



Our sustainability journey

A glimpse of our impact
around the world in 2024





Introduction

Volcafe works in more than 25 countries to source and deliver a rich variety of coffees to clients worldwide. We know coffee's future relies on a diversified supply and we enable this through our network of 15 origin operations in Central and South America, East Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

As a company involved in green coffee for more than 170 years, Volcafe is acutely aware of the nexus of issues that farmers face in cultivating this prized crop. The changing climate, shifts in agricultural practice, price volatility and market access, and persistent social and structural problems all complicate farmers' work and livelihoods. And yet we see many examples where targeted support goes a long way toward addressing these challenges, enabling farmers to build stable and resilient businesses through coffee.

Our sustainability strategy, bolstered by the 250+ on-the-ground technicians of our Volcafe Way farmer support programme, aims to support coffee farmers in overcoming the challenges of the contemporary coffee sector. Organised around three mutually supportive pillars – sustainable profitability, regenerative practices, and responsible citizenship – our strategy guides Volcafe's everyday engagement with farmers and allows us to partner with our roaster clients on activities that have a meaningful impact for coffee communities.

In the pages that follow, you'll find a curated selection of these activities around the world. We see them as scaleable models and solutions ripe for replication. At Volcafe, we welcome the chance to discuss with our customers and other stakeholders how we can collaborate to progress toward a thriving, sustainable coffee business for all.

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A year of progress

Statement from our Global Sustainability Director, Raphaëlle Peinado

Sustainability has become a core influence on business: The dynamics of a changing climate, socioeconomic shifts, and an evolving regulatory landscape all demand new approaches that blend environmental, social, and governance imperatives into a unified whole. Meanwhile, emerging challenges often prompt innovative solutions.

At Volcafe, our vision is to build a thriving, sustainable coffee sector for all. That includes responding to the needs of coffee farmers and roasters, forging partnerships that foster mutual progress, and embracing new concepts and techniques.

In this booklet, we share some of the progress we've made toward realising our vision over the past year. We welcome your ideas and inquiries on how we can make coffee business better, together.



**Emerging
challenges often
prompt innovative
solutions**

Sustainable profitability

When farmers can earn a reasonable return from their efforts, they are encouraged to invest in the wider improvement and sustainability of their farms. If their hard work doesn't deliver reliably, there is no incentive to keep farming.

This is the focus of the first of three pillars in our sustainability strategy, what we call sustainable profitability – a cornerstone of the Volcafe Way approach that encompasses the idea that farming is a business, that applying good practices will reap tangible improvements and rewards.

Volcafe Way supports farmers with trainings and advice to implement these practices — ranging from improved record-keeping and reducing costs, through to agricultural practices that enhance yields and quality. It also supports projects and activities that dig into the root causes of structural social challenges like promoting gender equity and safeguarding children. All of these can create a foundation for achieving sustainable profitability.

High-quality coffee fetches a better price, and farms that meet the criteria of certification standards can earn an additional premium on their coffee. Volcafe is an active participant in many of the best-known sustainability certifications — 4C, Fairtrade, Organic, Rainforest Alliance — and during 2024 we continued to add Volcafe Verified and Volcafe Excellence value chains to our in-house responsibly sourced offer. Responsible sourcing and the partnership it implies create more opportunities for farmers to achieve sustainable profitability.

By linking farm investments, costs, and returns more holistically through the concept of sustainable profitability, we have seen countless examples of the same farm plot producing higher yields and the same farmer earning a better income. In the following pages we explore a few facets of the transition toward sustainable profitability.

Aimed at securing a decent livelihood for farmers and their families, this pillar of our sustainability strategy includes an emphasis on the following tenets.



01. Farming as a business



02. Quality improvement



03. Responsible sourcing

Farming as a business

For Volcafe, farming as a business is a fundamental concept: we know that farmers are entrepreneurs and can grow their businesses by applying good practices, whether that's improved record-keeping and cost management, sustainable agronomy techniques, or an emphasis on consistent quality.

Through our Volcafe Way farmer support programme, including 250+ on-the-ground technicians in 11 coffee origins, we provide direct technical assistance and training to more than 45,000 coffee farmers. Volcafe Way also facilitates a network of more than 700 business model farms where farmers can see new techniques and methods up-close (even if they are not suppliers to Volcafe).

During 2024, Volcafe Way technicians offered practical advice and trainings on topics as diverse as agroforestry systems, soil health, coffee rejuvenation and renovation, the safe use of agrochemicals, preventing child labour, and promoting gender equity. These range from group trainings to individual farm visits where technicians can spend hours with farmers in their fields.

Let's zoom to **Brazil**, where the 'Coffee and management' project worked with 29 small- and large-scale coffee farmers during 2024 to apply good business practices in their operations. Through the project, a Volcafe Way technician makes a monthly visit to each participating farmer, where they collaborate on a diagnosis and action plan to improve the financial management of the farm. The farmers meet their peers and discuss the analyses of each other's farms, evaluating potential improvements such as renewing their crops through new varieties or pruning, or ways to reduce harvest costs. Our technicians assist the farmers in data interpretation and decision-making, with an emphasis on finding the right path toward a stable and resilient future: farming as a business in practice.



Farmer and technician analysing data in Brazil



Farmer training in Vietnam

Quality improvement

Higher quality coffee fetches a higher price, so supporting farmers to improve their coffee quality is an important aspect of attaining sustainable profitability. Properly drying coffee cherries shortly after harvest can be crucial to the final product, and Volcafe supports farmers with different techniques and tools to lock in that inherent quality.

In **Tanzania**, during the peak season, farmer cooperatives (AMCOS) often face challenges with drying tables: the large volumes of ripe cherries create bottlenecks as the tables' capacities are exceeded. This can compromise coffee quality due to expedited drying under harsh sunlight or storing cherries in suboptimal conditions to make room for new arrivals. To tackle this challenge, during 2024 our Taylor Winch Tanzania team worked with partners to construct more than 10 new drying tables for AMCOS, bringing the total number of drying tables in the north and south to 55. The new tables are more durable and hold larger quantities of coffee compared to older models, thus enhancing quality and ultimately increasing farmers' incomes.

In **Peru's** Jaén region, our team built a centralised solar dryer from bamboo to enhance its Shumba mill. Funded by Portland Coffee Roasters, the new facility allows 25 farmers in the surrounding area to dry their coffee in the greenhouse-like interior.



Drying tables in Tanzania

By limiting exposure to moisture and pests that can degrade the coffee, solar dryers have proven to be a cost-effective, reliable, and replicable means of improving quality. Our Volcafe Way team in Peru has supported farmers to construct more than 800 solar dryers since 2021.



In **Papua New Guinea**, our local team distributed more than 1,000 coffee drying tarps to farmers in the Morobe and Eastern Highlands provinces. The tarps support improved quality by keeping the coffee out of contact with the ground as it dries. At the same time, the team shares training and advice to farmers on pruning and rejuvenating their coffee trees, helping to improve productivity and yields.



And in **China**, our Yunnan Volcafe team trained 200 farmers on the use of a drying machine and other drying techniques that stabilise and improve quality.

Responsible sourcing

For farmers, meeting the requirements of sustainability standards can be another path towards sustainable profitability. Whether it's well-known certification and sustainability schemes like Nespresso AAA, C.A.F.E. Practices, Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade, Organic, or 4C, or in-house standards like the Volcafe Responsible Sourcing (RS) programme, farmers who meet the criteria qualify for premiums on their coffee that can improve their livelihoods.

At Volcafe, we work with many of the leading certifications while also continuing to expand Volcafe RS by building up Volcafe Verified and Volcafe Excellence value chains. What these approaches have in common is an emphasis on improving livelihoods, protecting the environment, and promoting social progress in the farming communities.

Globally, during Volcafe's 2024 fiscal year, 40 percent of our total traded volume of coffee was responsibly sourced through certifications and our own Volcafe RS programme. The additional rigour involved in these approaches also supports the drive for compliance with new legislation, such as the upcoming European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

During 2024, examples of our expansion of responsibly sourced value chains included our Chinese operation's successful collaboration with 200 coffee farming families in Yunnan province to achieve Rainforest Alliance certification and certify 500 metric tonnes of their coffee. We also undertook major steps to increase the number of Volcafe RS value chains in origins including Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, and Vietnam.

Our two responsibly sourced coffees



[Learn more about Volcafe Verified and Volcafe Excellence on volcafe.com >](https://volcafe.com)



New mills bring service and certainty to Honduran coffee growers

Molinos de Honduras, Volcafe's company in the Central American country, has long had a focus on moving closer to farmers – whether that's via direct purchasing to avoid middlemen or providing technical advice and training through the Volcafe Way programme. Another way the Molinos de Honduras team reaches farmers is by building processing infrastructure like wet mills in key coffee-growing regions.

When farmers can bring their coffee cherries to a nearby mill for cleaning and processing, they gain some distinct advantages. The proximity saves farmers time, reduces their transport costs, and locks in the best coffee quality soon after harvest, before potential damage to the cherries from pests and exposure to the elements. As a result, the farmers can fetch a better price for their coffee.

In 2024, through a partnership with coffee roaster Strauss, Molinos de Honduras modernised the outdated Caja Rural Suyapa wet mill with an eye toward improving both its efficiency and sustainability. The wet mill, where ripe coffee cherries are processed to harvest the coffee 'bean' within, was outfitted with a new water recirculation system, solar dryers, and a dedicated warehouse for storing coffee pulp (the husks removed to access the seed). The new set-up better controls water use and waste, and has doubled the processing capacity per hour.

Our Honduran team also inaugurated the new El Chile wet mill, in El Paraíso department, in 2024. The mill, built with support from roaster partner Starbucks, brings efficient processing closer to hundreds of coffee farmers. The mill yields a more uniform product than can be achieved by farmers using varied processes at their farms. That uniformity is an important factor in the overall coffee quality, enabling improved earnings for the farmers. At the same time, El Chile streamlines the handling of residual pulp and water, preventing its run-off into surrounding areas. The mill can process more than 9,000 kilos of coffee cherries per hour.

Plans are in place to build another wet mill in the coming year – all part of Molinos de Honduras' approach to offer coffee growers a new degree of service and certainty at each harvest.



El Chile Mill, Honduras



Renovations of the Suyapa mill

Regenerative practices

Farmers rely on the land to cultivate coffee and other crops. Sustainable profitability isn't truly attainable unless the farm is also attuned to realities of the local conditions and ecology. In the face of a changing climate, there are practical steps that farmers can take to safeguard both their farms and their futures.

The second pillar of our sustainability strategy emphasises regenerative practices to combat climate change. While there is no one-size-fits-all approach, farmers can choose from a toolkit of regenerative agricultural practices that reduce their environmental footprint while contributing to soil health, farm productivity, and biodiversity protection. These practices aren't always intuitive or obvious, and for any farmer it can be a leap of faith to adopt new and unfamiliar techniques.

Our Volcafe Way agronomist teams are there, on the ground, to support tens of thousands of farmers in choosing the right combination of regenerative practices to improve farm resilience, reduce carbon, and promote biodiversity. The technicians visit farms and speak with farmers face-to-face, support a network of model farms demonstrating good practice, and offer trainings that disseminate new approaches far and wide.

As a company, Volcafe also works to mirror these climate-related shifts in our own operations. During 2024, our teams around the world undertook a variety of preparations for the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which will come into application at the end of 2025 and aims to counter deforestation linked to several products including coffee. This company-wide effort involved a slew of improvements in our internal systems, enhanced risk mapping, and deepened engagement with farmers.

Over the next pages we survey a few of the ways that Volcafe is supporting farmers to adopt regenerative practices and improve their climate readiness.

Focused on the fight against climate change, this pillar of our sustainability strategy incorporates elements such as:



01. Resilient farming



02. Carbon reduction



03. Safeguarding biodiversity

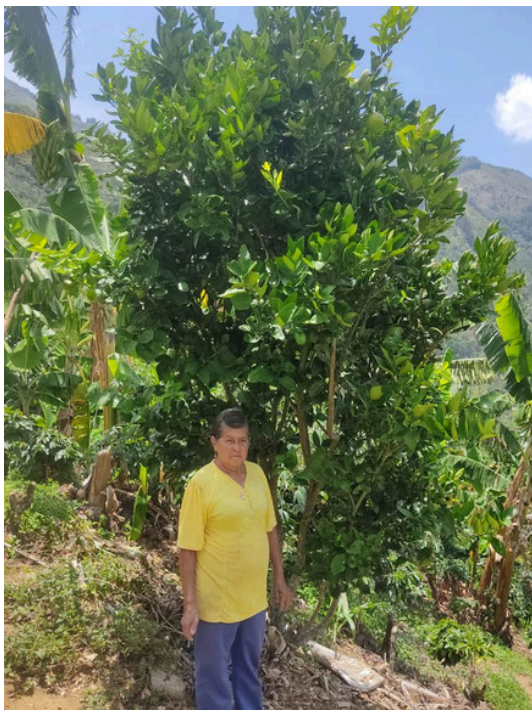
Resilient farming

Climate change presents an ever-evolving set of dilemmas to coffee farmers. Shifting weather patterns mean that one season may bring drought and the next frost or inundations. Pests and plant illnesses are spreading to new areas, and the cultivation practices that were normal a generation ago may no longer suffice today. For coffee farmers to thrive in the future, they need to embrace approaches that improve their farms' resilience in the face of these challenges. Volcafe has been working for many years to demonstrate and disseminate techniques and materials that support farmers to make these critical changes at their farms. Let's look at a few specific examples among the many we undertook last year.

In **Colombia**, our Carcafe teams have worked with 400 coffee-growing families in Antioquia to combine coffee planting with agroforestry systems at their farms, in partnership with Solidaridad. This has involved planting more than 14,000 new shade and fruit trees (from 21 different native species), which are helping to replenish the soil, boost food security, and support the growth of coffee plants among the trees. These newly planted trees also capture carbon at the farms, so much so that the farmers have been able to generate and sell carbon credits through our partnership with ACORN and Rabobank. Our teams also supported the installation of water treatment systems and compost pits at the farms, reducing chemical run-off and methane emissions.

In **Uganda**, our local company has partnered with the Global Environment Facility and Nespresso to improve the incomes and resilience of 2,200 smallholder coffee farmers in the Masaka region. As part of the project, 35 model farms were set up to demonstrate regenerative agricultural practices like intercropping and agroforestry to neighbouring farmers. The model farms also serve as field schools for the delivery of trainings on a range of topics (from integrated soil fertility management to gender equity).

Colombian farmers implementing agroforestry



In **Kenya**, our local company Taylor Winch supported a Volcafe Way business model farm in the Machakos region to implement regenerative practices including cover cropping and mulching. In this approach, blue grass is planted between the coffee plant rows and can later be harvested for use as mulch material. Mulch helps retain moisture, improves soil fertility, and suppresses weeds without using herbicides. Applying these practices can improve coffee productivity – the farm achieved yield increases of up to 50 percent per coffee plant as a result. The techniques on display at model farms can be replicated by other farmers in the area, spreading knowledge of regenerative agriculture more broadly in climate change-affected regions.

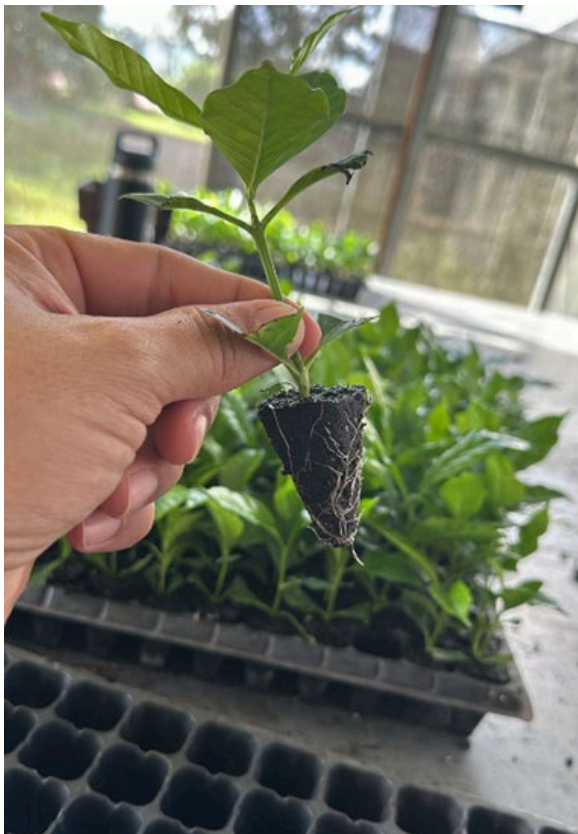
In another innovation, our **Costa Rica** team is working with CATIE – an agricultural research and training institute – to develop hybrid coffee seedlings that support regenerative agriculture. The seedlings are more resistant to problems such as leaf rust, worms, and illnesses, and can thus boost productivity while also requiring less agrochemicals. Volcafe Costa Rica will deliver more than 26,000 seedlings to 150 farmers as part of a regenerative agriculture package to help renew aging coffee farms that have become more susceptible to pests and plant diseases.

26,000

seedlings of resistant hybrid coffee plants
distributed in Costa Rica



Cover cropping with bluegrass in Kenya



Development of hybrid variety in Costa Rica

Carbon reduction

Volcafe has undertaken detailed carbon accounting and life cycle analysis studies to design projects with the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the coffee supply chain. We have seen that a substantial portion of the emissions occur at the coffee farms themselves. This is another reason for our emphasis on regenerative practices in coffee farming – not only can these practices help reduce carbon emissions from farming, but by doing so they also ward off the worst impacts of climate change threatening coffee's future. It's a clear win-win situation.

In **Colombia**, the team at Carcafe (our local company) is working with farmers to analyse and reduce carbon in a variety of ways. Among their efforts, a pilot project involving ten farmers in Huila is exploring the sources of emissions at their farms and developing workplans to reduce these through targeted interventions and improved efficiencies. This includes soil analysis and customised nutrition plans specific to the needs of their crops as well as training in the use of microorganisms to improve composting. Wastewater treatment infrastructure donated by Carcafe is also playing a role in the pilot.

Perhaps the most exciting element of the project involves biochar. The farmers have received training on how to use biomass residues to create biochar, an additive that not only boosts soil health but also traps carbon in the ground. Biochar opens new possibilities to generate carbon credits; in this case the credits are traded for economic incentives, biochar, and the technical guidance on making and using biochar from our partner, Cotierra.

By combining these techniques with other sustainable agricultural practices, the aim is to enable farmers to earn more and boost their farms' resilience while reducing emissions and sequestering carbon.





Safeguarding biodiversity

As the climate changes, preserving and promoting biodiversity is increasingly part of farming. Whether it's limiting the use of pesticides and herbicides, promoting circularity through clever waste management, or creating conditions where wildlife can flourish, the following cases show how well-run farms can reduce their footprint and generate positive knock-on effects for the surrounding ecology.

In **Costa Rica**, where agrochemical use has often led to reduced soil fertility, efficient weed management has become increasingly important. During 2024, Volcafe Costa Rica carried out a pilot project promoted and cofinanced by Nespresso which focused on regenerative plots, where one of the objectives was to completely stop the use of these inputs. Because cutting agrochemicals implied increased labour costs, the pilot also donated professional trimmers that help the farmers manage weeds more efficiently. The pilot involves 150 innovative coffee producers farming more than 610 hectares.

Volcafe's Dakman joint venture in **Vietnam** implemented a project alongside the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution and UK International Development to investigate barriers to integrated pest management (IPM) which result in pesticide misuse or overuse by small and large farms in the country. The project researched the current state of IPM adoption and pesticide use and their impact on the environment and human health, while also developing training materials to help promote IPM. The project deployed 10 key trainers to support 500 farmers with IPM implementation through workshops and trainings. Two demo farms were established to showcase the practices, and participating farmers were provided with fruit and shade trees to plant at their farms, improving biodiversity.



Trimmers help reduce agrochemical use in Costa Rica

Carcafe, our company in **Colombia**, has supported 400 farmers to improve waste management. By installing water treatment systems at their farms, the farmers filter residual waters left from coffee processing and reduce potential harm from run-off into surrounding areas. At the same time, the farms have added composting pits to help reduce methane emissions from coffee processing.

In **Guatemala**, our local company Peter Schoenfeld has partnered with the nonprofit Panthera since 2019 on a project to preserve natural habitat in the Sierra de las Minas mountains. It works with 75 farmers who set up a community nursery to distribute fruit trees that boost biodiversity in and around the farms, aiding local wildlife in the process. The project's remote cameras have photographed over 30 species of animals, including armadillos, coyotes, margay, many birds, and even the elusive puma. The cameras also helped to reveal the presence of the nocturnal kinkajou/micoleon, a small mammal that was not previously known to inhabit this mountainous region.

As these examples demonstrate, farmers can be a part of the solution when it comes to promoting biodiversity.

30+

species of animals documented in
the project area in Guatemala

Clockwise from top left: Coyote, armadillo, puma, and kinkajou have been spotted in Guatemala's Sierra de las Minas region.



Holistic, climate-smart approach yields progress for Rwenzori farmers

Volcafe's Ugandan company Kyagalanyi Coffee Ltd, IFC, and Nespresso are working in partnership to promote more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive livelihoods for coffee-growing communities while preserving some of the world's rarest coffee varieties.

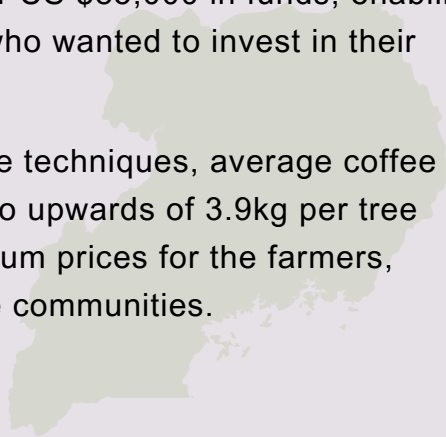
The project supports 3,300 smallholder farmers in the mountainous Rwenzori region to improve their coffee production through climate-smart agricultural practices and other techniques. Price premiums and other incentives help to boost productivity through the application of regenerative practices at the coffee farms, while broader community development initiatives include gender equity trainings and participation in Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) which enable access to finance.

To support the producers in running their farms as businesses, the partners have provided training on financial literacy and record-keeping. Women farmers receive additional support and information to engage in coffee production.

This project's complementary approaches have enabled the farmers to make notable progress. Participants show increased awareness of the importance of saving, budgeting, and financial considerations in decision-making. Many of the households now engage in supplemental income-generating activities such as livestock rearing, soap making, coffee trading, and providing hospitality services (rental services for chairs, tents, and utensils for events).

The 76 farmer-run VSLAs have pooled over US \$85,000 in funds, enabling 1,065 loans to be distributed to members who wanted to invest in their farms.

And as a result of the focus on regenerative techniques, average coffee yields have increased from 2.9kg per tree to upwards of 3.9kg per tree within two years. That coffee fetches premium prices for the farmers, opening up even more opportunities for the communities.





Responsible citizenship

Farmers don't live in isolation. They have families, seek advice and support from neighbours, send their children to nearby schools, visit local clinics, and shop and trade with businesses in their community.

With our local presence in many coffee producing regions, we see ourselves as part of the fabric of these communities and we notice when certain threads are wearing thin. For Volcafe, responsible citizenship – the third pillar of our sustainability strategy – entails being a trusted partner in efforts to foster thriving communities.

At the grassroots, through our work with farmers and partnerships with our customers, we seek to support coffee communities with projects that respond to community needs. These activities can take the form of encouraging gender equity to release the full potential of farming families, promoting education to reduce risks of child labour and ensure children have a chance to expand their horizons, or supporting local health infrastructure to meet the needs of farmers, coffee workers, and other community members. Central to all of these is a commitment to socioeconomic progress in coffee communities that complements our work to improve farmer livelihoods and combat climate change through regenerative agriculture.

As a company, Volcafe also engages in sectoral initiatives and sustainability schemes that help promote improved practice and outcomes in our industry. In 2024, for instance, we joined the International Labour Organization's Child Labour Platform, a leading business initiative to work toward the eradication of child labour in coffee supply chains.

The following pages delve deeper into a few of these projects, showcasing the change that targeted support can achieve.

Responding to some of the persistent socioeconomic challenges confronting coffee communities, this pillar of our sustainability strategy includes topics such as:



01. Gender equity



02. Education



03. Health

Gender equity

At Volcafe, we are committed to promoting gender equity and women empowerment as a means to encourage female coffee producers to take a more active role in coffee production. Women play a pivotal role in their families' daily lives, often undertaking financial management tasks such as resource allocation for food and monitoring expenditures, while also engaging actively in ensuring their children's education. Below we examine just a few of the projects we undertook last year which emphasise the gender dimension in coffee.

In **Tanzania**, our team has enhanced female involvement by organising workshops with four new women's groups from the southern region. Five women from four different farmer cooperatives participated, gaining valuable knowledge in coffee farming, quality improvement, and financial literacy. This project aims to engage women in coffee production to boost their income, create employment opportunities, and build their confidence through financial independence, ultimately empowering them within their communities.



“Working with women is always a pleasure. They’re eager to learn and committed to improving coffee quality, and receiving seedlings to start their own farms was a meaningful and inspiring step forward.”

Rosalia Mkungilwa, Assistant Trader, Tanzania

In **Costa Rica**, in partnership with the Finnish roaster Paulig, female producers participated in a training offered by Bean Voyage that focused on empowering women producers. They developed administrative skills and, upon completion, received financial support to launch their own ventures.

In **Uganda**'s Masaka region, our local company Kyagalanyi's project with the Global Environment Facility and Nespresso (see page 19) has also supported the recruitment and training of 49 change agents who were instrumental in setting up 88 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) among farming families. The change agents have made more than 1,000 individual household visits and worked through the VSLA network to deliver trainings on topics such as gender equity and financial literacy. So far, there have been more than 600 VSLA meetings held, opening a new avenue for members to access finance they can invest in household improvements.

In **Guatemala**, the coffee industry has been a predominantly male preserve, creating significant challenges for gender equality. Despite women contributing up to 70 percent of the labour in coffee production, they often face systemic barriers such as limited access to land, credit, and information. La Morena, a coffee produced exclusively by female farmers in Huehuetenango and Cubulco, highlights the empowerment of women in this sector. Through support from the Volcafe Way programme, these farmers have improved coffee quality, increased yields, and boosted their incomes, transforming their farms into viable businesses.



Women coffee producers in Guatemala



Renovated school in Remolino



Fence around the school in Remolino

Education

Access to education and learning opportunities opens a multitude of prospects for children and their families. When children are deprived of access to schools or encounter unsafe routes to reach them, they are at a higher risk of missing out on these critical formative experiences. This deprivation can also increase the likelihood of their involvement in child labour or other forms of exploitation. At Volcafe, we regard this issue with utmost seriousness. Below, we outline several initiatives undertaken over the past year that address this important matter.

Together with our long-standing partner Costa Foundation and due to our mutual focus on supporting coffee-growing communities, we have worked to improve educational access through school construction and educational support in Colombia, Peru, and Vietnam.

El Remolino School, located in Taminango – one of the top coffee-producing municipalities in Nariño, **Colombia** – serves 460 students from the surrounding areas. Due to its location along trafficking routes of illegal crops and drugs, Remolino, and more specifically this school, faces insecurity, making it a critical area for intervention. In 2020, we undertook the replacement of eight outdated classrooms, and in 2024, we financed the construction of a perimeter fence to enhance the safety of the children. The entire school community is pleased with the transformation of the campus.

In a similar initiative in **Vietnam**, we collaborated with our partner to construct a nursery school for pre-school children. This facility includes classrooms equipped with internet access, an internal water supply and drainage system, and improved electricity. For the 2024-25 school year, 500 children enrolled. The village families are deeply appreciative of the opportunity to send their children to this new school as it increases the children's opportunities. In many rural areas of Vietnam, Vietnamese – the official language – is mandatory from middle school age, but is not always taught or spoken in the community. Teaching the official language as early as pre-school strongly contributes to the children's development, education, and future prospects.

In **Peru**, the Jalquilla School, a primary and secondary institution accommodating up to 110 students, was inaugurated in March 2024 as the eighth school resulting from Volcafe Peru's partnership with the Costa Foundation. The ceremony featured speeches, musical performances, a blessing of the building, and a ribbon-cutting event. Attendees enjoyed a festive lunch, and the children explored their new school, which includes classrooms, washrooms, offices, a kitchen, a media library, multipurpose spaces, and outdoor sports facilities.



Inauguration of the Jalquilla school in Peru

Health

Volcafe's commitment to improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation, healthcare promotion, nutrition, and enhancing the social life of the community is essential for fostering sustainable development and well-being. Here we see some examples of integrated efforts to enhance the quality of life and build stronger, healthier coffee communities.

In **Guatemala**, as part of a collaboration with Stumptown, the construction of a kitchen for the school in Xolaij Village, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz, was completed. This school, which provides primary education to 74 students – most of whom are children of coffee farmers – now has adequate facilities to offer meals to both students and staff. The new kitchen will significantly reduce the risk of diseases and improve nutrition, thereby enhancing the overall health and well-being of the community.

Aiming to improve health and school attendance in **Papua New Guinea**, Volcafe, in collaboration with several roaster partners, has implemented a sanitation programme at more than 100 schools serving more than 28,000 students. This programme involves providing clean drinking water solutions to prevent waterborne diseases among children, and in some cases also makes other sanitation improvements at schools. These efforts collectively aim to improve school attendance and reduce the risk of child labour in the coffee-growing communities.

In another effort to promote health, Volcafe **Brazil**, in partnership with a client, constructed a sports court for Escola Estadual da Fazenda Bela Vista, a school in a rural coffee community. This project aims to improve the social life of the community by providing a space for physical education lessons. The facility will not only enable students to practice sports but also serves as a venue for community gatherings, cultural events, and celebrations, promoting values such as cooperation, unity, and teamwork. This initiative will positively impact 85 families, 150 students, and 28 school staff members, enhancing their overall quality of life.

Agrolab: New-school approach to old problem of rural exodus

In Peru's rural regions, it's common for young people to leave home and move to urban areas in search of more opportunity. Volcafe Peru's local teams have noted for some time that many youths do not see possibilities for further education close to home, while also doubting the prospects of a future in farming. The city tantalises with the possibility of universities and a broader job market, but in reality many rural-urban migrants end up working in the informal sector while confronting the high costs of crowded cities.

As an extension of its long-running efforts to promote education in rural coffee-growing regions by supporting school construction and refurbishment, Volcafe Peru worked to build a new type of educational institute in the country's northern Cajamarca region. The El Huabo Agrolab, completed in 2024, is a community school with a special focus on skills and technology suited to the rural context.

The Agrolab project envisioned both a physical structure and an agricultural educational module carried out through participatory processes, with the aim of delivering specialised training opportunities and social development consistent with local needs.

In practice, the curriculum seeks to reevaluate traditional farming techniques and introduce science and technology topics along with an emphasis on sustainability. Students gain hands-on experience with a system of smart pots that collect data on the plants being grown and also learn to set up smart vegetable plot models which mix crops in an efficient manner. Other lessons promote agricultural business skills and entrepreneurship.

Designed by Volcafe Peru's partner NGO, Semillas, the new school building is accessible to students as well as the broader community – many of whom are coffee growers.

Attuning the educational environment and curriculum to local needs shows promise for encouraging young people to consider a future in their community rather than the faraway city. While the Agrolab is still in its initial phase, it offers local youths a chance to access new ideas and skills that constitute a real alternative to migration.

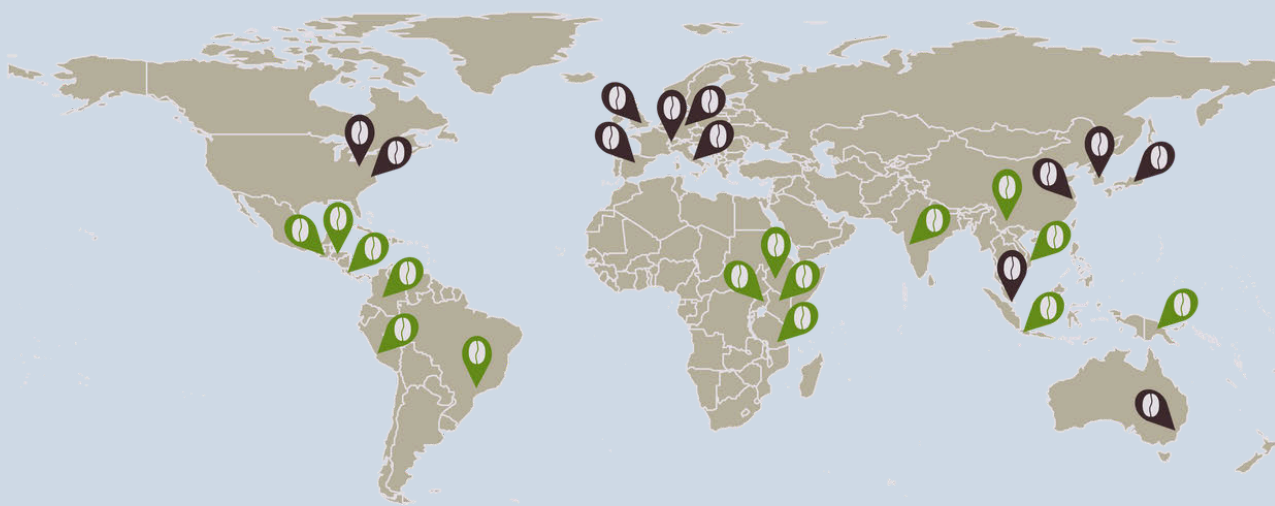


Classroom in El Huabo Agrolab in Peru





Our operations



15 Origin operations

Brazil
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ethiopia
Guatemala
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Kenya
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Tanzania
Uganda
Vietnam

10 Trading operations

Australia
China
Germany
Italy
Japan
Singapore
South Korea
Spain
Switzerland (also our HQ)
USA



Making coffee business better, together.

This booklet provides just a glimpse of some the impact projects that Volcafe and its partners are implementing in coffee origins around the world.

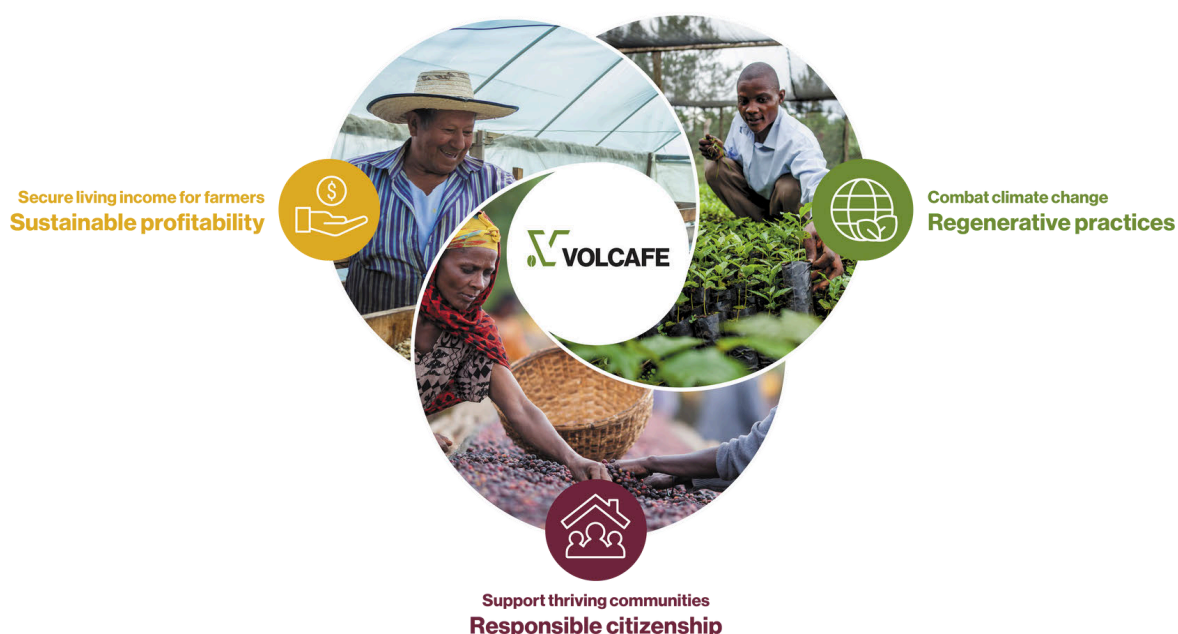
There is always room to grow, to involve more farming families, to have more impact for coffee communities.

Will you work with us to achieve more?

We can co-design a project together to focus on your most pressing commitments. Maybe that's improving livelihoods and attaining living income, or decarbonising the coffee supply chain, or working to achieve gender equity or promote education for children in coffee communities.

Share your aspirations and ideas with your commercial contact or our global Sustainability team. We want to be the world's best coffee partner.

Together, let's work toward a **thriving, sustainable coffee business for all.**





Making coffee business better,
together.

Volcafe

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