

Responsible Sourcing Due Diligence

SEAS Cocoa Project, Solomon Islands

Issued by ADRA Solomon Islands, with support from ADRA Australia

Date: 18 June 2026

Executive summary

ADRA Solomon Islands, with support from ADRA Australia, has supported cocoa farmers in Solomon Islands for almost eight years through the Sustainable Economic and Agricultural Solutions (SEAS) for Cocoa Farmers in the Solomon Islands Project. ADRA is actively preparing a recognised certification and social audit pathway, with Sedex SMETA considered achievable in 2026 as the near-term target and Rainforest Alliance as the longer-term target for sustainable cocoa market access. While formal third-party certification has not yet been achieved, this statement documents the responsible sourcing systems already in place for all cocoa sourced through SEAS. It is provided as interim due diligence for Island Batch, Foodstuffs and future buyers until certification is achieved.

1. Certification and continuous improvement pathway

ADRA Solomon Islands and ADRA Australia are actively pursuing recognised certification and social audit pathways for the SEAS-supported cocoa supply chain. Sedex SMETA is considered the most practical near-term pathway because it provides a recognised social compliance audit approach for labour, health and safety, responsible sourcing and site-level management systems.

ADRA considers Sedex SMETA achievable in 2026, subject to final scope confirmation, budget approval, audit provider availability and site readiness. Rainforest Alliance is the longer-term target for sustainable cocoa market access, particularly where buyers require stronger evidence on farmer practices, traceability, environmental management and sustainability systems.

At the date of this statement, ADRA Solomon Islands and the SEAS Cocoa Project do not yet hold third-party certification or an approved social audit under the schemes listed by Foodstuffs. This statement is therefore provided as interim due diligence documentation and should not be read as a substitute for formal certification or audit.

2. Scope of this statement

| Area | Scope |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Primary audience | Island Batch and Foodstuffs. The statement may also be used with future buyers as interim due diligence until certification is achieved. |
| Issuing organisation | ADRA Solomon Islands, with support from ADRA Australia. |
| Buying entity | ADRA Solomon Islands. |
| Product scope | All cocoa beans sourced through the SEAS-supported supply chain. |
| Geographic scope | Guadalcanal, Malaita, Vella Lavella, Makira and Western Province. |
| Time period | 2026 until formal certification or social audit is achieved, subject to update as systems develop. |
| Farmer reach | Approximately 600 registered or participating cocoa farmers, subject to update as farmer registration progresses. |

3. Project background and farmer support

ADRA Australia has supported cocoa farmers in Solomon Islands for almost eight years through its partnership with ADRA Solomon Islands. ADRA Solomon Islands is the in-country implementing partner for the SEAS Cocoa Project, with funding and support provided by ADRA Australia. As an implementing partner for ADRA Australia-funded programming, ADRA Solomon Islands is expected to maintain policies,

procedures and project practices that align with ADRA Australia's requirements and relevant DFAT compliance expectations.

This support has focused on helping smallholder farmers improve production, post-harvest handling, bean quality, market readiness and livelihood opportunities. The SEAS Cocoa Project has provided farmer training in climate-smart cocoa production, cocoa quality and integrated pest and disease management. Practical support has included seedlings, tools, drying materials and fermentation boxes.

Over time, the project has moved from basic production support towards stronger quality systems, traceability and direct market linkage, because farmer training is more effective when farmers can also access reliable and transparent buyers.

This market access approach is intended to help farmers improve bean quality and move beyond low-value bulk markets where possible. It supports more transparent purchasing, better post-harvest practice and improved opportunities for farmers to participate in higher-value cocoa markets.

4. Farmer registration, traceability and digital records

SEAS currently works with approximately 600 registered or participating cocoa farmers, with a target to expand this to 2,500 farmers by June 2028. Earlier project records focused mainly on farmer names. The current system is being strengthened to include sex, age, disability status, location and purchasing information, supporting better inclusion tracking and buyer due diligence.

ADRA Solomon Islands uses LogAlto to support digital tracking of farmer and purchasing records. Current purchase records include farmer name, date of birth, sex, disability status, village, province, bean type, weight, moisture content for dried beans, batch code, amount paid and date of purchase.

Traceability has also been strengthened so that cocoa purchases can now be linked from farmers to batches or bags. This is a significant improvement from earlier practice, where cocoa was purchased from farmers but not consistently connected to a specific batch or bag.

5. Transparent purchasing and quality control

Farmers are informed of buying prices in advance, before the collection team arrives in their village. Quality requirements are communicated through farmer training and project materials. Payment is made on the spot when farmers sell their beans.

Quality checks are undertaken before beans are accepted, dried, graded, packed or sold. For wet beans, checks include freshness, pod maturity, diseased or damaged beans, cleanliness, smell and uniformity. For dried beans, checks include moisture, colour, smell, bean count, cleanliness, mould, insect infestation, cut test, bean size and count, germinated beans, flat beans and smoke contamination.

6. Labour standards, safeguarding and modern slavery compliance

ADRA Solomon Islands applies its safeguarding policies to the SEAS Cocoa Project, with support from ADRA Australia. As a DFAT-accredited Australian NGO, ADRA Australia works to ensure that safeguarding, child protection, accountability and compliance policies are not only in place, but are communicated, implemented and monitored through project practice.

ADRA Australia and ADRA Solomon Islands have existing policies and written commitments that prohibit forced labour, child labour, coercion, exploitation, abuse, discrimination and unsafe or abusive working conditions in project-supported activities and supply chains.

Practical controls include farmer training messages, staff checks, community awareness, safeguarding communication and complaints pathways. ADRA is also implementing modern slavery compliance under DFAT requirements and is strengthening responsible sourcing systems in line with donor and buyer expectations.

Casual labourers engaged for fermentation, drying, bagging, transport and storage are covered by written agreements, payment records, attendance records and clear rates.

7. Health and safety at cocoa handling sites

At processing, drying, storage and packing sites, ADRA Solomon Islands promotes basic health and safety measures. These include safe handling of wet beans, clean work areas, safe use of drying racks and tables, protection from slips, cuts, lifting injuries and heat exposure, safe lifting practices, gloves or PPE where needed, safe sewing and sealing of bags, and safe use of weighing scales and equipment.

Storage controls include safe stacking of bags, dry and ventilated storage, clear walkways, pest control and measures to reduce mould risk. First aid arrangements, emergency contacts, fire extinguishers where relevant, and clear exit areas are also part of the project's health and safety approach.

8. Complaints and grievance pathway

Farmers, workers, contractors and community members can raise concerns through project officers, community focal persons, the ADRA Solomon Islands office, hotline, email or suggestion box. Complaints are recorded confidentially and reviewed according to their nature and seriousness.

Serious safeguarding complaints are referred through ADRA's safeguarding process. The person raising a concern is protected from punishment or retaliation, and the outcome is communicated where appropriate.

9. Gender equality, disability and social inclusion

The SEAS Cocoa Project promotes gender equality, disability and social inclusion through disability inclusion, accessible training, inclusive participation targets and separate consultations where appropriate. The improved farmer registration system also supports stronger tracking of sex, age, disability status and location.

These actions are intended to help women, people with disabilities, young people and other vulnerable groups participate in and benefit from cocoa value chain activities.

10. Local governance and community participation

The SEAS Cocoa Project works through local farmer groups, community representatives and local leadership structures to support farmer participation, community engagement and accountability. These structures help coordinate training, farmer engagement, feedback, local decision-making and communication between farmers, communities and ADRA Solomon Islands.

11. Environmental and climate-smart practices

SEAS promotes climate-smart and environmentally responsible cocoa production through farmer training and extension support. Training materials cover agroforestry, shade management, soil health, mulching, composting, intercropping, crop rotation, integrated pest and disease management, safe chemical handling, improved harvesting, fermentation, drying, grading, storage and record keeping.

These practices aim to improve cocoa quality, reduce waste and losses, strengthen farmer resilience, and support more responsible and sustainable cocoa sourcing. The project also promotes responsible land use and no-deforestation messaging. Any formal claim of deforestation-free supply will require further verification through the certification or audit pathway.

12. Cocoa buying system and responsible fund management

The SEAS Cocoa Project supports the enabling conditions for responsible cocoa sourcing, including farmer training, quality improvement, traceability, farmer registration, safeguarding, inclusion, post-harvest systems and market readiness.

The cocoa buying system operates as a market access mechanism for participating farmers. Its purpose is to provide a more transparent and reliable pathway for farmers to sell cocoa beans, while encouraging improved quality and better post-harvest practices.

Buying and selling activity is tracked and managed separately from development project activity costs. ADRA maintains separate records for development costs and market-based working capital, with documented conflict of interest controls for staff, project assets, purchasing decisions and sales relationships.

13. Evidence and records available

Subject to privacy and data protection requirements, ADRA Solomon Islands can provide or make available relevant supporting records where required for due diligence. These may include:

- farmer registration and purchasing records
- batch and bag traceability records
- training materials and training attendance records
- quality control records and purchase templates
- worker agreements, attendance and payment records
- safeguarding, complaints and grievance procedures
- health and safety records where available
- records showing separate tracking of development activity costs and cocoa buying activity
- conflict of interest controls and relevant governance documentation.

14. Contact and approval

For further information, please contact:

| Organisation | Contact details |
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