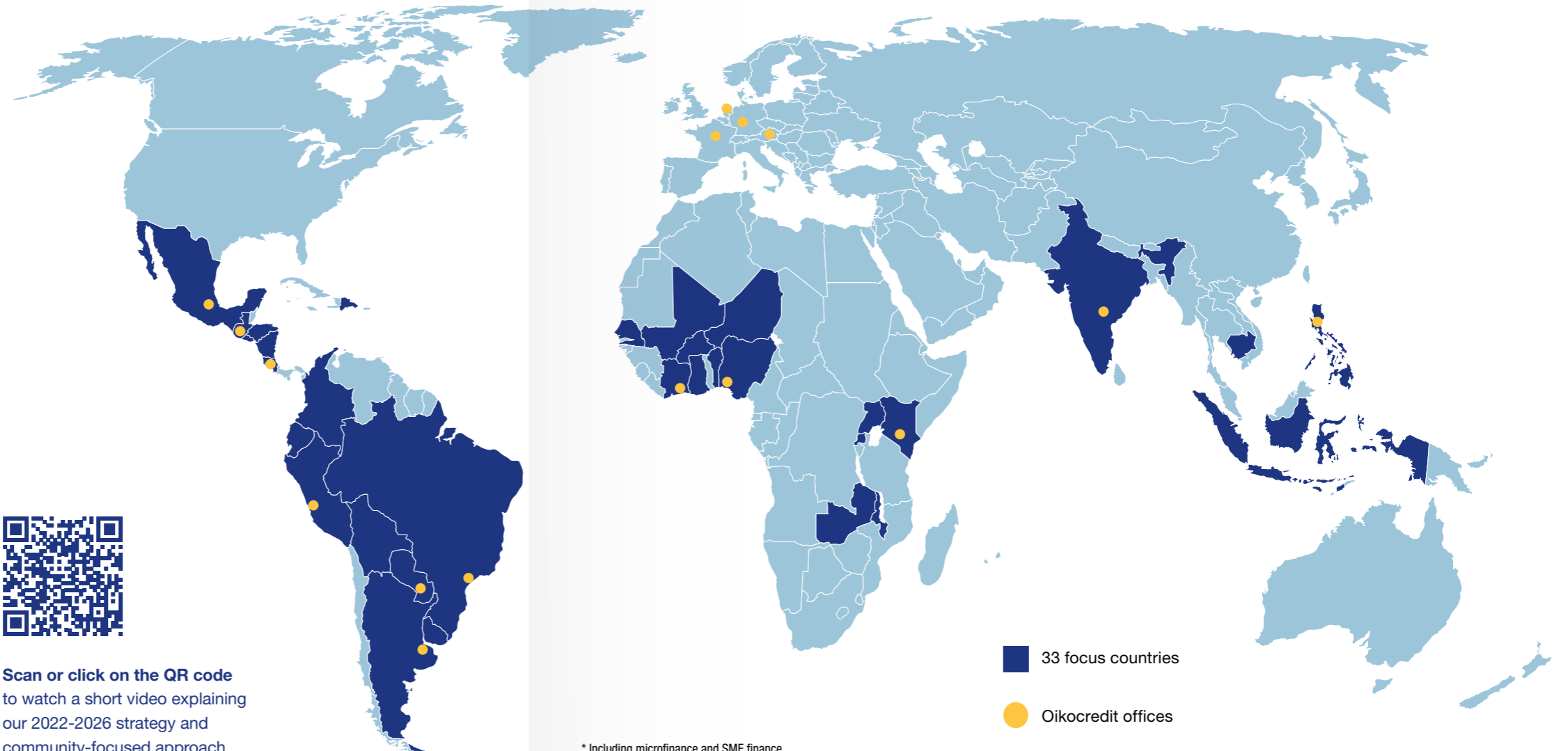
Financial inclusion\*  
Agriculture  
Renewable energy  
Other

## Type of financing



Loans  
Equity

## Where we work



\* Including microfinance and SME finance.

Total financing with partners  
**€ 1,084.7 million**



Partners financed

**540**



Cooperatives financed

**111**



Average loan duration

**2.4 years**



Staff members

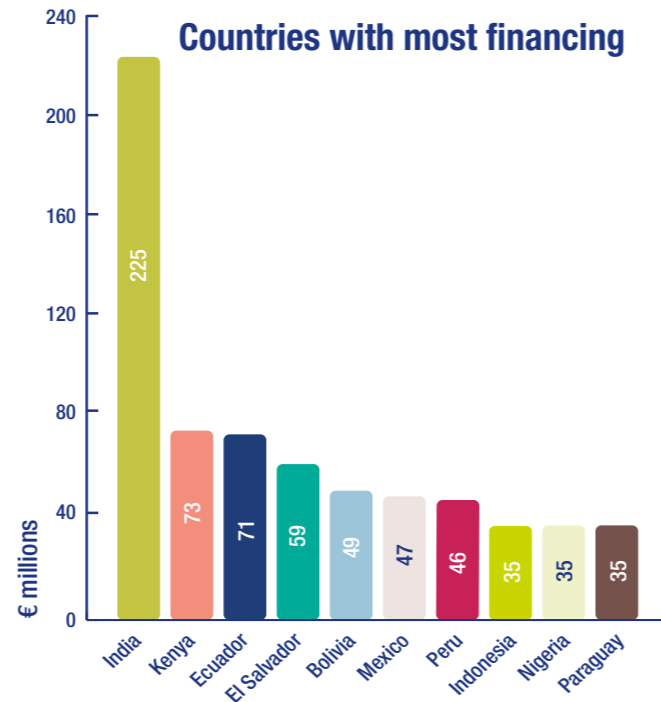
**277 FTE**



Our carbon footprint

**891 tonnes**

We continue to offset our carbon footprint with Fairtrade Gold Standard certified carbon credits via the FairClimateFund



Dewi Tanti and her husband Beny have three children and run their sewing business together. Through her local loan group, Dewi is a client of Oikocredit's Indonesian inclusive finance partner Esta Dana Ventura, which has participated in our capacity building programme.

## Capacity building

Oikocredit has successfully provided capacity building support to its partners since the 1990s. As with its loans and equity investments, Oikocredit seeks through capacity building to improve current and prospective partners' clients' livelihoods. Our capacity building focuses on helping partners improve their social, environmental and financial performance and on unlocking the investment potential of prospective partners in our three key focus sectors: financial inclusion, agriculture and renewable energy.

### Generating impact

To maximise the impact of our capacity building, we focus our involvement on four areas within organisations:

- 1. Governance:** Effective high-level management rules, practices, processes and structures are essential to success. We help organisations acquire the tools they need for robust governance.
- 2. Internal management:** We help organisations optimise their day-to-day processes to achieve tangible outcomes in line with their ambitions.
- 3. Social and environmental performance management:** Our role is to support organisations in using reporting and decision-making tools to monitor and enhance their environmental and social impact in ways suited to their business model.
- 4. Products and services:** We support current and prospective partners in developing, innovating and refining their products and services, ensuring they align closely with clients' needs.



Karla Patricia Velásquez Carvajal has a grocery store in Costa Rica. She currently manages a micro business loan and a flexible loan from Grameen Costa Rica, an Oikocredit partner, through which she enlarged her business from selling only vegetables to a wider range of groceries. Karla loves the independence and autonomy of running her own enterprise.

**Oikocredit provides capacity building services through three channels:**

**Business service providers:** If specific knowledge is not available locally, we involve a specialised business provider and connect them to one or more local providers to strengthen the local ecosystem.

**Strategic partnerships:** We connect our expertise in investing in our focus sectors with expert capacity building providers that work to improve organisations' ability to access finance and use it effectively. This approach helps us unlock the investment readiness of organisations working in our focus sectors.

**Learning and knowledge sharing:** We encourage current and prospective partners to share learning and knowledge through webinars, training and on-site visits as part of our partner-focused knowledge-sharing community.

**We focus our capacity building on three areas to help build resilience at every level:**

- 1. Climate change:** Promoting and supporting implementation of climate adaptation initiatives that improve the resilience of current and prospective partners' clients and members and their communities.
- 2. Livelihoods of rural and farmer communities:** Supporting initiatives to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs by enhancing their income-generating activities through better business performance and greater resilience at community level.
- 3. Investability of focus sectors:** Improving access to finance for organisations working in our focus sectors by combining capacity building with small loans in partnership with others.

**In addition to donations from our investors and Oikocredit's own contribution, our capacity building activities benefit from funding from such donors as:**

- African Guarantee Fund
- IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
- Oikocredit Stiftung Deutschland
- Plan International Canada
- Smallholder Safety Net Upscaling Programme (SSNUP)
- The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund



Women cleaning bottles at the ETRAPA (Entreprise pour la Transformation des Produits Agricoles) juice factory in Cotonou, Benin. The enterprise produces drinks from pineapple and ginger. It employs nine women and six men, all of whom have worked there for over 10 years. ETRAPA has been a client of Vital Finance, a microfinance institution and Oikocredit partner, since 2008.

Capacity building spend  
**€ 979,031**

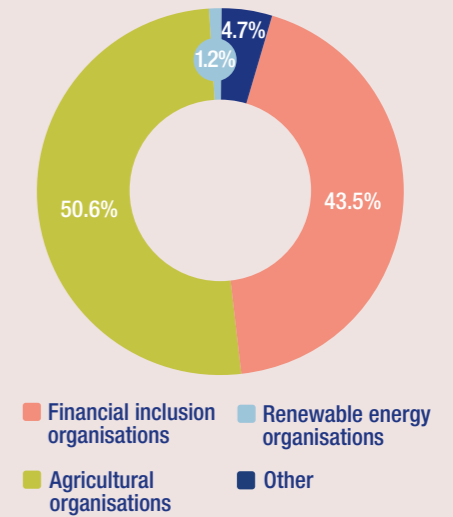


Countries where capacity building took place  
**19**



Organisations that received capacity building  
**85**

**Who received capacity building?**



**How we build capacity**

**Ubiriki young farmers' project in Peru**

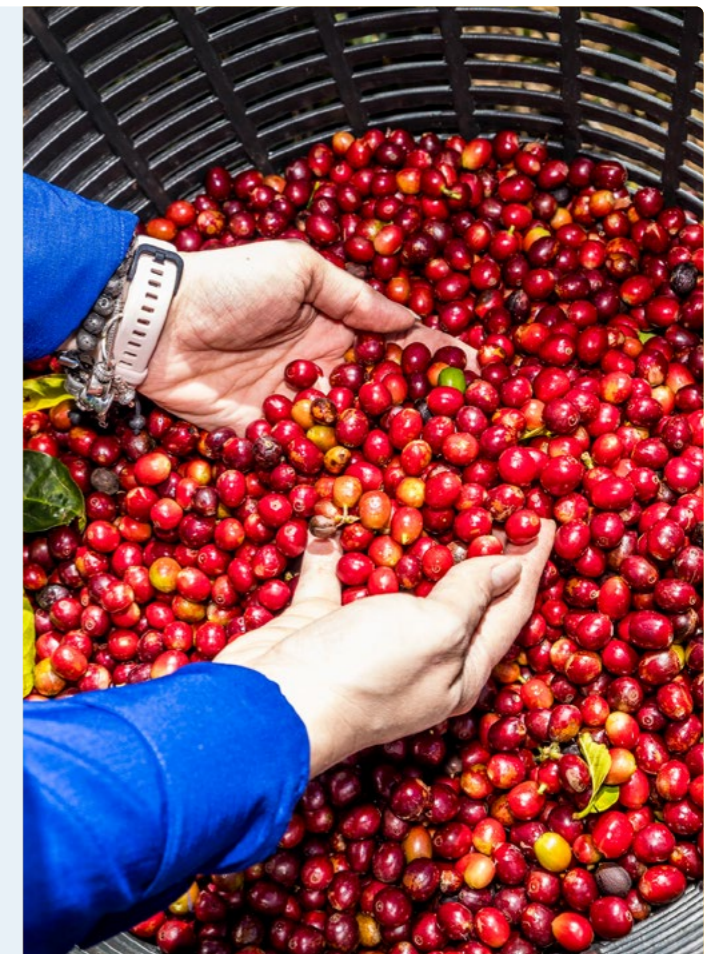
**Goals:** To train and incentivise young coffee farmer cooperative members in more profitable and sustainable approaches to coffee cultivation, improving both product quality and the profitability of the cooperative.

**Project overview:** As the average age of smallholder coffee farmers in Peru rises, and younger farmers struggle to diversify and achieve profitability, Oikocredit is supporting 15 young farmers (5 women and 10 men) with training and incentives. The support package includes: provision of better-quality coffee seeds to produce higher-value speciality coffee; provision of pine and bamboo seedlings to stimulate coffee agroforestry; diversification into organic vegetable production, mainly for domestic consumption, on each coffee farm; and field training in improved coffee growing and forest tree and organic vegetable cultivation.

**Partner involved:** Oikocredit implemented the project in partnership with Cooperativa Agraria Cafetalera Sostenible Valle Ubiriki (a partner since 2010) in Chanchamayo province, central Peru.

**When it happened:** October 2023 to the present.

**Making it possible:** The project has received funding from the Oikocredit International Support Foundation (ISUP).



## Environmental performance management training in Southeast Asia



**Goals:** To help financial inclusion partners identify key environmental risks and define an adequate environmental strategy and action plan to address them.

**Project overview:** Financial service providers can influence the environmental performance of micro enterprises through environmental education and training, assessment and screening, product mix adaptation, and in other ways. However, they often ignore environmental concerns. Oikocredit's environmental performance management training focused on building financial service providers' awareness and capacity to assess environmental and climate risks and their understanding of clients' vulnerability to such risks, enabling them to develop action plans to address risk and benefit from opportunities. Four online training sessions combined with assignments enabled participating organisations to prioritise environmental risks at institutional and client level, define principles for environmental risk management, assess their organisational environmental performance, and develop an environmental action plan.

**Partners involved:** 9 current and 3 former partners: Indonesia – Komida, Esta Dana Ventura, Bina Artha Ventura; Cambodia – Amret, Chamroeun, First Finance, Intean Poalroath Rongroeurng, KB PRASAC, LOLC Cambodia, Maxima, Mohanokor; Philippines – Ahon Sa Hirap.

**When it happened:** November 2023 to March 2024.

**Making it possible:** Financial support for this project came from the Oikocredit International Support Foundation (ISUP), and technical assistance from social and environmental performance management specialists Cerise+SPTF.

## Expanding financial inclusion in rural Kenya

**Goals:** The project aimed to introduce an innovative agriculture value chain financing methodology that has proven its concept in Latin America and focuses on improving smallholder farmers' commercial connections with other actors in and around the value chain. Using this approach, Oikocredit's partner Unaitas aimed to help Kenyan smallholder farmers improve their access to financial and non-financial services.

**Project overview:** The project's introduction of a new agriculture value chain financing strategy (using a successful methodology from Bolivian microfinance institution IDEPRO) helped more than 100 smallholder growers – half of them women – gain access to technical advice and to finance for farm inputs. The integrated method begins with identifying a productive sector where intervention is possible and progresses through design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of results. It involves a combination of financial services and corresponding non-financial services suitable for the selected sector (such as in this case seeds, fertilisers and transport) and partnerships with private and public actors in the value chain.

**Partners involved:** Kenyan rural savings and credit cooperative Unaitas, a long-standing Oikocredit partner (since 1997), owned by 340,000 individual members.

**When it happened:** May 2022 to November 2023.

**Making it possible:** The Smallholder Safety Net Upscaling Programme (SSNUP) provided financial support for the project. Technical assistance came from a Bolivian agriculture value chain specialist and a Kenyan expert in agriculture finance who was trained in the methodology and supported Unaitas in project implementation.







## The End-Client Survey: centring clients' experience

Our End-Client Survey (ECS) programme positions clients' voices at the centre of Oikocredit's and our partners' attention in an amplified and systematic way. We work with partners to develop their capability in data collection, management and use, and to maximise the positive impact of our partnerships on clients' lives. In a world where many claim to be impact-driven, the ECS is a key part of what makes our social impact investing different.

In 2023, 34 financial services partners collaborated with Oikocredit on the Client Self-Perception Survey to discover and act on the significant changes their clients had experienced over the past 12 months. The survey reached more than 41,600 clients in 15 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean in nine languages. More than three-quarters of respondents this year were women.

### Key findings

- Most respondents (74%) indicated that Oikocredit's financial services partners had a positive influence on their wellbeing over the past 12 months.
- A sign of the increasing uncertainty affecting people who live on low incomes was that many respondents (35%) said they had become more worried about the future.
- More than half of the respondents said they had savings, and most of these clients' savings had grown. Many had withdrawn savings for a range of needs, such as to buy food, for household health and education expenses, to invest in the business, or to repay a debt or loan. This confirms the importance of savings in meeting basic needs.
- Extreme weather had disrupted (and generally reduced) the income of 47% of respondents who provided information on such impacts.
- Close to 15,000 respondents (38% of those who commented on internet improvement) said they had invested to access the internet or improve their connection over the 12 months.

## How the ECS improves value for partners

A substantial part of Oikocredit's support for partners through the ECS relates to converting survey findings into action. We work with participating partners to review the results and support them in preparing recommendations for their boards and management. Partners then commit to actions based on the data.

Partners in Brazil, Cambodia, El Salvador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines and Uganda have either published their survey results, created a results framework to include in their annual and social impact reports, or disaggregated results and tailored insights and recommendations for their branches.

ECS results have prompted some partners to develop, introduce or modify their financial products and services to respond to clients' priorities. These changes include a new environmental loan product (Kenya), an adjusted maximum loan amount (Philippines), renaming a loan product to clarify its purpose (Brazil) and improved marketing of savings products by targeting relevant client demographics. Several partners are improving their loan approval and disbursement processes (El Salvador, Honduras, Philippines) and complaint mechanisms (Kenya).

Others have developed new non-financial client services, such as training on financial health and literacy, budgeting, business management and climate change adaptation, and psychological support for clients worried about their future.

Yet others have improved their client communications, strengthened their focus on women's empowerment or conducted additional research. Several partners are embedding the survey data into their long-term operations. These organisations have selected results from the survey as social indicators of their organisation's mission. In some cases, partners have already implemented strategies to improve along these social indicators.

### Looking ahead

Oikocredit will continue to develop innovative solutions to increase the value that the ECS programme delivers for participating organisations and their clients.

Some ECS programme partners have voiced interest in undertaking similar work with clients in response to extreme weather events. Future training – for clients grouped according to their type of business and how extreme weather affects them – will go deeper into climate-adaptive solutions relevant to participants' value chains. Meanwhile, we at Oikocredit have added further climate-related questions to our Client Self-Perception Survey questionnaire for 2024.

Scan or click on the QR code to access the aggregate results from the 2023 Client Self-Perception Survey report.



Gracia Lorena Flores, a loan officer with Oikocredit Salvadoran microfinance partner Enlace, with client María Concepción Domínguez de Rivera.





# Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals

Oikocredit actively contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, we contribute towards SDGs 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 17.

We evidence our contribution to these goals with over 50 indicators. These indicators are closely aligned with standard impact investing indicators included in the Global Impact Investing Network's (GIIN's) IRIS+ measurement system. The indicators below provide a sample of the data we collect to track Oikocredit's contribution to the SDGs.

SDG	Goal	Oikocredit indicators	Results
	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial inclusion: clients reached by our partners: 53 million</li> <li>Financial inclusion: % of partners tracking clients' Poverty Probability Index scores: 19%</li> <li>Financial inclusion: clients of partners with a savings account: 17.5 million</li> <li>Financial inclusion: % of rural clients reached by partners: 65%</li> </ul>	
	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture: farmers reached by our partners: 2.94 million</li> <li>Agriculture: median hectares per farmer: 3.2 hectares</li> <li>Agriculture: partners offering additional services: provision of inputs: 69%</li> <li>Agriculture: average % above market price that partners pay to their farmers: 19.6%</li> </ul>	
	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture: % of women employees: 54.7%</li> <li>% of partners with gender equality as an objective:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial inclusion: 78%</li> <li>- Agriculture: 83.1%</li> </ul> </li> <li>% of financial inclusion partners offering women's empowerment training: 44%</li> </ul>	
	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewable energy: households gaining access to clean energy: 170,000</li> <li>Renewable energy: households starting to use clean energy for income-generating activities: 4,800</li> <li>Renewable energy: households gaining improved access to clean cooking: 1.24 million</li> <li>Renewable energy: CO2 emissions avoided (proportional)*: 422,564 tonnes</li> </ul>	
	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial inclusion: small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) financed by our partners: 4.29 million</li> <li>Financial inclusion: % of partners with employment creation as an objective: 81.8%</li> <li>Financial inclusion: % of partners offering additional non-financial services to clients: 64.6%</li> </ul>	

\* Preliminary results

SDG	Goal	Oikocredit indicators	Results
	Reduced inequality within and among countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture: partners certified Fairtrade (Flocert): 47</li> <li>Cooperatives financed: 111</li> </ul>	
	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CO2 emissions offset through our renewable energy portfolio: 422,564 tonnes</li> <li>% of agricultural partners providing climate-smart agriculture training: 54.2%</li> <li>% of financial inclusion partners providing loans for the purchase of energy efficient or low-carbon products, such as solar panels: 38%</li> </ul>	
	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture: partners certified organic: 50%</li> <li>Agriculture: % of partners offering environmental awareness training: 89%</li> <li>Agriculture: % of partners offering climate-smart agriculture training: 54.2%</li> </ul>	
	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisations that received capacity building: 85</li> </ul>	



Mammatha Kavali, a farmer and client of Oikocredit microfinance partner Spandana Sphoorty Financial, in her rice field in Kistagiri village, south-central India. Spandana serves primarily low-income rural and urban women entrepreneurs with loans, insurance and financial literacy programmes.

# Focus sector: financial inclusion

## Why do we invest in financial inclusion?

Worldwide, 1.4 billion adults have inadequate access to formal financial services.<sup>1</sup> They have no safe place for their savings, no cushion against external shocks by way of insurance, and cannot capitalise on business opportunities. Many of them have low and unpredictable incomes and lack the resources to cope with unexpected household needs or to invest in a better future.

Oikocredit addresses this challenge by working with partner organisations in developing countries to create a world where finance is more inclusive, sustainable and accessible for everyone. We provide loans and equity investments to non-bank financial institutions,<sup>2</sup> banks and cooperatives that in

turn offer people on low incomes a wide range of financial services, ranging from savings, credit, leasing and insurance to remittance-related services and financial education.

Oikocredit's loans are denominated in USD, EUR or local currency.

We also stimulate increased incomes and employment generation by supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with affordable financial products and services. In the economies where Oikocredit is active, MSMEs are engines of economic growth.

## Access to reliable financial services

Having access to reliable financial services positively impacts people's lives in many ways:

- **Increases resilience:** Research indicates that households and small businesses with access to insurance, savings and credit are better equipped to weather income shocks such as unemployment or the loss of a breadwinner than those without such access.
- **Helps small businesses grow:** With access to credit, entrepreneurs can scale up their businesses, increase revenues and acquire assets.
- **Strengthens rural economies:** In rural areas, access to financial services is particularly constrained. Access to simple financial services such as loans, savings and payments can therefore have a significant positive effect on rural economies.
- **Supports health and sanitation:** Access to credit can substantially increase willingness to invest in household sanitation, such as latrines. This in turn can improve public health for an entire village.

- **Improves farm yields:** Loans specifically tailored to farmers' needs enable smallholders to increase investments, which research shows leads to higher yields and better returns.



Agustín Tejax Poron (left), a client of Oikocredit's Guatemalan inclusive finance partner Fundación Génesis Empresarial, talking with Genesis' loan officer Moises Valle.

### Contributing to:



<sup>1</sup> World Bank Global Findex Database, 2021, update October 2023.  
<sup>2</sup> Non-bank financial institutions such as microfinance organisations provide financial services but do not have a full banking licence and cannot accept deposits from the public.



Hidayat, a client of Koperasi Syariah Benteng Mikro Indonesia (KSBMI), completes a form with help from KSBMI branch manager Wahyu Budi Prasetya. Hidayat's family business produces dim sum and in 2010 joined the savings and credit cooperative, which has been an Oikocredit partner since 2017. KSBMI is easy to join, visits clients' homes and offers affordable interest rates.

## The importance of quality

While there is ample evidence that access to financial services positively affects the wellbeing and lives of low-income people and communities, it is not a silver bullet. Benefits take time to accrue, and responsible practice is key.

Moreover, the quality of financial services matters. Financial products need to be tailored to customer needs and capabilities. Non-bank financial institutions, banks and cooperatives must act responsibly and protect customers' rights. They also need to think beyond providing financial services; to deliver positive effects, financial services often need to be combined with other measures. Research shows that the combination of credit with technical assistance can be very effective in improving livelihoods.

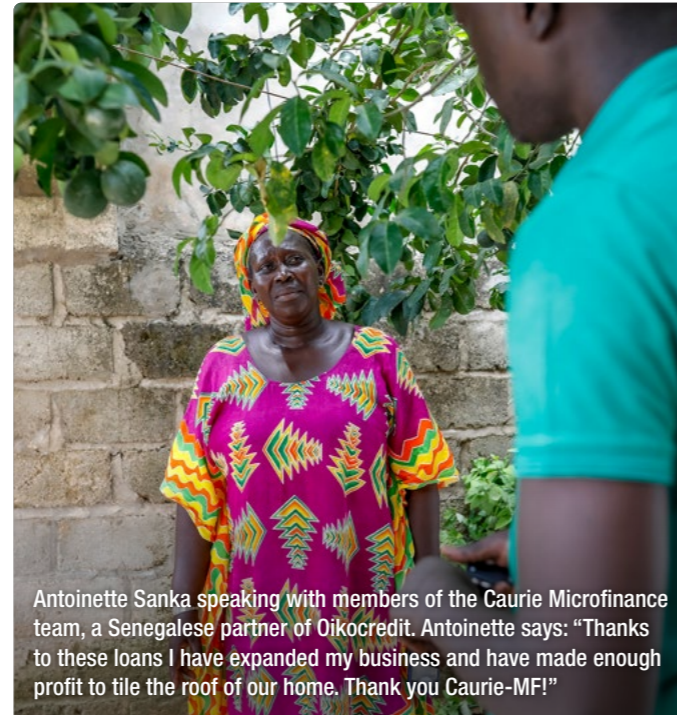
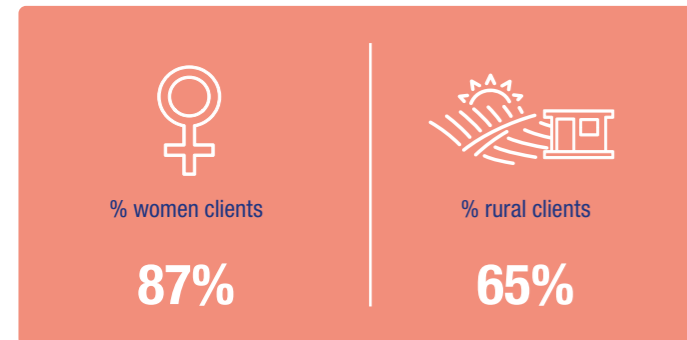
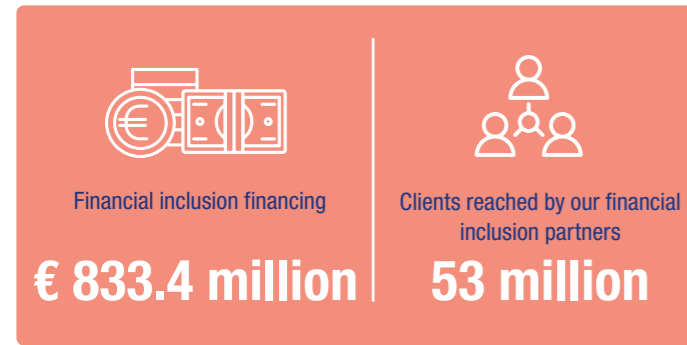
## How do we create impact in financial inclusion?

Within financial inclusion, Oikocredit concentrates on three segments:

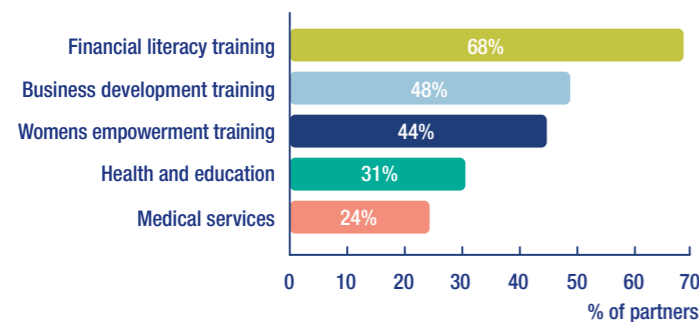
- **Microfinance institutions (MFIs)**
  - Providing responsible financial services for low-income people
  - Contributing to financial security, resilience and economic empowerment
- **Financial institutions and banks supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**
  - Providing responsible financial services for MSMEs
  - Contributing to job creation and retention and improved financial health of MSMEs
- **Non-traditional financial institutions, other financial intermediaries and cooperatives**
  - Providing technology-driven responsible finance using technology to enable clients to access financial services more easily
  - Using financial technology to increase efficiency and improve services to clients
  - For example, fintechs offering digital financial services to individuals and MSMEs

Oikocredit requires financial inclusion partners to endorse and align their practices with client protection standards, carry out an assessment and, if needed, create an action plan to improve their environmental, social and governance (ESG) or risk management. Oikocredit also monitors the implementation of these action plans.

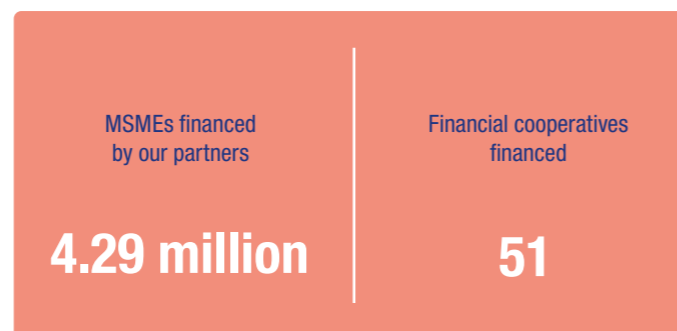
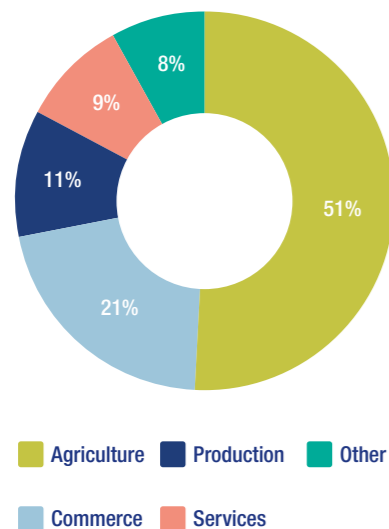
## In numbers



### Microfinance partners offering additional services



### Occupation of microfinance clients



## Impact story: Microfinance

### Fundación Génesis Empresarial, Guatemala

#### About the partner

Fundación Génesis Empresarial is a large Guatemalan private development organisation active since 1988. Its microfinance and other products and services assist individual clients and their households, micro enterprises and community banks. Operating nationwide, it has branches in marketplaces and other commercially active areas and several thousand rural service points. Besides financial support, Fundación Génesis Empresarial provides clients with business development and financial literacy training, female empowerment training and health education.

- **Oikocredit partner since:** 2008.
- **Type of organisation:** The largest microfinance institution (MFI) in Guatemala with a strong focus on financial transparency and social performance.
- **Type of clients:** Most clients are women, live in rural areas, and work as small traders and manufacturers.
- **Number of clients:** More than 322,000 across the country (May 2024).
- **The impact:** In a country where many people experience economic hardship and environmental challenges, Génesis Empresarial has a strong track record. Its financial and non-financial products and services respond to clients' business and household needs and preferences in a culturally appropriate way, helping people and their families improve their incomes, living conditions, housing, education, food, health and general wellbeing.
- **Supporting this partner:** A four-year Oikocredit loan of EUR 9.6 million since 2021, renewing a partnership that previously ran from 2008 and 2018.

#### About the end-client

**Clara Ofelia Archila** is 48 years old and has been a Génesis Empresarial client for about 15 years. With Génesis's help she has built up her enterprise and today sells traditional Guatemalan textiles and clothing, stationery, food and groceries. Since her first business loan of GTQ 1,000 (about EUR 120), she now has GTQ 50,000 (EUR 6,000) in credit from Génesis. Her son handles the accounting, and she employs other people as well. Clara is grateful to Génesis for its training, support and advice over the years. Her income fluctuates, but she always invests money back into the business.



Scan or click on the QR code to watch a short video about Clara Ofelia Archila and how she has prospered with Génesis Empresarial's support.



## Impact story: MSME finance

### Kinara Capital, India

#### About the partner

Kinara Capital, headquartered in Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore), provides loans to micro, small and medium manufacturing and trading enterprises. Founded in 2011 by CEO Hardika Shah, Kinara has a women-majority management team. Its mission is to transform lives, livelihoods and local economies by providing fast and flexible loans without collateral to small enterprises for income improvement and job creation. Kinara envisions a financially inclusive world where every entrepreneur has equal access to capital.

- **Oikocredit partner since:** 2021.
- **Type of organisation:** Non-banking financial services company registered with the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Type of clients:** MSMEs engaged primarily in manufacturing and trading; special business loan scheme for women clients.
- **Number of clients:** Close to 50,000 (March 2024).
- **The impact:** With 133 branches across more than 100 Indian cities, Kinara provides last-mile services to manufacturing and trading MSMEs. Besides a doorstep visit to every potential client, as a tech-enabled microfinance provider Kinara offers clients fast turnaround times. Its fully digitalised loan application process takes only 24 hours including identity and credit bureau checks. Kinara's women's business loan scheme, including discounted rate loans, helps women entrepreneurs seize similar opportunities to their male counterparts, contributing to a positive multi-generational shift for individuals and families.
- **Supporting this partner:** Maanaveeya, Oikocredit International's Indian subsidiary, first disbursed a loan to Kinara of INR 250 million (about EUR 2.8 million) in 2021, followed by two further loans of similar size in 2022 and 2024.

#### About the end-client

**Rukmini R** produces paper plates, partly made from recycled paper, with the help of loans from Kinara Capital. Her enterprise employs 11 men and three women and has about 15 client distributors in Karnataka state, southern India. Rukmini has used Kinara's credit since 2022 to buy machines and materials. She buys large quantities of wastepaper to make her plates and sells her own wastepaper to a paper mill. She has borrowed INR 1,875,000 (EUR 20,000) from Kinara and at end-2023 had repaid about half the loan. Married with two young adult children, she has also started to sell plate pressing machines and provides marketing training.



## Focus sector: agriculture

### Why do we invest in agriculture?

Agriculture is the world's largest employer and accounts for up to 25% of gross domestic product (GDP) in some developing countries. Three-quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas, and for two-thirds of them farming is the main source of food, employment and income.<sup>1</sup> Research shows that growth in the agriculture sector is two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the poorest 40% of people compared to growth in non-agricultural sectors.

Farming is the prime connection between people and the planet. Developing the sector is key to guaranteeing long-term food security, contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and dramatically reducing poverty, particularly for smallholder producers and landless agricultural workers. Investing in sustainable agriculture can help achieve multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By nurturing our land and adopting sustainable agriculture, present and future generations of farmers will be able to feed a growing population. When properly nourished, children can focus on learning, people can lead healthy and productive lives, and societies can prosper.

A UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) study estimates that nearly 85% of all farms globally are smaller than two hectares. They operate only around 12% of all agricultural land yet produce about 35% of the world's food.

Most of the available arable land is in sub-Saharan Africa. Smallholder agriculture, especially if well integrated into a diversified rural economy and agrifood value chains, can greatly contribute to inclusive growth and employment generation.

Over 500 million smallholder farmers worldwide play a critical role in world food production,<sup>2</sup> but most are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as drought and floods. Additionally, smallholder farmers often face volatile pricing and unfair competition.

Investment in agriculture is one of the most effective ways of reducing rural unemployment and poverty, and contributes to local food security. Yet smallholder farmers often lack access to finance. The demand for smallholder finance is estimated at over USD 150 billion.<sup>3</sup> To help address this issue, Oikocredit increases access to loans, equity investments and capacity building to strengthen social and sustainable organisations that work with smallholder farmers.

Our agriculture partners support farmers in increasing productivity and crop diversity, providing technical assistance, farm inputs and access to markets at better terms and conditions than would otherwise be available – for example in the market for fair trade or organic products. This leads to increased income and stronger, more financially stable farming businesses, contributing to the empowerment of smallholder farmers and helping improve their lives.

### How do we create impact in agriculture?

Oikocredit supports smallholder farmers by providing them with access to finance for working capital and assets, while promoting standards and certification and encouraging practices such as crop diversification, organic production and climate-smart agriculture.

The biggest crops in our agriculture portfolio are coffee, cocoa, nuts and grains.<sup>4</sup>

We report on the certifications agriculture partners obtain, as the premiums they can command help farmers secure a better income and benefit their communities.

#### Contributing to:



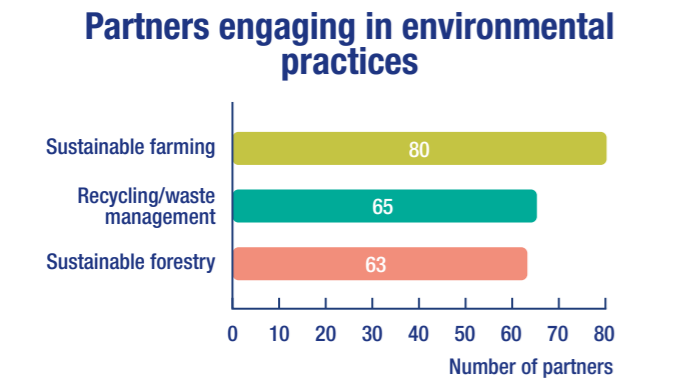
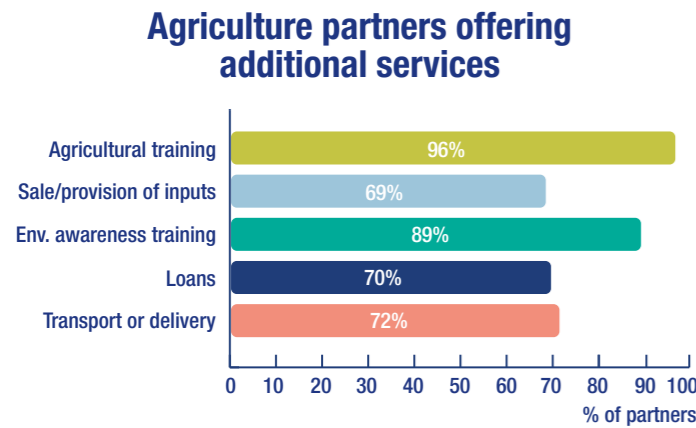
<sup>1</sup> The World Bank, Agriculture and Food overview.

<sup>2</sup> FAO, 2017, The Future of Food and Agriculture.

<sup>3</sup> Initiative for Smallholder Finance, RAF Learning Lab and Dalberg, 2016, Inflection Point: Unlocking growth in the era of farmer finance.

<sup>4</sup> Based on the top four crops in investment amounts and in number of partners at 31 December 2023.

## In numbers



Scan or click on the QR code to learn more about how our partners help their clients adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.



## Impact story: agriculture



### Beneficio La Eva, Costa Rica

#### About the partner

Beneficio La Eva is a Costa Rican company that processes and markets high-quality coffee grown by smallholder farmers across the country. Committed to environmental, social and economic sustainability, it became part of Massimo Zanetti Industries in 2004, whose group headquarters are in Italy. Beneficio La Eva provides technical assistance to coffee growers to improve product quality, crop yields, environmental impact and farmer incomes.

- **Oikocredit partner since:** 2022.
- **Type of organisation:** Coffee processing and marketing company working with smallholder producers; also provides technical assistance, credit services and farm inputs.
- **Type of clients:** Micro and small coffee farmers.
- **Number of clients:** More than 2,900 coffee farmers (approximately 17% women).
- **The impact:** Beneficio La Eva buys unprocessed coffee from small-scale farmers in six Costa Rican regions, which it processes at its own mills. Much of its coffee is Rainforest Alliance certified, and it promotes sustainable and regenerative agriculture, using its own farms for testing and farmer training.
- **Supporting this partner:** An Oikocredit loan of US\$ 4 million for working capital payments to coffee farmers and for processing and export costs.

#### About the end-client

**Olman Aguilera Chávez** has cultivated coffee in Naranjo canton, central Costa Rica, for over 40 years, following in the footsteps of his dad. Sixty-year-old Olman is married with two children. His farm of about 10 hectares grows only coffee. He employs 10 coffee pickers and has sold his produce to Beneficio La Eva for nearly 25 years. Very appreciative of the company's technical and financial help, he plants new varieties to ensure increased production and healthy plants. Olman's twin dreams are to keep increasing production and to make his farm more beautiful.

# Focus sector: renewable energy

## Why do we invest in renewable energy?

Roughly 685 million people worldwide live without access to clean, affordable and reliable electricity.<sup>1</sup> More than 2 billion have no access to clean cooking solutions, leading to 3.2 million deaths a year from indoor air pollution.<sup>2,3</sup>

By financing renewable energy providers, Oikocredit helps these partners become stronger, more sustainable social businesses. As our partners grow, they can reach more low-income customers with products and services that widen access to affordable and clean energy. Energy costs are reduced in turn, empowering our end-clients and contributing to improved living standards.

**Access to affordable clean energy has additional multifaceted benefits for households and communities in developing economies:**

**Increased earning capability:** Lack of energy access curtails income-earning capabilities. Clean and affordable electricity can improve employment and household earnings.

**Improved health:** Traditional cookstoves put household members, particularly women and children, at greater risk of chronic disease. Access to clean energy significantly reduces household air pollution. Better health positively affects livelihoods, including earning and learning opportunities.

**Women's empowerment:** Energy poverty has a strong gender dimension. Collecting firewood and gathering water from distant sources are time-consuming activities performed disproportionately by women and girls. Lack of access to clean energy thus strongly affects their living conditions and opportunities, taking time away from other activities including girls' schooling. Clean cookstoves and solar water pumps reduce chores, giving women and girls greater time sovereignty.

**Food security:** Irrigation is key to farm productivity. Without access to renewable energy, many smallholder farmers are

forced to collect water from distant sources or rely on costly diesel-powered pumping. This leaves large tracts of farmable land without proper irrigation. Solar water pumps provide a cost-effective solution and allow farmers to increase their crop yields.

**Education:** Over 186 million children attend primary schools that have no electricity. This negatively affects the time students spend learning and their chances of completing primary education. Access to affordable clean energy can increase school attendance, enable longer operating hours and enhance remote and home learning including outside daylight hours.<sup>4</sup>

## How do we create impact in renewable energy?

**We invest in projects that focus on social impact, in particular:**

- **Off-grid solar**
  - Providing off-grid households with electricity through solar home systems
  - Constructing and operating solar 'mini-grids' for rural communities
- **On-grid infrastructure projects serving energy-poor communities**
  - Using renewable energy technologies like solar, wind, hydropower and biomass
- **Clean cooking**
  - Offering a clean alternative to traditional methods of cooking – such as burning wood on a three-stone fire – by switching to efficient cookstoves
  - Reducing negative impact on health and the environment (CO2 emissions, deforestation, household air pollution)

Focusing our work on renewable energy in this way ensures we only invest where there are clear benefits for local communities, such as improved living standards and positive health outcomes.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, International Energy Agency and others, 2024, Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization, 2023, Household air pollution.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, 2002, Addressing Energy's Interlinkages with other SDGs.

### Contributing to:



## Access to clean energy

### Better access to lower-cost energy in Africa

**Reduced energy costs:** Many households in sub-Saharan Africa's rural areas rely on diesel generators for electricity production. Their high operating costs means a sizable share of household income goes towards energy costs. When oil prices soar, as has happened in recent years, generator use becomes unaffordable for many households, forcing them to live without electricity.

Beyond access to energy, its affordability is also crucial. Energy prices are in some cases so high that many Africans forgo essential energy services on a day-to-day basis. Poverty is the fundamental reason why so many households in sub-Saharan Africa struggle to pay for modern energy services, even when subsidised.

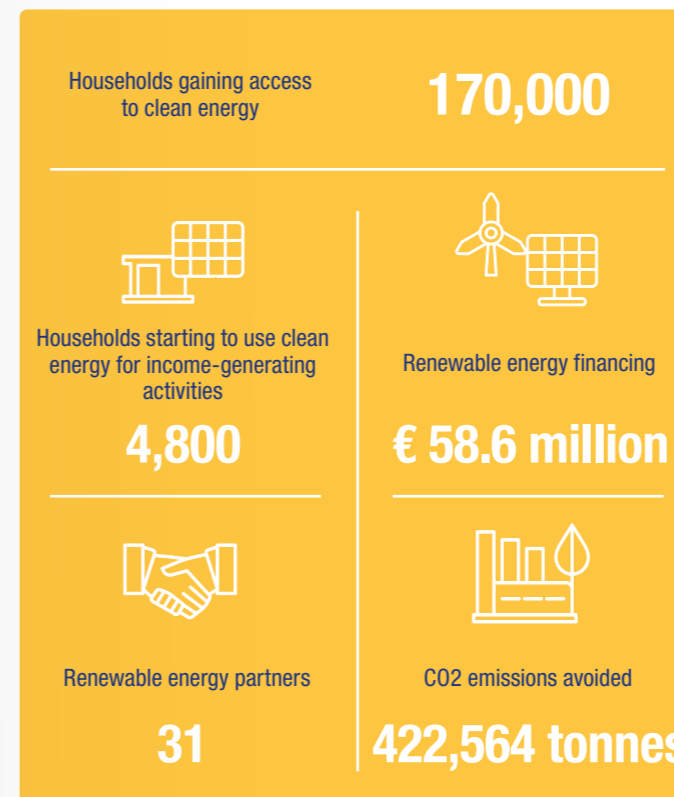
More than 40% of sub-Saharan Africans live below the international poverty line. Yet, according to the African Energy Outlook report, average residential electricity rates and subsidised tariffs for the poorest customers in sub-Saharan African countries such as Burkina Faso, Nigeria

and Uganda may exceed OECD averages – even before considering differences in purchasing power. Bringing energy costs down is crucial to ensure a fair energy transition for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

To achieve universal access to affordable electricity by 2030 in Africa, the International Energy Agency estimates that 30% of new household connections will have to come from mini-grids, and up to 65% in communities located more than 20 km from grid infrastructure.

Mini-grids are independent, decentralised electricity networks that produce power for local users. Their capacity typically ranges between 250 kW and 10 MW. They benefit from economies of scale and are thus a cost-effective solution when the population is too small or remote for grid extension, and when electricity needs are larger than the power generated by solar home systems, for example for machinery and agricultural equipment.

## In numbers



Oikocredit study tour participants visiting a farmer producer organisation in India and being shown an Ecofrost solar cold storage room, manufactured and supplied by Ecozen. Renewable energy company Ecozen has been an Oikocredit partner since 2021.

## Impact story: renewable energy



### Weziza, Benin

#### About the partner

Weziza Benin develops, owns and operates solar-powered, off-grid mini-grids. The Benin subsidiary of rural electricity service provider Energicity, Weziza's objective is to provide affordable, reliable and scalable clean and productive electricity. With access to electricity, its clients can reduce expenditure on diesel-powered generators, batteries, paraffin and candles, expand their economic activities and increase their disposable income.

- **Oikocredit partner since:** 2022.
- **Type of organisation:** Rural energy services provider and mini-grid developer.
- **Type of clients:** Low-income Beninese rural households and small businesses.
- **Number of clients:** About 2,500 households and small businesses.
- **The impact:** New mini-grid sites and increased uptake and use of electric grain mills by rural households and small enterprises, supported with technical training and business planning, resulting in diversified rural incomes; 883 households gaining access to clean energy; 42 businesses adopting clean energy for productive purposes and income generation. Reduction in CO2 emissions of 83 tonnes.
- **Supporting this partner:** An Oikocredit loan of EUR 1.4 million. Oikocredit is also supporting this partner through the 2024 End-Client Survey programme.

#### About the end-client

**Alphonse Eto** has been an apprentice welder for three years. Aged twenty-five and single, he moved to the village in Benin where he now lives and works because it has electricity. Alphonse used to operate his tools with a diesel dynamo, but he now has a connection to one of Weziza's mini-grids. "It's much better to subscribe to Weziza than to use gas oil," he says.

## Community-focused projects

Community resilience-building projects are intrinsic to the four-year strategy our cooperative began to implement in 2022. Central to our approach is undertaking initiatives in education, water, sanitation, housing and community infrastructure with existing and new partners. We have achieved good progress by closing 2023 with an outstanding community-focused portfolio of EUR 57.3 million.

Together with partners that are already working in these areas and have insight into local communities' most pressing needs, we co-develop solutions to help low-income communities become more resilient.

Oikocredit also finances these community-development projects and supports them with capacity building. We facilitate connections with other mission-aligned organisations that can help provide solutions when we and our partners cannot, such as grant funding, technical assistance and infrastructure solutions.

### Key benefits

#### For partners

Enabling partners to respond faster and more effectively to the needs of the communities they operate in.

#### For Oikocredit

Ability to engage more closely with mission-aligned partners (existing and new), growing our impact and ensuring long-term investment opportunities.

#### For end-clients

Access to basic services, improved resilience to poverty and greater opportunity to live the life they aspire to.

#### Our role with this community-focused approach is as follows:

1. We identify partners with community-oriented goals. Together, we explore what the communities they serve need most to increase community resilience.
2. We drive the co-development of new initiatives that are replicable and scalable, and facilitate connections between people and organisations to help solve community problems.
3. We finance solutions and provide and facilitate capacity building and technical assistance through all phases of initiatives' lifecycles, from riskier 'seed capital' to maturity, and find other investors and donors when needed.



David Zepeda, a client of Hábitat para la Humanidad El Salvador, speaking with Hábitat team members Iyonne Ruballo and Fernanda Mayorga. Hábitat has been an Oikocredit partner since 2011.





Science lesson at Sunrise International School, India. The school has used loans from affordable-education impact investor Varthana Finance to develop its infrastructure. Varthana, a non-banking financial company and an Oikocredit partner since 2022, supports affordable private schools with finance and other services to help them achieve educational improvements.

## Progress thus far

### Education

We are partnering with Opportunity International for three years (starting from October 2021) to enhance access to affordable quality education for children in low-income communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Through this collaboration, Oikocredit provides funding to financial institutions, while Opportunity International provides technical assistance to financial institutions and schools.

In 2023 we served 18 financial institutions by mobilising USD 40 million in loans, of which 30% was committed to education. We significantly increased our education loans in Latin America and the Caribbean and started exploring possibilities in Asia. We held multiple roadshows in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the partnership among financial institutions. We jointly sponsored European Microfinance Week in Luxembourg, where we shared a panel session on education.

### Water and Sanitation

We initiated a new partnership with Aqua for All, based in the Netherlands, to focus on innovative finance for water and sanitation (WASH). Through this collaboration, Oikocredit provides loans with a WASH component, and Aqua for All provides technical assistance, de-risking and performance-based incentives to financial institutions.

We served six financial institutions in 2023, mobilising EUR 6.4 million in loans earmarked for WASH in Africa and Asia. We held multiple roadshows with financial institutions to present our partnership offering. At European Microfinance Week, we shared a panel session on WASH.

### Housing

Housing is currently Oikocredit's largest community-focused project area in terms of outstanding portfolio size. Latin America and the Caribbean have the major share of the housing portfolio. In Latin America, we actively invest in housing projects, provide financing, build capacity and host

## Needs driving the development of our community-focused portfolio

The graphic below shows global needs and SDGs linked to community-focused projects we are developing with our partners.

Areas	SDG	Need
Education	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	600 million school-age children worldwide are not in school or receive substandard education <sup>1</sup>
Housing	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing conditions <sup>2</sup>
Water and sanitation	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	4.5 billion people lack adequate access to safe water and/or sanitation facilities <sup>3</sup>
Community infrastructure	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	685 million people lack access to electricity <sup>4</sup>

webinars for inclusive finance partners. The region faces a significant housing deficit due to rapid urbanisation and the poor quality of much of its existing housing. Our approach aims to address this pressing issue.

### Community infrastructure

In our commitment to community-focused renewable energy infrastructure, we are supporting the development of over 80,000 connections in rural Rwanda through our partnership with solar developer ARC Power, and 4,000 connections in Benin through our collaboration with Weziza. These initiatives are empowering villagers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by providing reliable, grid-quality power and financing options for equipment purchases, particularly for productive uses such as agri-processing.

<sup>1</sup> Unesco, 2022, 617 million children and adolescents not getting the minimum in reading and math.  
<sup>2</sup> United Nations and NYC, 2019, Inclusive United Cities for All: Affordable Housing and Homelessness.  
<sup>3</sup> WHO and Unicef, 2021, Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.  
<sup>4</sup> World Bank, International Energy Agency and others, 2024, Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report.

## Impact story: Safe drinking water for communities in East Africa

### Blended finance partnership in Uganda

**Goals:** Improve access to clean and safe drinking water across underserved low-income areas in East Africa towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6.

**Project overview:** EBO SACCO, a savings and credit association with 80,000 client members and 13 branches in rural parts of Uganda, provides loans for water and sanitation (WASH) services to small private water operators and to households. Under this project, EBO aims to grow its WASH SME portfolio through private-sector-led community initiatives. International foundation Aqua for All is providing technical assistance – including training, product design, marketing, promotion and stakeholder management – as well as first-loss capital and performance-based incentives.

**Partners involved:** EBO SACCO and Aqua for All.

**When it happened:** 2023 onwards (24 months).

**Making it possible:** Oikocredit has advanced a loan of EUR 950,000, with a WASH component of EUR 247,000, for EBO SACCO to grow its WASH SME portfolio. Aqua for All's project support includes technical assistance of up to EUR 30,000 to improve EBO's approach to the sector.



# Global learning and advocacy

At Oikocredit we're committed to creating a fairer world. Not only through financing and capacity building but also through raising awareness about the economic, social and environmental challenges our partners and their clients face around the world.

Together with Oikocredit's support associations,<sup>1</sup> we are expanding our global learning and advocacy initiatives in higher-income countries where we raise capital. We believe that fostering mutual learning and encouraging action at the individual and societal level are crucial for transitioning to a more equitable and sustainable future.

Our support associations offer initiatives that highlight the interconnectedness of global issues and the importance of collective action. This includes interactive learning formats and events that bring together members with Oikocredit's partners. Through these efforts, we strive to inspire a sense of shared responsibility and empower individuals to contribute to a more just and sustainable world through investing, donations and coordinated action.

## Interactive city walks for investors and the public

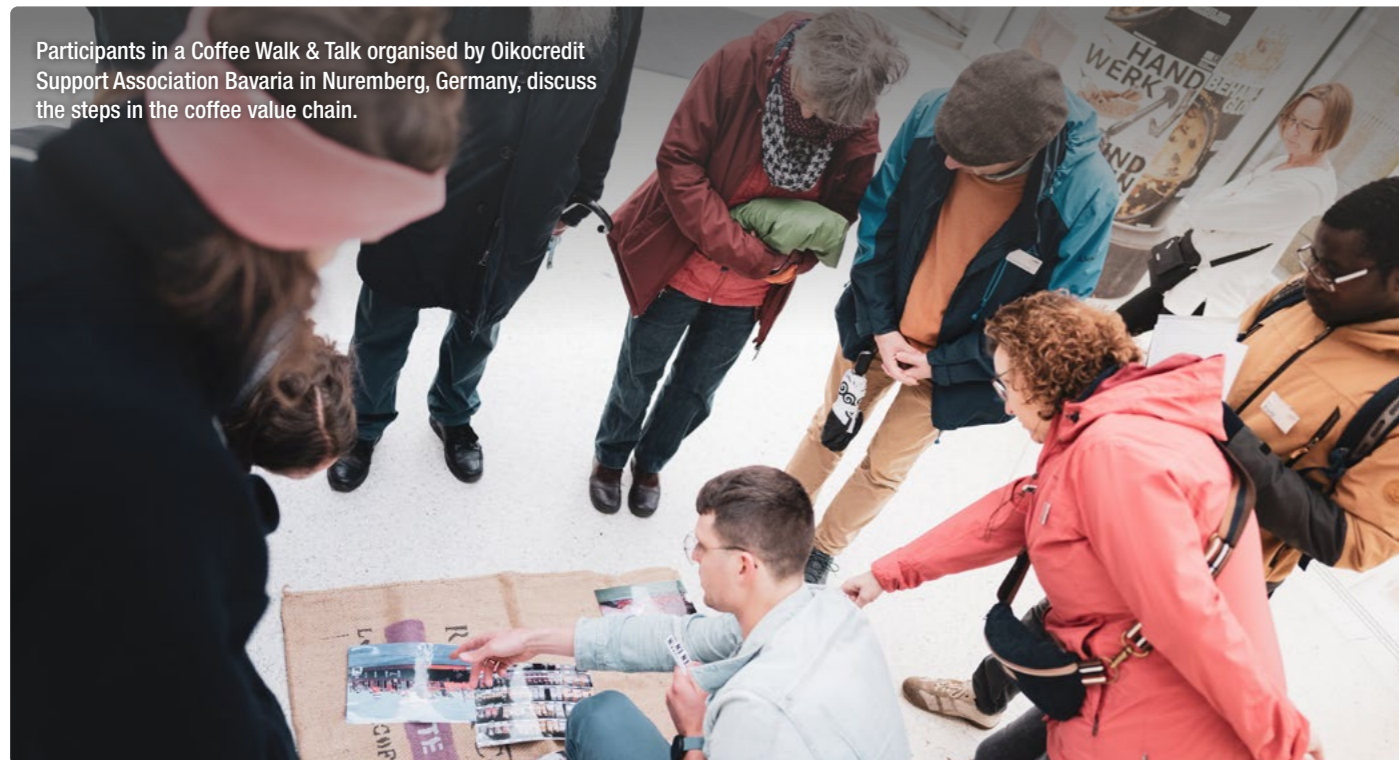
**Goals:** The Coffee Walk & Talk aims to raise awareness about the coffee value chain and encourages people in Europe to adapt their behaviours related to consumption, investments and engagement.

**Project overview:** Through interactive city walks, Oikocredit's support associations offer members and other interested people a two-hour exploration of the coffee value chain. Participants learn about coffee cultivation, climate challenges faced by farmers, fair trade practices, the role of Oikocredit's coffee partners and what they themselves can do to improve the situation of smallholder coffee farmers.

**Parties involved:** Several Oikocredit support associations throughout Austria, Germany, Spain and Switzerland offer the Coffee Walk & Talk and workshops and often organise it in collaboration with local network partners.

**When it happened:** 2023 to the present.

**Making it possible:** Support Association Oikocredit Baden-Württemberg e.V. developed the learning format, using its own funds and the expertise of its adult education experts. To develop a new edition in 2024, the Chocolate Walk & Talk, the support association received financial support from the Oikocredit International Support Foundation (ISUP).



Participants in a Coffee Walk & Talk organised by Oikocredit Support Association Bavaria in Nuremberg, Germany, discuss the steps in the coffee value chain.

<sup>1</sup> Oikocredit's support associations bring together investors, promote our mission, and offer global learning and advocacy activities.

# Partnering for impact

We seek to develop strong, long-term partnerships to achieve lasting social impact.

In addition to the partners we invest in, Oikocredit works with multiple stakeholders, including the organisations below, to catalyse positive change for people on low incomes.



Only a selection of our partners are represented above because of space constraints. The information here was correct at 31 December 2023.



## Oikocredit's mission

Oikocredit challenges all to invest responsibly. It provides financial services and supports organisations to improve the quality of life of low-income people or communities in a sustainable way.

## Oikocredit International



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