

THE COFFEE SOURCE

A group of young children are sitting in a circle on a red and white patterned tiled floor in a classroom. Some children are holding papers. In the background, there is a Christmas tree decorated with lights and ornaments, and a teacher or adult is sitting on a stool to the right.

Final Report: Casas de la Alegría in Tarrazú, Costa Rica, 2024 – 2025

FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY:



MONITORING AND PROJECT SUPPORT BY:

**THE
COFFEE
SOURCE**

EXECUTED BY:

coope
Tarrazú
solidaria y sostenible



Introduction

The CoopeTarrazú Casas de la Alegría Project continues to serve as a vital initiative aimed at providing comprehensive support to coffee-harvesting families in the Tarrazú region. By establishing a safe and nurturing care network for minors who accompany their parents during the harvest season, the project upholds children's rights, fosters their development, and actively works toward the prevention of child labor. Over time, CoopeTarrazú has strengthened its commitment to social responsibility by identifying and addressing the evolving needs of vulnerable populations within the coffee sector.

During the workday, parents participating in the coffee harvest are able to bring their children to Casas de la Alegría, where they are welcomed into a structured environment. Here, trained caregivers and cooks provide the children with balanced nutrition, educational and recreational activities, personal hygiene support, and health monitoring – all designed to promote well-being and personal growth.

This report presents the results of the 2024-2025 harvest season, highlighting the operation of 18 Casas de la Alegría over a 4.5-month period, the successful care of 2,283 children, and the employment of 61 community members as caregivers and staff. It also reflects the ongoing support from coffee producers and the essential partnership with Barrington Coffee, whose contributions have helped expand the project's reach and strengthen its infrastructure and impact.

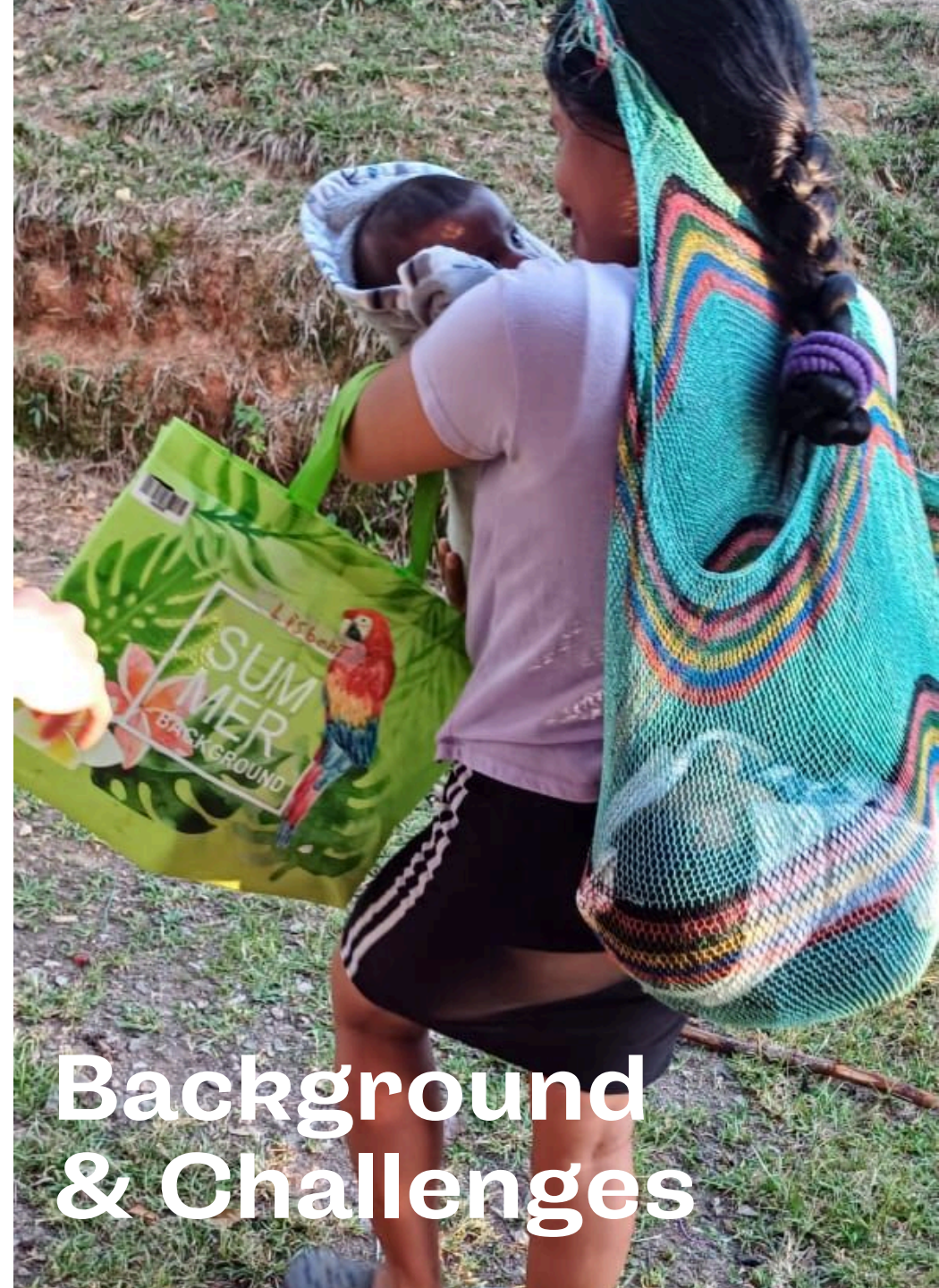
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As the country's largest coffee cooperative and one of its most productive regions, CoopeTarrazú continues to receive a high influx of migrant families during the harvest season. These families—primarily from Nicaragua and the Ngäbe-Buglé Indigenous community of Panama—arrive in Tarrazú with young children in tow, seeking seasonal work on coffee farms. The presence of this diverse population brings both rich cultural exchange and a distinct set of logistical and social challenges.

The 2024–2025 harvest saw a record number of children—2,283—attending Casas de la Alegría, an increase of over 67% from the previous season. This dramatic growth placed significant pressure on infrastructure, staffing, and logistics, demanding greater coordination and faster response times to ensure that every child received dignified care. In addition, the largest proportion of children fell within the 3 to 7-year-old age group—a stage of development that requires intensive supervision, trained personnel, and tailored pedagogical strategies. The growing attendance of children under age 3 also raised the need for age-appropriate nutrition and hygiene services, further increasing staffing demands.

Meanwhile, the cooperative faced the ongoing challenge of reaching remote communities and adapting facilities to meet safety and health standards, especially in locations where infrastructure is limited. These conditions highlight the continued importance of investment, training, and inter-institutional collaboration to ensure that the protection and development of children remains a shared priority across the coffee value chain.



Background & Challenges

Main Goals:

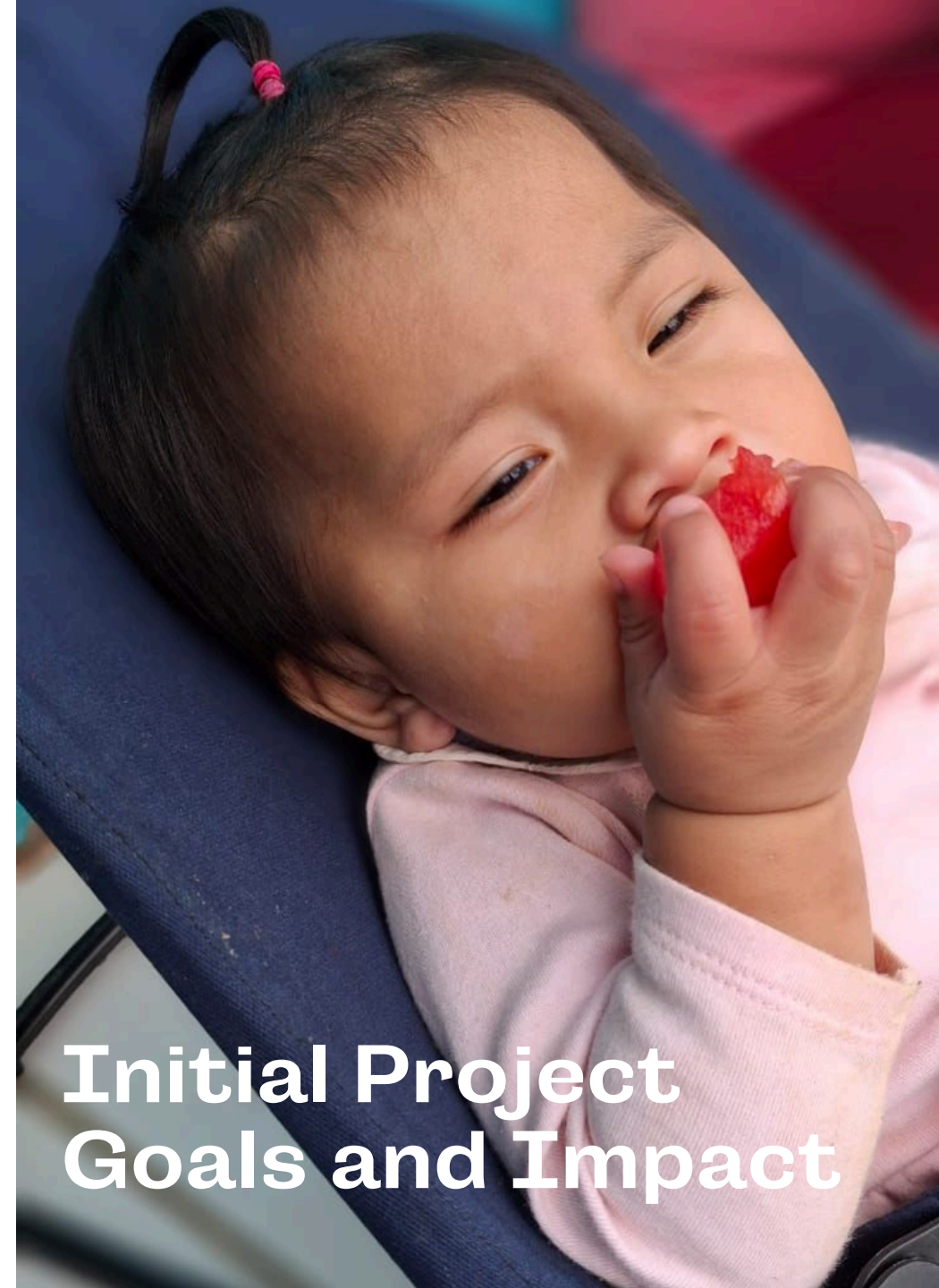
- **Protection and Care for Minors:** Ensure that children of coffee-harvesting families receive safe, dignified, and comprehensive care during the harvest season. Promote the elimination of child labor by offering a legal, structured alternative for minors.
- **Operational Reach:** Successfully operate 18 Casas de la Alegría throughout the 2024-2025 harvest period, providing care to a record number of children across coffee-growing communities.
- **Community and Gender Inclusion:** Generate employment opportunities for 61 women in local communities as caregivers and cooks, fostering gender equity and local economic empowerment.
- **Child Development and Well-being:** Promote the emotional, mental, and physical development of children through trained supervision, pedagogical activities, and a nurturing environment.
- **Institutional Collaboration:** Strengthen inter-institutional coordination to ensure compliance with national child protection laws and enhance access to social services and food subsidies for eligible families.



**Initial Project
Goals and Impact**

Initial impact goals:

- **Child Attendance:** Provide daily care and protection to 2,283 children across the Casas de la Alegría during the 4.5-month coffee harvest season.
- **Workforce Employment:** Employ 61 trained women as caregivers and cooks to ensure safe and professional care in each center.
- **Nutrition:** Guarantee the distribution of nutritionally adapted meals to all attending children, with special attention to age-specific and cultural dietary needs.
- **Recreational & Educational Activities:** Implement structured activities focused on recreation, learning, and rights education through six thematic workshops (e.g., right to identity, protection, education, and a safe environment).
- **Family Support:** Provide care services at no cost to families, benefiting 545 households and enabling parents to work with peace of mind.
- **Producer Engagement:** Encourage 201 coffee producers to participate by supporting the placement and usage of Casas on or near their farms.



Initial Project Goals and Impact



IF we provide children of coffee workers with a safe and educational environment during the day THEN the livelihoods of the entire families can be significantly improved, and child labor can be avoided

Theory of Change



Locations

CoopeTarrazú R.L. is the administrator and promoter of this social project, with support from governmental and international institutions, which provide financial contributions.



Partnerships

Boys and Girls (0-12 y/o)

They receive comprehensive and dignified care from trained and qualified personnel across the Casas de la Alegría.



Parents participating in the coffee harvest drop off their children at the Casas during the workday, ensuring their children are safe while they work in the fields.



Caregivers and cooks ensure daily that children are provided with balanced meals, educational and recreational activities, personal hygiene support, and attentive supervision tailored to their age and needs.

Nutrition

Comprehensive
care with
trained
personnel

Educational
and
recreational
activities

Hygiene
Habits and
health
monitoring

Project Overview



Attending a total of

2,283

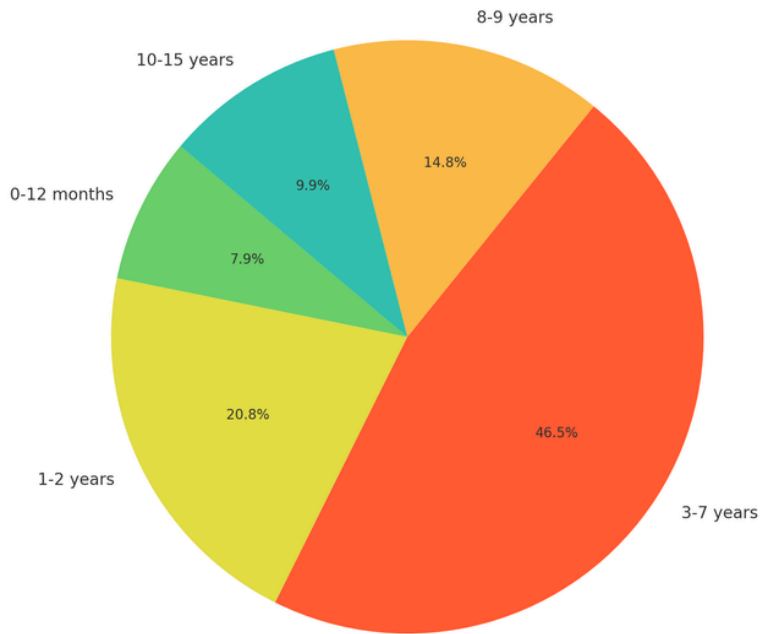
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Casas de la Alegría

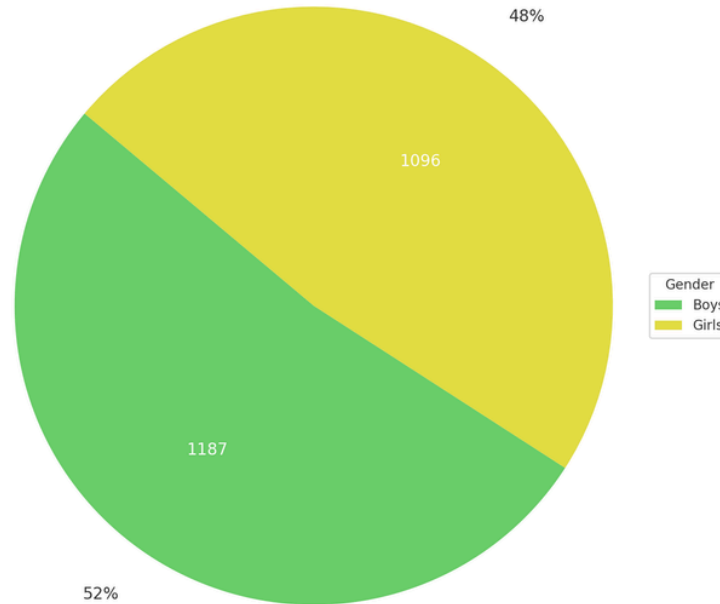
Children

Age Distribution of Children Attended (2024-2025)

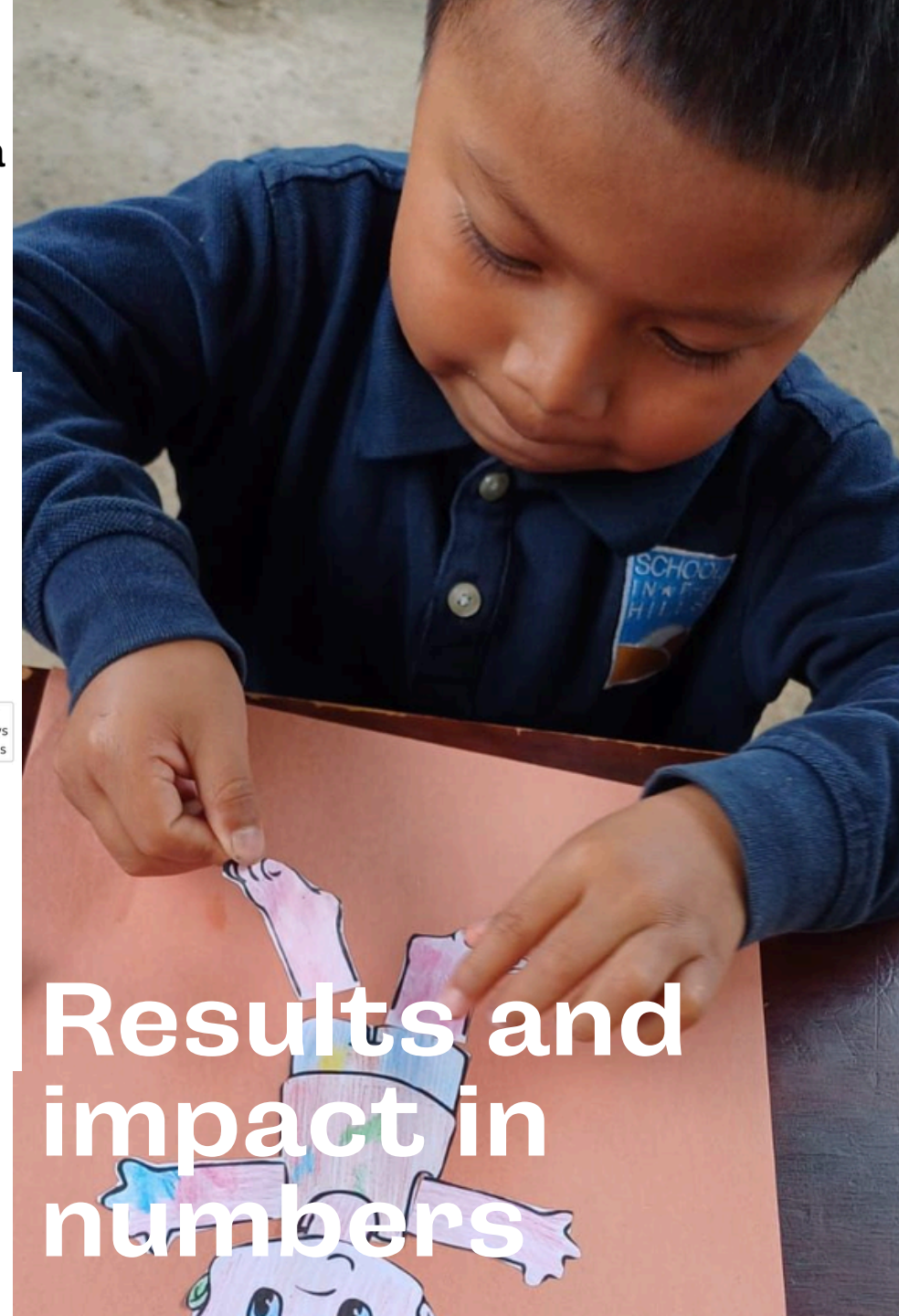


Distributed by age of
0-15 year olds with
the majority being
between 3-7 y/o

Gender Distribution of Children Attended (2024-2025)



Distributed by gender
as 52% boys and 48%
girls

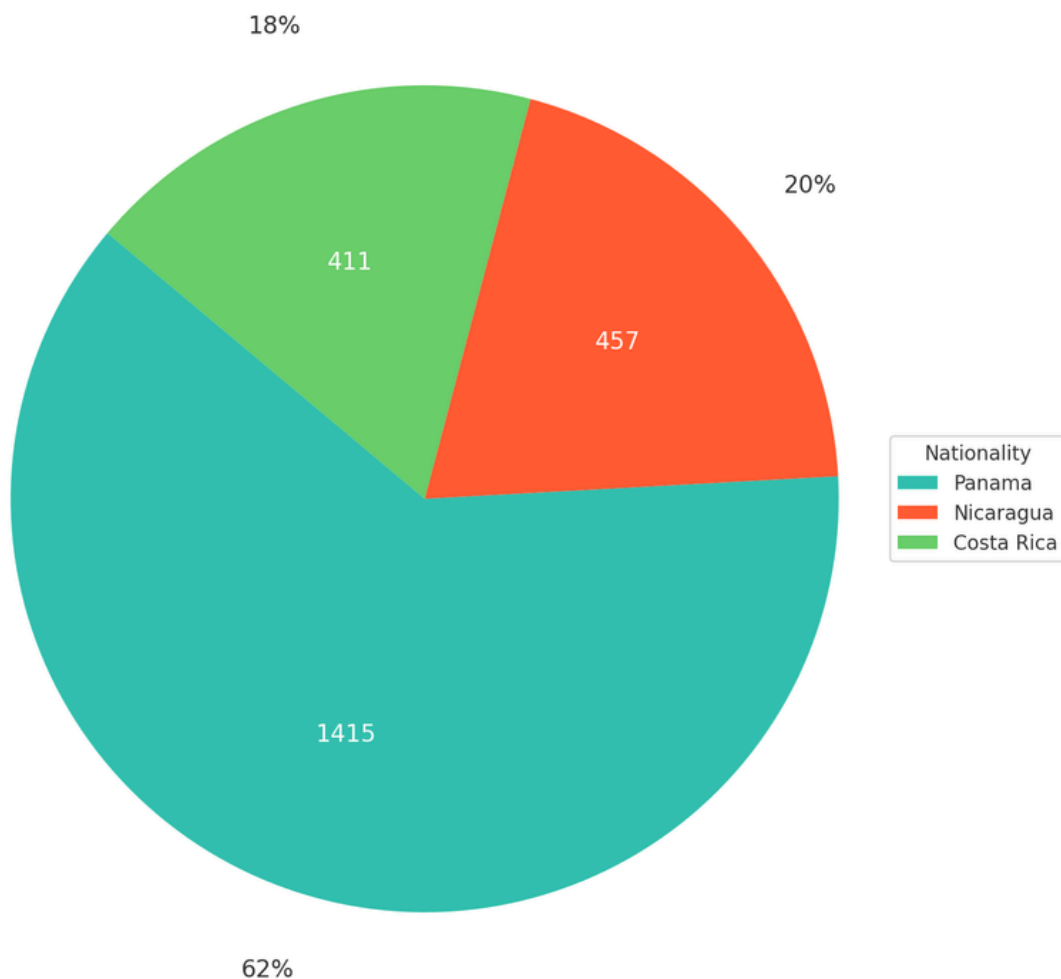


Results and
impact in
numbers

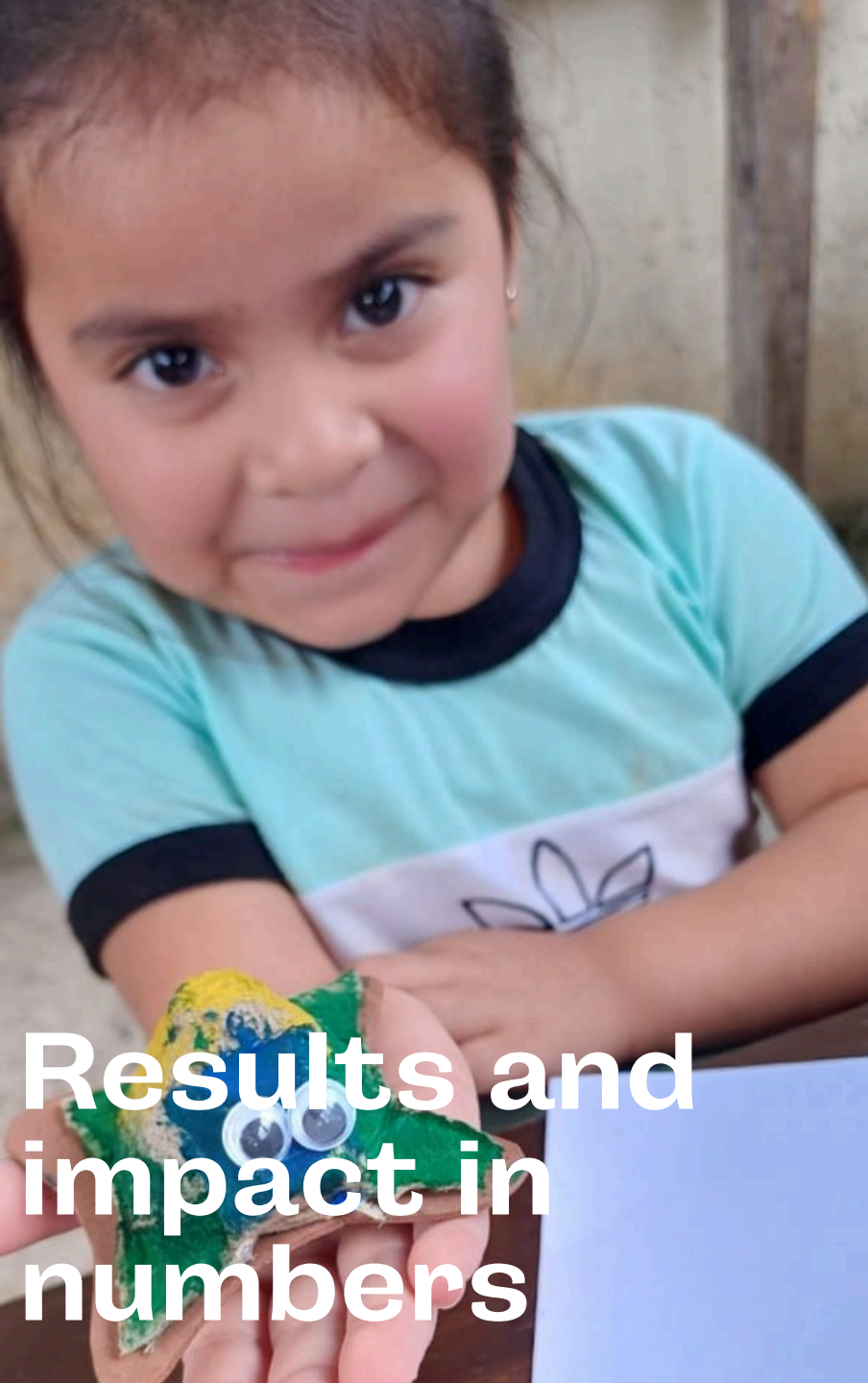
The distribution of nationalities among the children participating in the Casas de la Alegría was

- **Panamanian (Ngäbe-Buglé):** 62% → 1,415 children
- **Nicaraguan:** 20% → 457 children
- **Costa Rican:** 18% → 411 children

Nationality Distribution of Children Attended (2024–2025)



Results and
impact in
numbers



Results and impact in numbers

61

Women from the community were hired for the Casas de la Alegría as caregivers, cooks, and facilitators for workshops

38

Caregivers

21

Cooks

2

Coordinators

201

Producers were benefited with the availability of the Casas de la Alegría

545

Families benefited from the project in total.

Workshop Implementation:

Six thematic workshops were conducted, focused on children's rights and development:

- 1.Right to identity and family
- 2.Right to recreation
- 3.Right to education and a better future
- 4.Right to work (education on boundaries) and recreation
- 5.Right to a safe and healthy life
- 6.Right to protection

Nutrition & Hygiene:

- Daily meals were provided to all children, adapted to their ethnic and age-based needs.
- Milk supplements were provided to infants and children requiring additional nutrition.
- Caregivers ensured personal hygiene routines were taught and supervised daily.
- Health monitoring was in place, with response mechanisms for illness or accidents.



**Results and
impact in
numbers**



Results and impact in numbers

General Impacts:

Educational and Social Development:

- Children participated in educational and recreational activities, promoting motor skills, emotional development, and cultural integration.
- Learning modules focused on rights, future aspirations, and well-being.

Child Labor Prevention:

- The project helped prevent hundreds of minors from entering the workforce by providing them with a legal and safe alternative to farm labor.

Gender and Community Empowerment:

- Employment of local women contributed to economic empowerment and strengthened female participation in community development.

Institutional Collaboration:

- The project was supported by the government and international institutions in coordination with CoopeTarrazú and Barrington Coffee.
- Coordination included social risk assessments, food subsidy evaluations, and facility adaptations in accordance with national standards.

Long-Term Vision:

- The cooperative reaffirmed its desire to expand Casas' coverage across more coffee zones.
- The partnership with Barrington Coffee remains essential in sustaining and expanding the program's scope and quality.

Children Impacted Directly:



The contribution of \$2,023 on behalf of **Barrington Coffee** was able to cover **8 children** for **3 months** in the San Carlos Casa de la Alegría.

Fund Allocation Breakdown:

- 46% - Salaries
- 23% - Social Benefits
- 6% - Operational Costs
- 6% - Educational Material
- 6% - Cleaning Supplies
- 3% - Miscellaneous



Direct Impact



SDG 1: No Poverty

By providing the parents a safe space to leave the children with no additional cost, as well as jobs for the community.



SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

By providing social tools as well as access to nutritious meals.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

By promoting the participation of both boys and girls at the Casas, and jobs for Women to be involved in the program.



SDG 4: Quality education

By generating the educational environment and workshops that the project involves.

Sustainable Development Goals



The Coffee Source provided direct support to this project by offering the following:

- Search for the best Project Executor suitable for the project's needs
- Periodical project follow-up meetings with partners in origin.
- Final report creation
- Impact measurement support
- Visual content for social media and communication on different channels
- Support additional exposure initiatives for the project
- Acquisition and handling of backpack gifts for the children participating in the project

**The Coffee Source
Support Group**

Record attendance: 2,283 children received care, proving a **68% increase** from 1,360 children in 2023-2024.

- **18 Casas operated** over 4.5 months, maintaining consistent service duration across key coffee regions.
- **Employment grew:** 61 women hired (vs. 55 last year), boosting rural female employment.
- **Family support expanded:** 545 families benefited (up from 356).
- **Producer participation increased:** 201 coffee producers involved (vs. 142 last year).
- **Child labor mitigation sustained,** offering safe, dignified alternatives during harvest season.
- **Strongest age group:** 47% of children were ages 3-7, requiring more personalized care and educational focus.
- **Workshops implemented** on rights, education, protection, and well-being, reinforcing psychosocial development.
- **Ethnic and nutritional inclusivity** is preserved through adapted menus and targeted milk support.
- **Partnerships strengthened,** particularly with Barrington Coffee and local social service agencies.

The 2024-2025 cycle reflects not only quantitative growth but qualitative improvements in care, community trust, and regional collaboration, laying the groundwork for continued expansion and impact in future harvests.

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Conclusions