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## Field assessment and activity review

Empowering cashew cooperatives and women associations to become agents for human rights Due Diligence

April 2026

**nutwork**



**nitidæ**  
filières & territoires

**cashew  
coast.**



# Context

“Empowering cashew cooperatives and women associations to become agents for human rights Due Diligence” is a project funded by the GIZ Due Diligence Fund (DDF), implemented in Côte d’Ivoire through a partnership between the following operators:

- **Nutwork**, a German company which imports, processes, and markets nuts, dried fruits, and seeds (including cashew for this project);
- **CAJOOMA**, a subsidiary of Cashew Coast, which has provided traceable and sustainable cashew to Nutwork since 2022;
- **Nitidæ**, a French NGO with extensive expertise and projects in Côte d’Ivoire, specifically in the cashew sector.

This project led to the empowerment of cooperatives and associations in five villages in the Gbekê region that serve as cashew suppliers for CAJOOMA. Activities were led by CAJOOMA agents in 2024, and observable results were assessed by Nitidæ in April 2026 to inform the present report.



Map of the 5 villages targeted by the project  
Source: Nitidæ & CAJOOMA - Map data: MyMaps - 2026



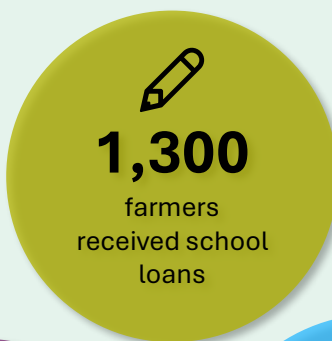
# Achievements

As a reminder, CAJOOMA purchases products across many villages in Côte d'Ivoire and has focused this project on a priority area encompassing 28 villages around Bouaké, the city where one of Cashew Coast's two factories is located. For the purpose of this report, a field mission was conducted in four of the project's five specific target villages (see previous map and table below), where the following activities took place:

N°	Village	Human rights training	Women pickers' training	Savings & Credit Groups	Community water pump	Cooperative warehouse
1	Akoumiakro	✓	✓	✓	Built (new)	
2	Kenefoué	✓	✓	✓	Renovated	
3	Yoboué N'zué	✓	✓		Renovated*	Renovated
4	Kondrobo	✓	✓			Built (new)
5	Dieviessou	✓	✓			

*\*the Yoboué N'zué water pump was renovated using Cajooma's own funds*

The quantified results are as follows:



Source: CAJOOMA, verified by Nitidæ - 2026



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# Akoumiakro

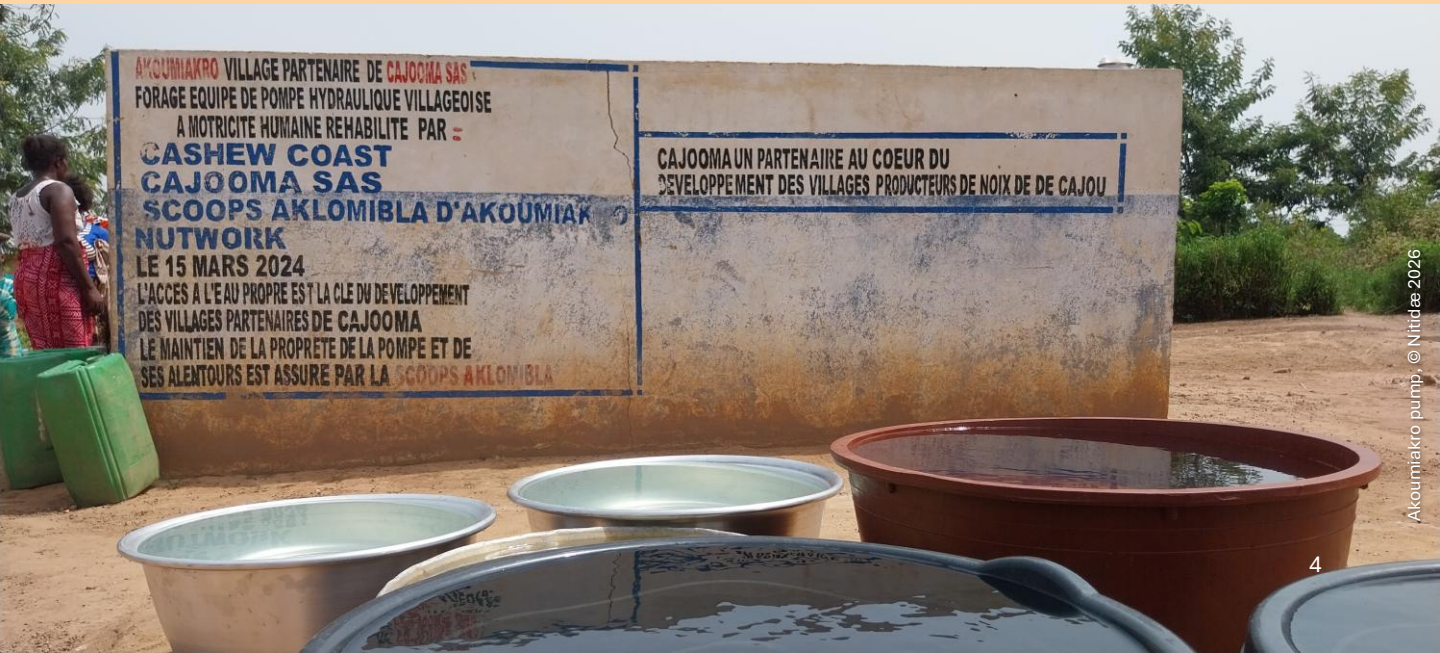
In the village of Akoumiakro, CAJOOMA purchases cashew from a small but dynamic cooperative called AKLOMIBLA, which means “*Where there is love, the door is always open*” in the Baoulé language. The cooperative supplied **around 60 tons of Raw Cashew Nuts (RCN)** to CAJOOMA during the last campaign and highlighted the value of this partnership, noting that **prices and contractual commitments were fully honored**.

Community activities related to the project were also highly appreciated. First, the construction of a **water pump** (photo below) for the village has been invaluable, as explained by the former Chairman of the cooperative:



*“Before the pump was built, we had no choice but to go to the backwater. Today, the pump in the center of the village is a great relief to us.”*

— Mr. Nangbo Kouamé, Chairman of Aklomibla



Akoumiakro pump. © Nitida 2026



Furthermore, CAJOOMA provides **school loans** each September (around 50,000 CFA per household), which are reimbursed by farmers in cashew equivalents (based on the government-fixed price).

The project has also helped establish **Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs)** for women to support economic activities, as noted by the village women's representative:



*“The ‘tontines’ [ROSCAs] are used for children's scholarships, small businesses, or to fund collaborative work in the fields. This helps us save money so we can reinvest it in worthwhile activities.”*

— Mrs. M'bla Akissi Elise, Chairwoman of the Village Women's Association

Last but not least, CAJOOMA provided **direct support to farmers** by supervising training on harvesting, delivering a tricycle, and monitoring product quality and compliance with organic standards.





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## Kenefoué

In the village of Kenefoué, the partner cooperative YEBOYOKOUN (“*Let us stand united*”) is relatively young – founded in 2021 – but very active, having supplied **120 tons of RCN** to CAJOOMA last year. Training on harvesting, drying, and sorting appears to be highly effective.

Additionally, four Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs) of 25 members each have been established. These have resulted in **shared field services, particularly manual weeding** (a key requirement for organic certification), at a rate of 20,000 CFA per half-hectare. Notably, these associations are also active in cassava and food crop production, contributing to the village’s **food security**.

The project also led to the **renovation of an old water pump** (photo on the next page). Unlike manual pumps, this one is motorized and connected to the power grid. A mutualized fund has been set up to cover electricity bills, which appears to be functioning well.

CAJOOMA also provides school loans under the same reimbursement conditions as explained previously. In Kenefoué, **approximately 50 households received assistance** each year.



However, although not directly linked to the project, the village of Kenefoué remains particularly isolated, and residents face daily challenges, as the cooperative's president explains:



*“The school is too small and dilapidated (built in the 1970s), and the fields are quite distant. Most farmers lack motorbikes or tricycles, meaning they must carry heavy cashew bags on bicycles.”*

— Mr. Kouadio Koffi Norbert, Chairman of Yeboyokoun

Nevertheless, CAJOOMA remains confident about future investments, as the partnership with the cooperative continues to thrive.





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In this village, an informal group of cashew producers had been operating for a long time, known as *N'toméni* (“*Where I can find it*”). However, CAJOOMA’s arrival as a buyer led to a significant improvement of this group. The initial focus was on **legally incorporating the association as a cooperative**, dubbed MOYE (“*Blessing*”). Additionally, the cooperative has established a common fund thanks to savings of 10 FCFA per kilogram, paid out by CAJOOMA as a bonus at the end of the season. Finally, the renovation of the **storage facility** (photo below) has enabled the cooperative to operate efficiently, **marketing more than 150 tons of RCN during the last season**.

Regarding community development, **training sessions** were provided on human rights, harvesting, and organic practices. To support yields and production, CAJOOMA provided a **chainsaw** – highly useful for pruning and trimming cashew trees between seasons – and a **brush cutter**, which helps reduce the workload associated with manual weeding (as chemical weed control is prohibited under organic certification).

CAJOOMA also funded the **repair of the village pump**, as the community faces significant water access challenges (and even with these repairs, the current capacity remains insufficient).



Yoboué N'zué warehouse. © Nitida 2026



# Kondrobo

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In Kondrobo, the final village visited as part of the assessment, the EBOYO-KOUN cooperative (“*Unity is strength*”) appears to be the most active. It supplied **more than 300 tons of RCN** to CAJOOMA last year, and its producers are **highly quality-conscious**, as noted by CAJOOMA’s quality analysts (reporting high *outturns*). Primarily for this reason, the cooperative was chosen to benefit from the **full construction of a warehouse** (photo below) with a 120-ton capacity.

To support cashew production, the project funded the provision of machetes, buckets, and string for separating nuts from apples, as well as a **tricycle** for transporting the produce.

**School loans** are also provided to group members, though the amounts are higher than in other villages (typically 100,000 to 150,000 CFA per household).



Kondrobo warehouse, © Nitidaé 2026



## Conclusion

In conclusion, **the activities carried out as part of the project were well received by the beneficiary communities.** CAJOOMA has successfully leveraged this project to bolster other initiatives using its own funds, thereby offering broader support within its procurement areas.

Furthermore, organic standards – which account for a significant proportion of CAJOOMA's supply – are notably **more sustainable in terms of the environment and public health.** However, they require considerable effort from both producers and cooperatives (e.g., zero chemical inputs, strict traceability). Community initiatives of this kind serve as effective levers for encouraging producers to adopt sustainable practices, which are, in effect, 'rewarded' through these development initiatives.

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Nitidæ Côte d'Ivoire  
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