



► Nigeria - Community funds and communal support for direct action against child labour



Responds to the following criteria

- Responsiveness
- Relevance
- Replicability
- Sustainability



Main stakeholders

Community leaders from Ondo, Osun and Niger states; community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs); the State Universal Education Board; the private sector; local government; local child labour monitoring committees and local stakeholders' committees (responsible for community funds).

► Description

Nigeria has good experience and practice in mobilizing existing institutions, organizations and coordinating bodies at national and community levels to act against child labour. It is also significant that **Nigeria has the ability to mobilize institutional and community funds against child labour**, especially in preventing school dropouts or supporting child labour victims to return to school. Of the most significant forms of support, and highly visible on the ground, are two forms of funding: **community funds provided by community members and coordinated by the community child labour monitoring committees (CCLMCs); and the funding organized through the Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA)**. The CCLMCs are comprised of community leaders, school authorities, religious leaders, youth leaders, women leaders, local government and parents.

Within the scope of the ACCEL Africa project, work on child labour at the field level took place through four major NGOs: Esteem Hub, Kids and Teens, Raise Foundation and RTDW.

ACCEL Africa has provided financial and technical support to these organizations with the aim of supporting communities to prevent school dropouts, support the return of child labour victims to school and to ensure an appropriate school-to-work transition. In addition, to complement the support of the project, CCLMCs have organized community funds.

At the same time, **ACCEL Africa worked closely with NECA to sensitize it to the importance of ensuring compliance against child labour in supply chains through a well-developed code of conduct and its official adoption and dissemination among NECA members**. Moreover, employers began channelling funds to local schools and educational projects through NECA.

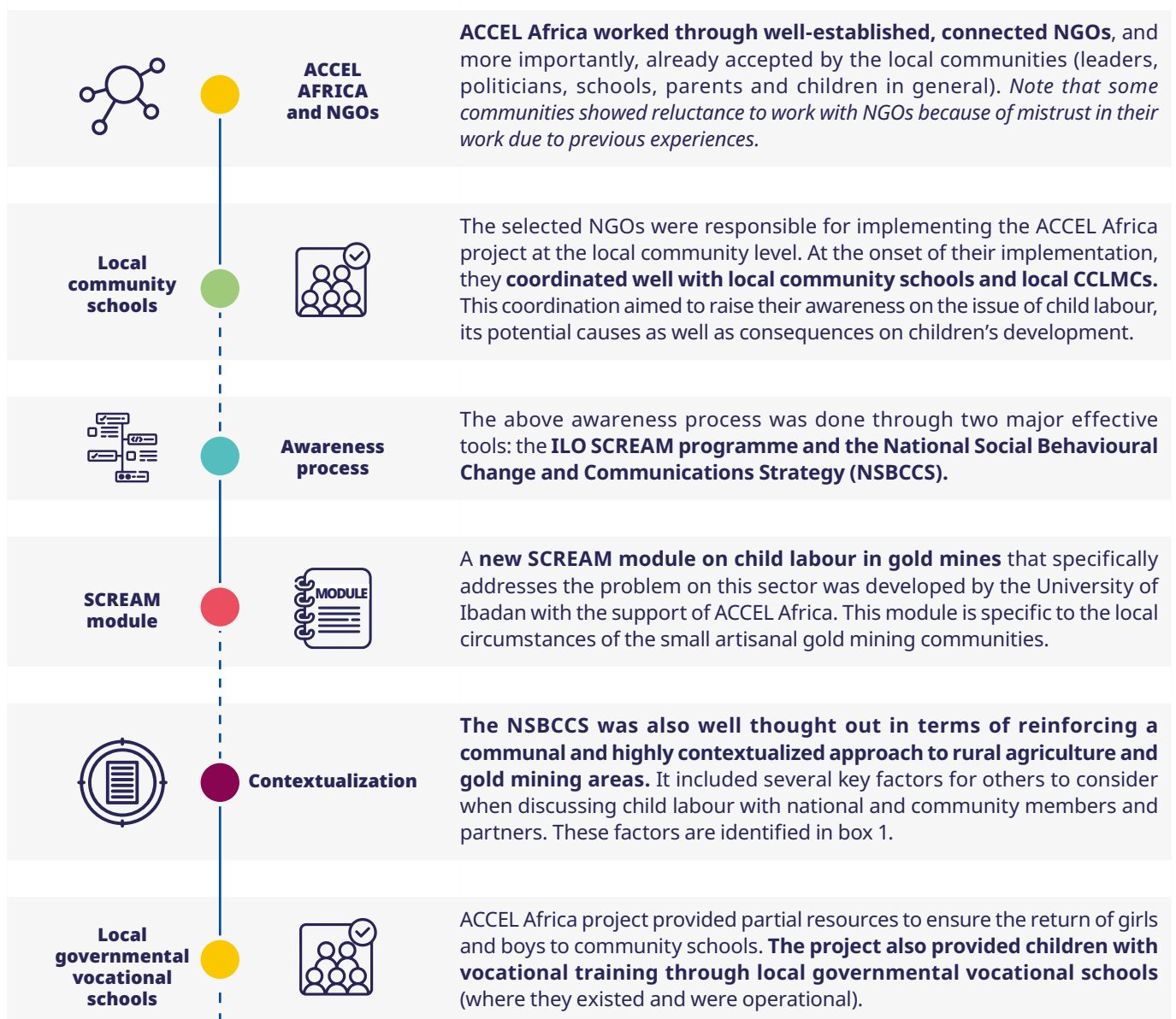
These community funding initiatives are crucial to the sustainability of the project results and have the potential to serve to build ownership and support the implementation of exit strategies.

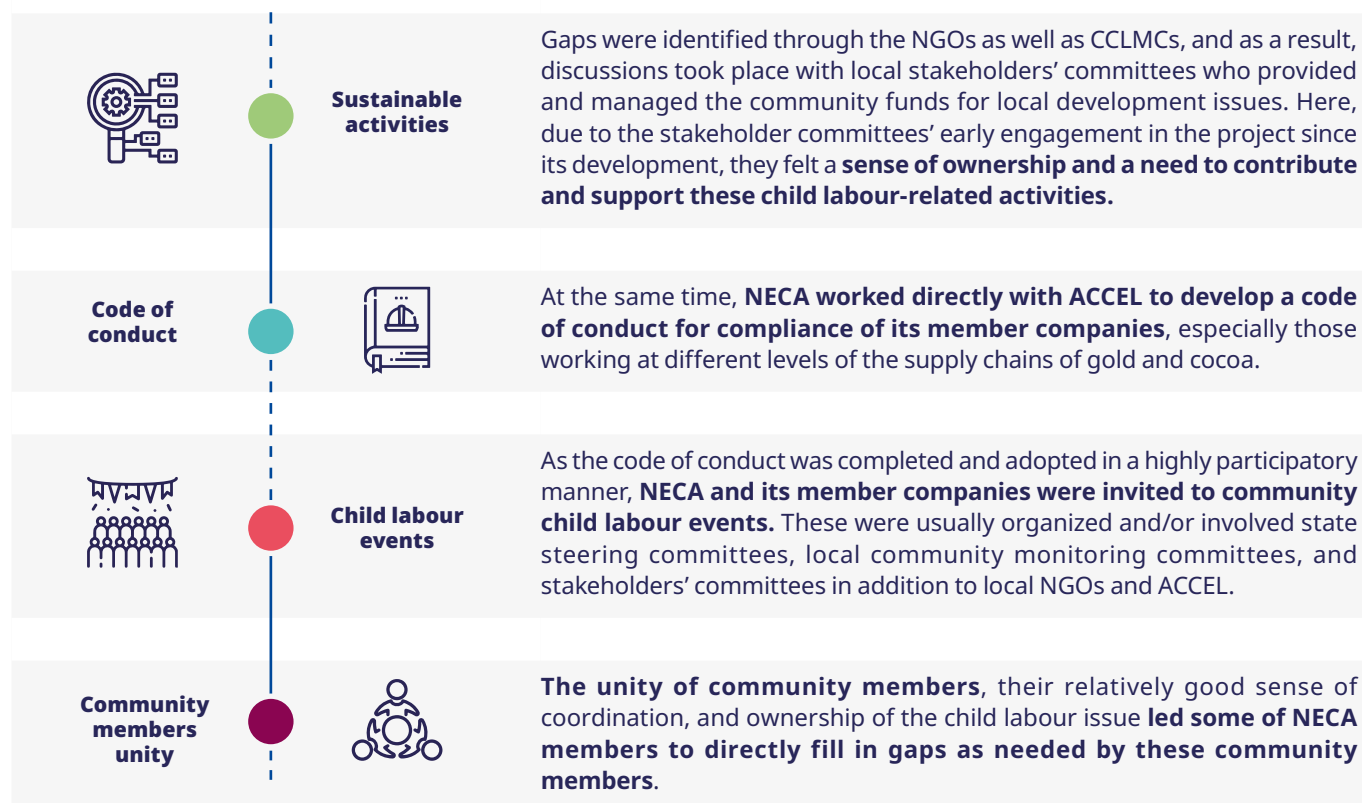
► Process

The ACCEL Africa entry point into the 12 communities was through community leaders. In collaboration with the Federal University of Technology in Akure and Minna, a situational analysis on the prevalence of child labour was conducted. The communities led the process of identification of vulnerable families and children who were either at risk or engaged in child labour. The community leaders mentioned earlier were trained on the concept of child labour and their roles in combatting it.

ACCEL Africa, in coordination with the local NGOs mentioned above (which are well based in the selected communities), sensitized local stakeholders' committees (responsible for local funds) and the private sector to support direct action against child labour through a National Social Behavioural Change and Communications Strategy (NSBCCS). This strategy targeted local communities directly, as well as NECA, to have them engage in community-based projects as well.

The community engagement process therefore took place as follows:





► **Box 1. Communicating on child labour and enhancing knowledge sharing**

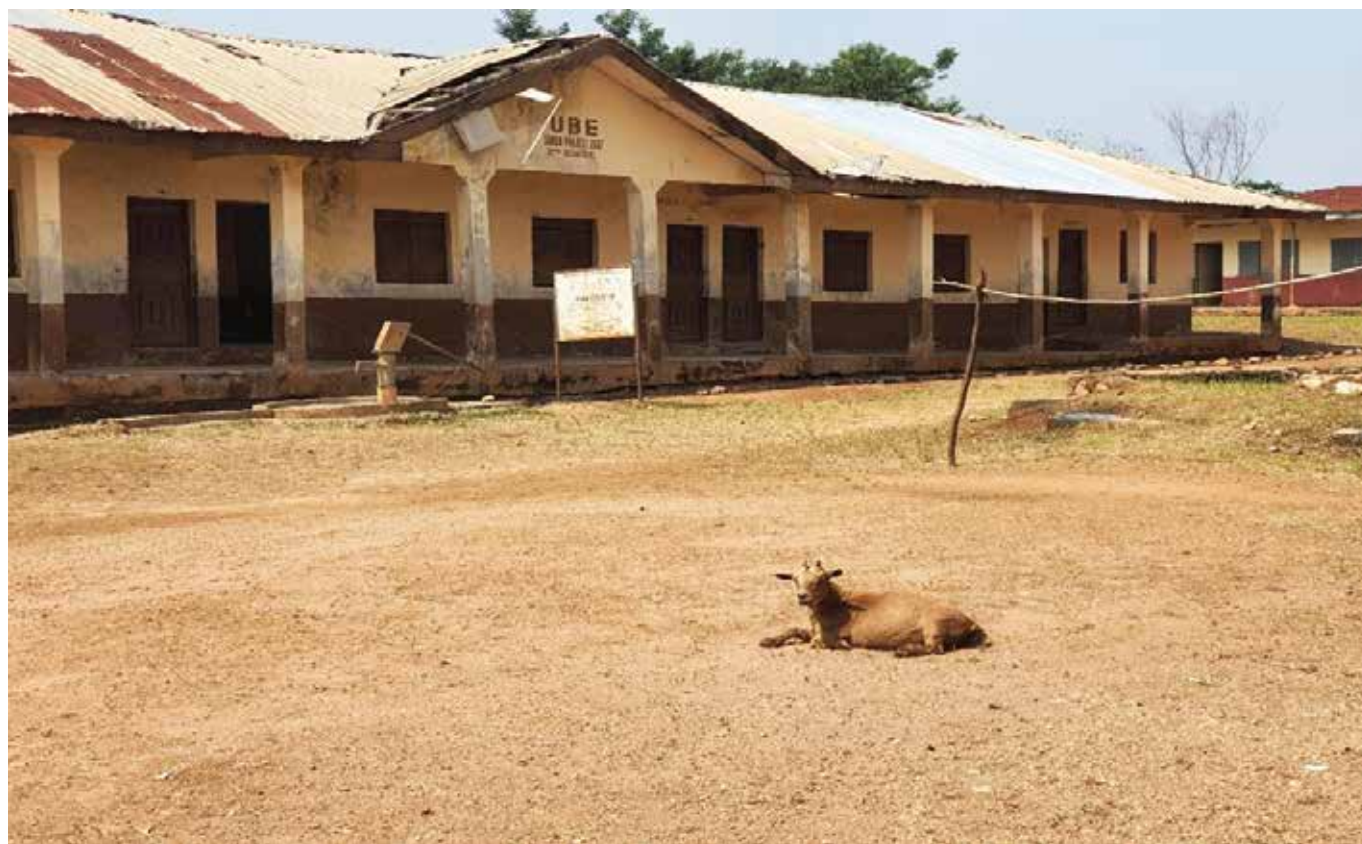
- **Expressing ideas more clearly** can go a long way toward helping people understand child labour and the ILO's work to eliminate it. Speaking and writing clearly is persuasive and can change perceptions. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true: less clarity equals less understanding and very little change.
- **Strengthening the ILO as a trusted source is key** to be a reliable provider of clear, understandable information on child labour. It is not enough to be factually correct. The first step is to challenge what you think is common knowledge and completely obvious about child labour. You are the expert in your field, your audience is not. To inspire change, communicate in terms your audience understands.
- **"What I have is what you want"** is a typical attitude in international organizations and a recipe for failure to communicate. So before reaching out, it is essential to first understand what your audience knows about the issue of child labour and then find out what they need from you. Tip: your colleagues are not your audience.
- **Technical language vs jargon.** Technical language, such as "child labour monitoring system", "labour inspection", and "vocational training" is both valuable and important in explaining how child labour is being addressed. Jargon, such as "mainstreaming", "uptake", "catalysing", "mobilization", "leveraging", and so on, is confusing, unclear and works against your message.
- **Visual expressions.** One or two compelling images can have more impact on audiences than many pages of text.
- **Essentials only.** Be clear, not comprehensive. Don't explain everything, just the important thing: what changed or "could change" as a result of initiatives and programmes addressing child labour.
- **Storytelling works** to attract the news media, more fully engage partners and stakeholders, inspire action and shift public opinion on child labour,

Therefore, **joint efforts, ownership, responsibility and image at community levels** towards any child labour project provide a sense of trust and credibility for local and national funders to contribute to.

Within the framework of the development of this report, the results achieved jointly through ACCEL Africa and community support included the following:

		School building	Renovation of a school building in Osun State (the only primary school in the area).
Vocational training			Re-opening, equipping and operating of a previously closed governmental vocational training centre in Fagbo 1 & 2.
		Results	Vocational training of at least 431 girls and boys in the two selected states; 402 trainees from seven cocoa-producing communities in Ondo state. Bamikemo, Oke Agunla, Wasimi Odunwo, Fagbo 1, Fagbo 2, Aponmu and Ipoba 2 received empowerment tools; 29 trainees resident in Ibala, a gold mining and cocoa producing community in Obokun local government, Osun state also received start-up kits, with a renovated block of classrooms officially handed over by ACCEL Africa to the community.
Start-up business equipment			Providing trainees with necessary start-up business equipment such as sewing machines, welding machines, ovens and glass cylinders, insecticide sprayers, clippers, sterilizers, wheelbarrows, generators, industrial cooking gas, laptops, drums, hairdryers and washbasins, grinding machines, pop-corn making machines, charging boxes, vulcanizing machines and mechanic toolboxes.
		Students enrolment	Enrolment of 307 students in Ondo and Osun states.
School equipment			Provision of school equipment, such as bags, textbooks, sandals, socks and uniforms (for the most vulnerable children to prevent their potential dropout).

► **Figure 1. Renovation of St. Anglican School in Osun state; the only primary school in the area**



Note: For further information, please see: [ILO Empowers 431 trainees in Ondo and Osun states and hands over renovated school to community.](#)

► **Figure 2.** Children of legal working age were trained in sewing and then provided with sewing machines to start their own businesses individually or collectively



► **Figure 3. Empowerment of 450 ACCEL Africa beneficiaries through the provision of start-up business equipment in Niger State**



► Enabling factors

- 1 Community coordinating bodies against child labour are relatively well enshrined at very local levels.
- 2 Due to community ownership of child labour projects, there is an inherent feeling within the communities' politicians, leaders and business leaders to engage financially and fill in gaps.
- 3 Developing and following a national awareness-raising strategy (NSBCCS) was an added value. It helped to gradually increase awareness and mobilization of efforts against child labour through active engagement in relevant projects at national as well as community levels.
- 4 The development of a new SCREAM module on child labour in gold mines that is targeted for children and communities specifically working in cocoa and gold mines was certainly useful. Its content was well adapted to these communities and their children's everyday lives, challenges, culture and language. This was an additional sector-sensitive awareness-raising strategy.

In brief

Community sensitization on child labour, its causes and consequences is a must for any related programme before it starts, as well as during and after. This should be an ongoing means at all levels, but especially at community levels where child labour exists. It is always advisable to carry it out through well-accepted and acknowledged NGOs that are part of the community. When this sensitization takes place in parallel with the provision of necessary services such as education, schooling, vocational training and economic empowerment, the following can result; change in the behaviour of the community towards child labour, community ownership, participation and, as in this specific case, funding for such programmes..

In the cases mentioned in this good practice, community funds came directly from the local stakeholders' committee and companies operating in these communities through their supply chain operations. Moreover, **the presence of all potential community actors in a project** (such as state-level committees, local government, and local child labour monitoring committees in Nigeria) **provides a high sense of trust in the community and its projects for potential internal as well as external funders.**

To conclude, **potential success factors** for community and national funding for local child labour projects need to include (but not be limited to) the following: **the presence of strong local NGOs, local community coordinating bodies and mechanisms, and the involvement of local leaders, school administrations and families of children.** All bring about ownership, trust and sustainability, as opposed to projects that are parachuted into the community, having no arms and legs on the ground.