

RACINE - RESILIENT AGRICULTURE FOR CLIMATE, INVESTMENT, NATURE AND EQUITY

Project Beneficiaries and Selection Criteria

Beneficiary calculation methodology - Annex 2 to the Funding Proposal and dedicated section of the Feasibility Study - Revised 18 July 2026 in response to GCF Secretariat comments

1 - Purpose and scope

This note presents the methodology used to estimate the number of direct and indirect adaptation beneficiaries of the RACINE project, reported under GCF IRMF Core Indicator 2 (direct and indirect beneficiaries reached) and Supplementary Indicator 2.1 (beneficiaries adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options). It responds to the request of the GCF Secretariat for a dedicated section on project beneficiaries and selection criteria: it is designed to be inserted under that heading in the Feasibility Study and is simultaneously annexed to the funding proposal as Annex 2, so that a single, consistent methodology underpins the entire funding proposal package (Sections A.6, D.1 and E.5-E.6 of the funding proposal and the accompanying beneficiary calculation workbook).

In line with the guidance received, this note:

- describes the methodology used to estimate the number of beneficiaries (Sections 5 to 7);
- explains the assumptions and data sources used, including official demographic statistics and the FODECC digital registry (Section 3);
- clearly differentiates between direct and indirect beneficiaries and sets out the selection criteria for each beneficiary group (Sections 2, 4, 5 and 6);
- explains how each beneficiary group will receive adaptation benefits from the proposed interventions (Sections 4 to 6 and the disaggregation table in Section 9); and
- provides a summary table disaggregating each beneficiary group, the estimated number of beneficiaries, the calculation methodology and the expected adaptation benefits (Section 9).

2 - Definitions and counting principles

2.1 Direct beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries are individuals or households that directly receive project interventions and the associated adaptation benefits: project-supported goods, services, subsidies, infrastructure access, advisory services, technical assistance or capacity-building support delivered through the FODECC Producers' Desk windows.

Where support is delivered to a household production unit (a producer household receiving e-vouchers, business plan co-financing, an agroecological transition contract, or services from a post-harvest centre),

the entire household is treated as the direct beneficiary unit and all household members are counted as direct beneficiaries, using the national average household size (Section 3). This reflects the fact that farm-level adaptation benefits - more stable yields and income, reduced climate-related losses, improved food security - accrue to the household as a whole.

2.2 Indirect beneficiaries

Indirect beneficiaries are individuals who benefit from the broader systemic, institutional, economic, social or environmental impacts of the project through spillover effects, even though they are not direct recipients of project activities. Consistent with GCF guidance, RACINE identifies four channels through which these spillover benefits materialise:

- **Market effects:** local businesses and value chain actors - approved agro-dealers, nursery operators, banks and microfinance institutions, transporters, cooperatives' commercial partners and exporters - benefit from the increased, higher-quality and traceable economic activity generated by the project and from more climate-resilient, EUDR-compliant supply chains.
- **Environmental improvements:** residents of communes benefiting from municipal green investments (G2/d) - watershed restoration, reforestation, forest conservation, riverbank and roadside planting, restoration of degraded landscapes - experience reduced exposure to flooding, erosion, heat stress and hydrological disruption, without directly receiving project support.
- **Knowledge diffusion:** family members, neighbours and other community members benefit as direct participants share climate-resilient practices. Diffusion is actively organised through the national network of accredited agroecological advisers, cooperatives and professional organisations, and the FODECC digital platform, whose reach (320,000 registered producers) extends well beyond the subsidised cohort.
- **Improved service delivery:** wider populations benefit from strengthened institutional capacity - municipal land-use planning (PLADDT) that reduces climate risk exposure at territorial level, municipal post-harvest infrastructure and services, the national cocoa and coffee traceability system, and a permanent private agricultural advisory network.

As these broader benefits extend beyond the project's immediate target group, the true number of indirect beneficiaries is expected to be substantially higher than the number of direct beneficiaries. The gross indirect estimate used by the project (2,800,000 individuals, Section 6) is indeed roughly twice the direct beneficiary count; the lower net figure reported (1,395,000) results only from the deliberately conservative double-counting adjustment described in Section 6.3.

2.3 Counting principles

- The reporting unit for Core Indicator 2 is the individual. Operational delivery units (households, cooperatives, post-harvest centres, advisers, municipalities) are converted into individuals using the assumptions in Section 3.

- No individual is counted as both a direct and an indirect beneficiary. Households that directly receive support are counted as direct beneficiaries only; households that benefit solely from wider municipal, landscape, environmental or systemic effects are counted as indirect beneficiaries.
- No individual is counted twice within the direct beneficiary count. The FODECC digital platform assigns a unique identifier to every registered producer, with georeferenced plots and verified bank details, allowing exact de-duplication across sub-windows at reporting time (Section 5.2).
- Beneficiaries reported under Supplementary Indicator 2.1 are a subset of the beneficiaries reported under Core Indicator 2. Total beneficiaries are therefore never derived by adding Core 2 and 2.1 figures (Section 7).
- Where estimation choices had to be made, the more conservative option was systematically retained.

3 - Assumptions and data sources

The estimates rest on a small number of transparent parameters, each tied to an official or registry-based source. Planning parameters derived from census averages will be re-verified at project inception against the latest available official statistics, and progressively replaced by actual registry counts during implementation (Section 10).

Parameter	Value	Data source
Average household size	5 persons per household	National average from the latest official demographic data (BUCREP population projections; INS/ECAM household surveys). To be re-verified at inception against the most recent official statistics.
Average commune population	28,000 inhabitants	National demographic and municipal census data (BUCREP municipal population statistics).
Households served per post-harvest centre	300 households	FODECC operational planning data and post-harvest centre business plans (G2/a).
Producers registered on the FODECC digital platform	320,000 producers (end 2025)	FODECC digital producer registry (individually registered, verified and georeferenced records).

Parameter	Value	Data source
Households already subsidised at baseline	approx. 67,000 households (early 2026)	FODECC G1/a e-voucher and subsidy records.
Sex disaggregation ratio	50.2% women / 49.8% men	National sex ratio, official population statistics.
Heads of supported farms, by sex	61.84% men / 38.16% women	FODECC producer registry (reference data, March 2026).

Unlike typical beneficiary estimation practice, which relies on aggregated programme reporting, RACINE's direct beneficiary count is anchored in the FODECC digital platform: every supported producer is individually registered, identity-verified and georeferenced, providing a fully auditable, individual-level basis for verification of the reported figures.

4 - Beneficiary groups and selection criteria

RACINE interventions are delivered through the FODECC Producers' Desk and its specialised sub-windows. Eligibility and selection criteria are codified in the FODECC operational manuals (Annex 21 of the funding proposal); the key criteria per beneficiary group are summarised below, together with the adaptation benefits each group receives.

4.1 Producer households - input subsidies (G1/a)

Selection criteria: any cocoa or coffee producer may self-enrol, subject to (i) registration and identity verification on the FODECC digital platform; (ii) georeferencing of all plots, with automatic exclusion of plots located in the permanent forest domain; (iii) opening of a bank or microfinance account; (iv) deposit of the producer's co-payment (60% of input costs in year 1) before the e-voucher is issued; and (v) designation of an approved agro-dealer. The subsidy covers up to 2 hectares per producer and is degressive over three years.

Adaptation benefits: access to certified, climate-adapted planting material and quality inputs improves yield stability under rising temperatures and erratic rainfall, and reduces household sensitivity to climate shocks.

4.2 Producer households and small cooperatives - business plan co-financing (G1/b)

Selection criteria: small producers, producer groups and cooperatives submitting viable productive investment business plans, evaluated at regional level. Applicants must be legally structured, banked, and deposit their co-financing share; business plans must include zero-deforestation commitments and productivity and quality improvements.

Adaptation benefits: production and primary processing equipment reduces climate-related production and post-harvest quality losses and diversifies household income streams.

4.3 Households served by post-harvest centres (G2/a and G2/b)

Selection criteria: rural cocoa- and coffee-producing municipalities co-develop post-harvest centre business plans with a partner cooperative or economic interest group. Municipal applications require council approval and budget inscription of the municipal share, are screened by a regional commission chaired by the Regional Council, and are governed by a performance-based lease between the municipality and the operating cooperative. User households are those delivering their production to an operational centre; once centres are digitally linked to the FODECC platform, individually verified user lists will be reported.

Adaptation benefits: drying, fermentation, storage and aggregation services directly reduce humidity-induced post-harvest losses - a growing climate risk in high-rainfall districts - and stabilise quality, prices and household income.

4.4 Municipalities - land-use planning and green investments (G2/c and G2/d)

Selection criteria: priority is given to dynamic rural municipalities in humid or transition forest zones that combine permanent forest areas requiring preservation with active or expanding cocoa and coffee production. PLADDT co-financing (G2/c) requires a council deliberation and budget inscription one year in advance; green investment co-financing (G2/d) requires a validated PLADDT, PCD or equivalent local planning document, and targets land in the municipal domain or under regulated community management.

Adaptation benefits: these interventions generate the territorial-scale benefits counted under indirect beneficiaries (Section 6) - reduced exposure of commune populations to flooding, erosion, drought and heat stress through landscape hydrological regulation and microclimatic buffering, and lower long-term climate risk through binding land-use planning.

4.5 Producer households - agroecological transition contracts (G3/a)

Selection criteria: access is reserved for the most dynamic producers who have already benefited from the production window (G1/a) and commit to a three-year, results-based agroecological transition plan covering the whole farm. Producers must accept support from an accredited agricultural adviser throughout the transition and contractually undertake not to expand cultivation at the expense of permanent forest areas, natural forests or naturally regenerated forests. Payments are released only against independently verifiable results.

Adaptation benefits: agroforestry and shade management lower canopy temperature and evapotranspiration; compost, biofertilisers and soil-fertility conservation raise soil organic matter, water retention and nutrient cycling; water micro-management buffers drought and extreme rainfall; and integrated pest management reduces vulnerability to climate-amplified pest and disease cycles. This is the most intensive adaptation package delivered by the project, and it defines the population reported under Supplementary Indicator 2.1 (Section 7).

4.6 Agricultural advisers (G3/b)

Selection criteria: agricultural technicians available locally in the eight producing regions, holding an agricultural qualification, who complete the online agroecological transition training and obtain regional accreditation. Adviser services are co-financed by FODECC and monitored through georeferenced digital reporting.

Adaptation benefits: the project creates durable, climate-resilient livelihoods for 2,000 advisers and their households, while establishing the permanent knowledge-transfer infrastructure through which resilient practices diffuse to the wider producer population.

4.7 Gender and social inclusion in selection

Selection processes apply the measures of the Gender Action Plan (Annex 8): participation quotas for women (25-30% of new beneficiaries, rising to 40-45% of FODECC beneficiaries by year 6) and young people (25%), adapted enrolment procedures, targeted digital and financial literacy training, and gender-disaggregated monitoring. Sex-disaggregated beneficiary figures follow the national sex ratio (50.2% women, 49.8% men) until actual registry data become available.

5 - Core Indicator 2: direct beneficiary calculation

5.1 Calculation

Direct beneficiaries are calculated by converting each operational delivery unit into households and then into individuals: direct beneficiaries = number of directly supported households x average household size (5). For post-harvest centres, households are derived first (180 centres x 300 households per centre = 54,000 households).

Sub-window	Beneficiary unit	Units	Households	Direct beneficiaries (individuals)
G1/a - e-voucher input subsidies	Producer household	170,000 households	170,000	850,000
G1/b - producer business plans	Producer household / small cooperative	12,000 households	12,000	60,000
G2/a-b - post-harvest centres	Post-harvest centre	180 centres x 300 households	54,000	270,000
G3/a - agroecological transition contracts	Producer household	43,000 households	43,000	215,000
G3/b - agricultural advisory services	Accredited agricultural adviser	2,000 advisers	2,000	10,000

Sub-window	Beneficiary unit	Units	Households	Direct beneficiaries (individuals)
Total direct beneficiaries			281,000	1,405,000

Total direct beneficiaries: 1,405,000 individuals (281,000 households), of whom approximately 50.2% are women. This figure represents individuals who directly receive or access project-supported services, subsidies, infrastructure, technical assistance or capacity-building.

5.2 De-duplication rules within the direct count

- Cooperative support under G2/b is treated as non-cumulative with the post-harvest centre user count under G2/a: households that are both cooperative members and centre users are counted once, unless separate and non-overlapping beneficiary records are available.
- The sub-window cohorts in the table above are treated as distinct household groups for target-setting purposes. Where the same household is supported under more than one sub-window during implementation (for example a G1/a producer subsequently contracting under G3/a), the unique producer identifiers of the FODECC platform ensure that it is reported only once in the cumulative unique beneficiary count. The targets are therefore upper-bound planning figures, while reported results will be registry-based unique counts.
- Advisers supported under G3/b are counted only under that heading, and not again as producer households.

6 - Core Indicator 2: indirect beneficiary calculation

6.1 Quantified core estimate: populations of communes receiving territorial interventions

The quantified indirect beneficiary estimate covers the residents of the 100 communes benefiting from municipal green investments, land-use planning, forest conservation, watershed restoration, ecosystem restoration and post-harvest infrastructure under the Communities Window (G2). These populations benefit through the environmental improvement and improved service delivery channels defined in Section 2.2:

Gross indirect beneficiaries = number of beneficiary communes x average commune population = 100 communes x 28,000 inhabitants = 2,800,000 individuals.

The 30 communes benefiting from PLADDT land-use planning support (30 x 28,000 = 840,000 individuals) are conservatively treated as included within the 100 communes counted above, and are not added separately. This entirely removes the risk that commune populations benefiting from more than one municipal or territorial intervention are counted twice.

6.2 Conservative adjustment to avoid double counting with direct beneficiaries

To eliminate any possible overlap between direct and indirect beneficiaries, the full number of direct beneficiaries is deducted from the gross indirect estimate, i.e. it is assumed that all 1,405,000 direct beneficiaries reside within the 100 supported communes:

Adjusted (net) indirect beneficiaries = 2,800,000 - 1,405,000 = 1,395,000 individuals.

This is a maximally conservative assumption: in reality, direct beneficiary households are spread across all eight cocoa- and coffee-producing regions, well beyond the 100 communes prioritised for municipal investments, so the deduction overstates the overlap and understates the net indirect reach.

6.3 Additional indirect beneficiaries identified but not added to the reported total

Consistent with GCF guidance that indirect beneficiaries are generally expected to substantially exceed direct beneficiaries, the project has identified the following additional spillover groups. To preserve the strict no-double-counting rule, they are documented here and in the Section 9 table but are not added to the reported headline figure, which therefore constitutes a strict lower bound:

- **Knowledge diffusion - registered but not-yet-subsidised producers:** approximately 93,000 producer households registered and georeferenced on the FODECC platform but not among the 227,000 directly subsidised producer households (320,000 - 227,000), equivalent to approximately 465,000 individuals. These producers interact with subsidised peers, accredited advisers, cooperatives and the digital platform, and are the most immediate adopters of diffused climate-resilient practices. They are not added to the total because a share of them resides in the 100 communes already counted in Section 6.1.
- **Market effects - value chain actors:** approved agro-dealers, nursery operators, banks and microfinance institutions, transporters and exporters and their employees benefiting from increased and more resilient economic activity. These groups are not quantified ex ante; where feasible, they will be documented during implementation through FODECC's supplier and partner registries.
- **Improved service delivery at national level:** populations benefiting from the national cocoa and coffee traceability system, strengthened inter-ministerial coordination and the permanent advisory network extend beyond the 100 supported communes; these system-level benefits are not quantified to avoid speculative estimates.

6.4 Reported indirect beneficiaries

Reported (net) indirect beneficiaries = 1,395,000 individuals, of whom approximately 50.2% are women. Given the conservative deduction in Section 6.2 and the unquantified groups in Section 6.3, the true indirect reach of the project is expected to be substantially higher.

7 - Supplementary Indicator 2.1: beneficiaries adopting climate-resilient livelihood options

Direct beneficiaries under Supplementary Indicator 2.1 are conservatively limited to the household members of producers holding agroecological transition contracts under sub-window G3/a, whose three-year, results-based transition plans (orchard renewal and re-densification, fertiliser and cover trees, biofertilisers and biopesticides, soil fertility conservation) constitute the adoption of improved, climate-resilient livelihood options:

- Direct: 43,000 households x 5 persons = 215,000 individuals (approximately 50.2% women).
- Indirect: the 1,395,000 net residents of communes benefiting from municipal green investments, land-use planning, forest conservation, watershed restoration and ecosystem restoration, as calculated in Section 6.

For logical coherence, all beneficiaries reported under Supplementary Indicator 2.1 are a subset of the beneficiaries reported under Core Indicator 2. Total project beneficiaries are therefore reported from Core Indicator 2 only and are never derived by adding Core 2 and 2.1 figures.

8 - Summary of reported beneficiary figures

Total unique beneficiaries = direct beneficiaries + net indirect beneficiaries = 1,405,000 + 1,395,000 = 2,800,000 individuals. This total deliberately does not exceed the estimated population of the communes covered by the project's combined direct and territorial interventions, and eliminates the risk of counting any individual twice.

Indicator	Mid-term target	Final target
Core 2 - direct beneficiaries	705,000 (50.2% women)	1,405,000 (50.2% women)
Core 2 - indirect beneficiaries	697,500 (50.2% women)	1,395,000 (50.2% women)
Core 2 - total beneficiaries	1,402,500	2,800,000
Supplementary 2.1 - direct (subset of Core 2)	107,500 (21,500 households)	215,000 (43,000 households)
Supplementary 2.1 - indirect (subset of Core 2)	697,500	1,395,000

All figures are expressed at the individual level, disaggregated by sex using the national sex ratio (50.2% women, 49.8% men), in full alignment with IRMF Core Indicator 2 requirements. The figures above are identical to those used in Sections A.6, D.1 and E.5 of the funding proposal and in the beneficiary calculation workbook accompanying this note.

9 - Beneficiary disaggregation table

The table on the following page disaggregates each beneficiary group, the estimated number of beneficiaries, the calculation methodology and data sources, and the specific adaptation benefits expected for each group.

Table 1 - Beneficiary groups, estimated numbers, calculation methodology and expected adaptation benefits

Beneficiary group	Type	Estimated number	Calculation methodology and data source	Expected adaptation benefits
Producer households receiving e-voucher input subsidies (G1/a)	Direct	850,000	170,000 households x 5 persons. FODECC digital registry (unique IDs, georeferenced plots); household size from official demographic data.	Certified climate-adapted planting material and quality inputs; improved yield stability under heat and rainfall variability; reduced sensitivity to climate shocks.
Producer households and small cooperatives with co-financed business plans (G1/b)	Direct	60,000	12,000 households x 5 persons. FODECC registry and signed co-financing contracts.	Production and primary processing equipment reducing climate-related production and quality losses; income diversification.
Households using municipal post-harvest centres (G2/a-b)	Direct	270,000	180 centres x 300 households per centre x 5 persons. FODECC operational data; verified user lists once centres are digitally linked to the platform.	Drying, fermentation and storage services reducing humidity-induced post-harvest losses; improved quality, prices and market access; more stable household income.
Producer households under agroecological transition contracts (G3/a)	Direct	215,000	43,000 households x 5 persons. FODECC registry, signed three-year results-based transition contracts. Also reported under Supplementary Indicator 2.1 (subset of Core 2).	Agroforestry and shade management against heat and drought; soil organic matter and water retention; integrated pest management against climate-amplified pests; diversified, climate-resilient livelihoods.
Accredited agricultural advisers and their households (G3/b)	Direct	10,000	2,000 advisers x 5 persons. FODECC adviser accreditation and certification records.	Durable climate-advisory livelihoods; income security; permanent local capacity for climate-resilient agriculture.
Total direct beneficiaries	Direct	1,405,000	Sum of the above; registry-based unique counts at reporting (Section 5.2).	Approximately 50.2% women.

Beneficiary group	Type	Estimated number	Calculation methodology and data source	Expected adaptation benefits
Residents of the 100 communes receiving municipal green investments, PLADDT land-use planning and post-harvest infrastructure	Indirect - environmental improvements and improved service delivery	1,395,000 (net)	100 communes x 28,000 inhabitants (BUCREP municipal census data) = 2,800,000 gross, minus all 1,405,000 direct beneficiaries conservatively assumed to reside in these communes. The 30 PLADDT communes (840,000 people) are treated as included within the 100.	Watershed restoration, reforestation and landscape restoration reducing exposure to flooding, erosion, drought and heat stress; binding land-use planning lowering territorial climate risk; improved municipal services and local economic resilience.
Registered, not-yet-subsidised producer households	Indirect - knowledge diffusion (identified; not added to the reported total)	approx. 465,000	(320,000 registered producers - 227,000 subsidised producer households) x 5 persons. FODECC digital registry. Not added to the headline figure to preserve the no-double-counting rule.	Peer-to-peer diffusion of climate-resilient practices through the adviser network, cooperatives and the digital platform.
Value chain actors: agro-dealers, nurseries, banks/MFIs, transporters, exporters	Indirect - market effects (not quantified ex ante)	Not quantified	To be documented during implementation through FODECC supplier and partner registries.	Increased, more resilient and traceable economic activity in climate-proofed cocoa and coffee value chains.
Total indirect beneficiaries (reported)	Indirect	1,395,000	Net commune population estimate (strict lower bound; Sections 6.2-6.4).	Approximately 50.2% women.
Total beneficiaries (Core Indicator 2)	Direct + indirect	2,800,000	1,405,000 direct + 1,395,000 net indirect; no individual counted twice.	Approximately 50.2% women; 49.8% men.

10 - Registry-based verification during implementation

The estimates in this note are ex ante planning figures. During implementation, reported beneficiary numbers will be verified and progressively replaced by actual counts drawn from beneficiary records and administrative data, including:

- the FODECC digital producer registry (unique identifiers, georeferenced plots, verified bank details);
- e-voucher and subsidy payment records;
- agroecological transition contract records;
- cooperative membership lists and post-harvest centre user records;
- agricultural adviser training, accreditation and certification records;
- commune-level population data and municipal investment records;
- PLADDT records and georeferenced farm and commune data.

Reported figures will be disaggregated by sex and age, subject to annual independent verification under the project's monitoring, evaluation and learning plan (Annex 11), and reconciled against the unique-identifier registry to guarantee that no individual is counted twice.