Earthquake reconstruction assistance
Ecuador

Ecuadorian fine flavor cocoa farmers and their families are provided with tools and items to rebuild their houses, as well as community infrastructure after a heavy earthquake in April 2016.

Context
During the earthquake that struck the northern coast of Ecuador on 16th of April 2016, followed by several aftershocks, around 496 farmers who are part of the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program were also affected. They faced issues varying from their houses collapsing completely to things inside the house breaking. Thankfully none of the farmers and their families were seriously injured.

Project Content
The Lindt & Sprüngli subsidiaries Switzerland, Italy, USA, Ghirardelli and International, their employees, and the Lindt Cocoa Foundation quickly gathered a total amount of USD 110,000 to support the farmers and their communities in the reconstruction process. A careful evaluation of the different affected regions showed that the best way to support the farmers after the earthquake is to provide some basic tools and items for reconstructing their houses. 496 farmers received a reconstruction kit, containing items such as hammers, nails, roof covers etc. Farmers were very appreciative of the fact that they were supported through their tough times. One of the farmers said: “This gift helps us to rebuild our lives again. I am happy that the programme is not just helping us in growing our cocoa farms but also taking care of our

About the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:
The Lindt Cocoa Foundation was founded in 2013 and has the declared purpose of working to achieve social and ecological sustainability in the cultivation, production and processing of cocoa and other raw materials used in chocolate production.

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personal lives”. Another farmer stated: “This helps me and my family to build my house. A part of my house collapsed during the second earthquake and I started rebuilding my house last week. I am really happy to receive these things and this would help me reduce my cost and help my family for a long time”. The reconstruction kit turned out to be a useful supplement to the relief kits provided by the government, comprising food and basic amenities. Moreover, one community with 35 families was without continuous supply of drinking water for several months as their community water tower collapsed during the earthquake. The donation financed the construction of a new water tower which now provides clean drinking water to the community.

Serving the mission of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:
By offering smallholder farmers the tools and items to reconstruct their houses after an earthquake the project touches upon the focus area of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation which is fostering an enabling environment and removing constraints farmers face to improve their practices.