

# Comfort

**Comfort is a cocoa farmer in Ghana. She is a widow, with five children. She is in her early 50s.**



## Her daily life

"I get up at 6am, do the household chores – sweep, wash up and get ready for the farm. Once on the farm I weed, plant plantain, yam, cocoa beans and vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers. I also cook at the farm – usually boiled yam or yam stew. I come home when it's too hot. The cocoa harvest is from September to February. It is a hard time of year. You have to ferment the beans then they are dried for six days – it is a lot of work."

"I am very busy as I am the women's leader of the local church and I also formed an association of widows and widowers where we offer each other support. But when I finally get a rest I love playing monopoly (a Comic Relief photographer brought it over as a gift) and I always win! I win because I always buy houses and hotels so always succeed!"

## Her passion

Comfort Kumeah is a widow in her early fifties with 5 children, the oldest is 29 and the youngest 17. As well as farming cocoa beans, Comfort also teaches at her local primary school. Living in the small town of Mim in the Ashanti region of Ghana, she is a member of Kuapa Kokoo Union cocoa farmers co-operative. The co-operative was set up in 1993 and now has 35,000 members. Kuapa own a third of the The Day Chocolate Company who manufacture Fairtrade Divine and Dubble chocolate bars in the UK market.

Comfort's farm is 12 acres in size and about ½ a mile away from the village. She works on the farm whenever she isn't teaching, on Saturdays and during the school holidays.

## A better deal

"Before we farmers were cheated. People adjusted the scales. We got little money from the purchasing clerks and no bonuses. The farmers' welfare was neglected. I joined Kuapa because I saw it was the only organisation which could solve some of our problems – they trade without cheating, with the welfare of farmers at heart".

"There are many problems with poverty. During the lean season there was no money. Now there is a Credit Union we can borrow to keep our farms. The AGM is also very good – farmers make their own decisions".

"Fairtrade deserves its name because it is fair. We would like more cocoa to be sold to Fairtrade because it means a better price for the producer".