



A PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR IN THE CHOCOLATE AND COCOA INDUSTRY

Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are the world's largest cocoa producers and together account for 60 per cent of global production. In both countries, unacceptable labour practices on cocoa farms mean that large numbers of children are performing hazardous farming tasks or work – often at the expense of attending school. This is a grave violation of children's rights, which requires action throughout the supply chain.

Issues also exist with regard to the sustainable supply of

cocoa – with implications for national and local economies, and buyers. Young people are increasingly migrating to urban areas, where education and decent work prospects are perceived to be better and, as a result, the average age of cocoa farmers in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire is 58 years. Ensuring an adequate number of workers among the younger generations is therefore a challenge to the continuity of cocoa growing farms, which are likely to encourage the engagement of children in hazardous forms of labour.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

ADM; Barry Callebaut; Cargill; Ferrero; The Hershey Company; Kraft Foods; Mars Incorporated; and Nestlé.

Beneficiary countries:

Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

Timeframe:

2011 – 2014

Budget:

USD 2 million

THE RESPONSE

This partnership in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire between the ILO and a number of companies in the chocolate and confectionery industry seeks to eliminate child labour and to ensure workforce continuity in cocoa growing farms by younger generations.

It contributes to the implementation of the 2010 Framework of Action to Support Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol on child labour in cocoa, and addresses the multiple causes of child labour, such as household poverty, the reliance of families on their children's income, and the lack of access to education.

The collaboration has three main objectives:

- To strengthen the capacity of governments, social partners and cocoa farmers to combat the worst forms of child labour in cocoa producing communities.
- To support the development of community-based Child Labour Monitoring Systems (CLMS), which identify and refer child labourers and at-risk children to the appropriate educational channels.
- To enhance coordination between the myriad of initiatives aimed at tackling child labour in cocoa growing communities in the two countries. The partnership provides additional support for a larger set of projects by the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), which works through improved livelihoods and an integrated area-based approach that tackles all forms of child labour in a geographic area.





"We are extremely pleased to be working with IPEC to strengthen child labour monitoring systems in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Expansion and refinement of these important tools are critical next steps in helping cocoa communities take action on behalf of their own children."

Ron Graf,
Chair of the Industry
Coalition



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RESULTS

The project demonstrated how multinational companies, working in partnership with ILO constituents on nationally-owned CLMS, can achieve sustainable progress in eliminating child labour in their supply chains and support the withdrawal or prevention of some 3,000 children from child labour in target communities. More specifically:

- Company representatives were involved in strategic planning with ILO constituents and key stakeholders on the elimination of child labour in cocoa growing areas, and contributed to the implementation of National Action Plans against child labour and national CLMS strategies;
- The project promoted greater coordination between the many relevant initiatives in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, many of them funded by individual companies in the chocolate and cocoa industry;

- By contributing to the creation of community-based CLMS, linked with Government services and enforcement mechanisms, the project served as a sustainable model for industry that can be scaled-up, thereby making a significant contribution to the achievement of the industry's goal of a 70 per cent reduction in child labour in cocoa growing communities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire by 2020.

Another important aspect of the partnership between the ILO and the industry was the cooperation with the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI). The eight chocolate and cocoa companies working in partnership with IPEC are also members of the ICI, along with the global food workers' trade unions and civil society. IPEC acts as advisors to the Board of the ICI and, in that capacity, provides ongoing advisory services on child labour elimination and the ILO child labour Conventions to the companies.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

Companies receive technical assistance on the elimination of child labour from the world's leading programme on the subject: the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

Long-term supply chain sustainability is improved through enhancing the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and making the vocation more attractive to younger generations.

Improved training of the cocoa farmers results in better quality products and greater productivity.

Companies strengthen relations with the governments of the countries in which they operate.