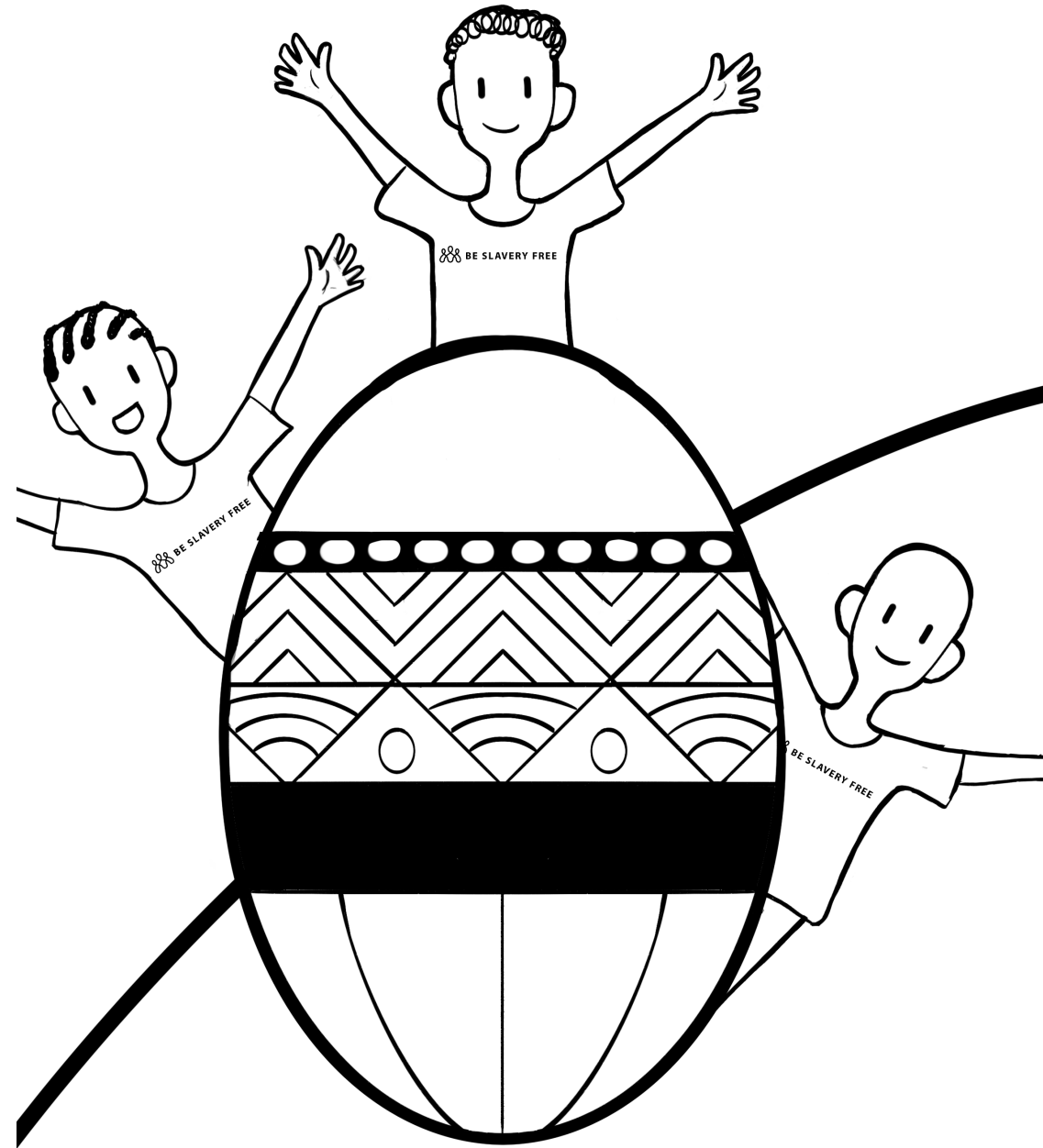


So, the chocolate Easter eggs we chose to give you are from programs that help children like Salif. Because like you - they are important and there are things like this we can do to make a difference.

To find out more please go to <https://beslaveryfree.com>



Salif saw small trucks coming to his village. The trucks would be loaded up with heavy bags of cocoa and be driven out to the co-op and then to the big city where the cocoa would be loaded onto ships. Salif heard the truck drivers tell stories to his father about what it was like travelling to these places. It sounded so exciting to Salif! Salif knew he wanted to become a truck driver when he grew up.

Salif is a boy in West Africa. His father moved countries and now has a small plot of land to grow cocoa. Cocoa is the main ingredient of the yummy chocolate we eat, and the Easter Egg I got for you.

In Salif's family, there is his father, his mother, four boys and three girls. Salif is the third child. He is ten years old. His oldest brother is 14 and youngest sister is just one year old. Having big families is important as it means his parents have lots of young helpers around the farm and children to look after them when they get old.

Salif wanted to go back to school. He had gone to school for three years and loved all that he had learnt. But he stopped going to school, when the price of cocoa dropped. His parents couldn't afford to send him to school anymore. So he worked on his parent's cocoa farm.

The work was hard. He had to lift and carry heavy loads. He used dangerous sprays that stop insects and pests destroying the cocoa crop. No-one taught him how to spray properly, and sometimes his skin got sores.

He also had to use machetes (long knives) to clear weeds and open the cocoa pods to get the needed seeds out. Sometimes he had to climb up the cocoa tree with these knives to get the cocoa pods off the higher areas of the tree. He was scared that he might fall or cut himself.

Sometimes he would sit under the shade of a cocoa tree and dream what it must be like to know there would be enough food, enough clean water and enough money to go to school. He knew because he could not go to school, there was no chance of getting a job driving a truck. It made him really sad just thinking about it.

Then one day, some people he had never seen before came to the village and all the people from the farms came to listen to them.

They talked about how people who ate chocolate in rich countries, were starting to worry about cocoa farming families. They said, these people were concerned that children were not going to school and doing work they were not old enough to do. They thought that farmers should get more money for their cocoa.

Salif wondered, 'How did they know about him?'

They said that if the farmers wanted, some people would come and help them understand what children could help with and what they could not. They would also check that young people from other countries were not being forced to work on farms for nothing. They said they could help farmers get more money for their cocoa so that children could go to school.

Salif asked his parents if they were going to do these things so he could go to school. After lots of talking they decided they would.

He could not believe his eyes and ears! Who were these people from other countries that were helping make this happen? He was so excited to get back to school. Once again, he can dream about his future. And this time his dreams might come true.