



ICI Stakeholder Meeting

REPORT

Tuesday 18th November 2014, Geneva



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1. Introduction and Opening Remarks - Nick Weatherill (ICI Executive Director)

In his opening address, Nick Weatherill introduced the topic for the day's discussion: *Child Protection in West African Cocoa-Growing Communities – Taking Good Practices to Scale*. Highlighting the fact that ICI currently directly assists less than 10% of the cocoa-growing communities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (with a target to cover 20% of cocoa-growing communities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire by 2020 as indicated in ICI's new strategy), Nick emphasised the importance to ICI, under its new strategy, of enhancing knowledge, building partnerships, strengthening capacities and promoting good practices to catalyse change at a greater scale.

Noting the presence in the room of more than 50 representatives from cocoa-producing governments, donor governments, international organisations, civil society organisations, the private sector, foundations and certifiers, he stressed the potential that exists in multi-stakeholder action to accelerate progress under a model of shared responsibility. But he also acknowledged that this required a keener analysis of who had the comparative advantage to do what, and how they could be influenced to do more, so that we avoid multi-stakeholder "inaction". He closed by pledging to feed the findings of the day's deliberations into ICI's Board Meeting on the following day, when plans to develop an Influencing Plan for the Foundation would be discussed.

2. Scene-setting on Advocacy and Influencing - Ellie Kemp (Independent Consultant)

Drawing upon her experience in the humanitarian sector, Ellie Kemp shared key insights on effective advocacy and influencing which was used to build a broad consensus to overcome political and operational blockages in Eastern Congo in 2009. Questions to be asked when conducting advocacy include: Have you assessed and defined the problem? Who are you talking to and why would they listen? Do you have the facts? Do you know the context? Are you listening to the people that matter (e.g. communities)? Do you understand the power dynamics? Have you identified the obstacles? Do you know where the levers and opportunities lie?

3. Invited Speakers – “Taking Stock of Good Practices”

In order to identify good practices to take to scale, 6 speakers were invited to present good practices for specific topics and reflect on what they find frustrating in promoting these practices.

3.1 Empowerment of Smallholder Farming Households and What this Means for Children - Andrews Tagoe (General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) - Ghana)

Speaking of the Ghanaian context and progress made there on tackling child labour, Andy shared some key learning points. Previously there was a strong focus on targeting child labourers solely in the cocoa sector – but this led to their being displaced to other sectors, such as mining or oil palm. The “integrated area-based approach” thus emerged as a good practice, focusing on child labour in cocoa-growing communities as a whole (rather than a sectoral focus). He also stressed the interdependence of children’s rights and farmers’ rights, and thus the need to empower smallholder farmers and farming communities so that they can better protect their children (GAWU’s farmer training module on occupational safety and health was referenced as a tool to raise awareness, amongst farmers, of the decent work agenda – [find the link here](#)). And in Ghana, the government’s social protection programme shows great potential to tackle some of the root-causes of child labour, but it is complex and struggles to reach the scale required. Finally, Andy lamented the over-politicisation of child labour mitigation and urged that if politics was going to be used as a tool to accelerate progress, it should be uniting and not divisive.

3.2 Community Child Protection Systems and Capacities - Luisa Ekelund Book (Save the Children-Sweden)

Key findings and good practices from an interagency review on community-based child protection mechanisms conducted in 2009 ([find link here](#)) highlighted the importance of:

- Breaking down siloes and viewing problems holistically
- Assessing needs at the community level from the bottom up
- Identifying and working with community leaders
- Understanding that each community is different
- Recognising that there are no quick fixes
- Working with influential religious leaders
- Promoting community ownership

- Using in-kind rather than cash incentives. Acknowledging and working with (not against) the formal and informal national and local systems
- Determining accountability and reporting transparently
- Promoting child participation



3.3 *Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation - Kenneth Mamudu (Government of Ghana – NPECLC)*

Mr. Mamudu shared a comprehensive overview of the GCLMS. 8,000 children in or at-risk of child labour have been identified and assisted. There have been attitudinal changes at the community level and a change in the use of children on cocoa-farms, evidenced by improvements in school enrolment and attendance. From the GCLMS pilot the following good practices have been identified:

- Involving the communities and districts in the child protection training and enabling the community to lead the primary data collection and data entry to promote community ownership
- Decentralising data-handling and decision-making to the district level so that it can be linked to district development planning
- Mainstreaming child labour perspectives into national decision-making to enhance the response for vulnerable children across multiple sectors
- Coordinate and harmonise the work of different partners implementing a CLMS

The main challenge to scaling up the GCLMS is funding. There has also been indecision around what incentives should be given to the volunteers who collect the data (in-kind or cash), to ensure the reliability of the data and follow-up, whilst keeping the system affordable.

3.4 *Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation - Martin N'Guettia (Government of Côte d'Ivoire – SOSTECI)*

Mr. N'Guettia provided a background of the SOSTECI programme, sharing that there has also been progress and a visible impact at the community level. The importance of partnerships to better protect children in cocoa-growing communities by linking identified child labour cases with appropriate remediation activities was stressed. Linking to other line-ministries, beyond the Ministry of Labour, is also key, but it is acknowledged that the government cannot succeed alone. The challenges to scaling up include the cost of the system (either more resources need to be found, or a cheaper system designed), and, beyond indentifying child labour, meaningfully preventing it in the first place by creating alternatives for children, parents and farmers.



3.5 Improving Access to Education - Adele Khudr (Country Representative, UNICEF – Côte d'Ivoire)

Key facts on child vulnerability in Côte d'Ivoire were shared, highlighting significant disparities between the cocoa-growing regions and national averages, with the cocoa belt notably worse off on some critical indicators.

- Poverty in Côte d'Ivoire has increased from 24% in 1998 to 53% in 2008
- The average percentage of children with birth certificates in Côte d'Ivoire is 62%, however this currently stands at 39% in the cocoa-growing region of Bas Sassandra
- 20% of children do not live with their parents but with other relatives
- 40% of students have experienced violence from their school teacher
- 34% of students have been victims of humiliating punishments

Mrs. Khudr pointed out that children in cocoa-growing areas face more severe deprivations than their counterparts in other regions and multiple vulnerabilities which go beyond child labour. Child labour and other child protection needs must therefore be addressed together, especially at community level, where much work still needs to be done in engaging community members of children's rights. Birth registration is key, not only to allow children to progress through school, but also as a child's right to identity and citizenship. She also emphasised the importance of working closely with the local and national government, and engaging with or supporting their strategies, in order to make a sustainable difference at scale. She stressed the need to avoid disincentives, ensuring that any demand that is created is matched with an appropriate offer, whilst nevertheless holding government to their responsibilities.

3.6 Strengthening Women's Livelihoods in Cocoa Communities - Bart van der Linden (World Cocoa Foundation)

Good practices to strengthen women's livelihoods and promote women's empowerment in cocoa-growing communities include the following:

- Empowering women through income generating activities
- Expanding the training of women farmers, and using women to train women farmers on good agricultural practices
- Supporting women to grow other food crops to promote livelihood, income diversification and improved child nutrition
- Promoting and training women as managers of farmers' organisations/coops
- Ensuring that women decide on how certification social premiums are spent
- Supporting women to supply and facilitate school-feeding programmes

4. Group Work

4.1 Group Work 1 – “From Obstacles to Impact”

Participants formed thematic groups each covering one of the above topics (3.1 to 3.6) to explore in greater depth the challenges to scaling up the good practices, how those obstacles could be overcome, and by whom.

Some of the obstacles to empowering farmers at a greater scale could be addressed through working with both formal and informal structures on a decentralised basis; improving the knowledge, skills and capacities of local leadership; ensuring that the leadership is accountable to its community members and that government is accountable to its citizens (e.g. for how it invests taxes in services); improving resource prospects by linking community work to government programmes and shifting away from a narrow project orientation. Financial constraints were identified as the principal barrier to scaling up many good practices, including child labour monitoring and remediation systems which are both complex and costly, especially in the delivery of tailor-made remediation responses. Proposed solutions included better integration within aligned government budgets and international development budgets (e.g. for social protection), harnessing innovations such as mobile technology, and partnering/cost-sharing (e.g. with the supply-chain, where capacities and resources already exist) in such a way that allows multiple actors to implement within a coordinated, harmonised and nationally overseen framework. Broader resourcing solutions included transparent use of national tax revenues or the imposition of a cocoa-sustainability levy on cocoa imports or on end-products for consumers.

To harness the collective force of collaboration, participants agreed that organisations working on international development in cocoa-growing communities and national governments needed a common platform to coordinate actions, pool data and share good practices. The need for a global or national mapping exercise to understand who is working where and on which thematic issues was emphasised to avoid a wasteful duplication of efforts and to strengthen impact. Gender empowerment was repeatedly stressed as an effective means of confronting and overcoming many of the obstacles embedded in traditional customs. However, it was also acknowledged that the complexity of, for instance, ensuring land tenure for women, could not be underestimated.



4.2 Group Work 2 – “Strategic Collaboration versus Independent Action”

This session dug deeper into the roles and comparative advantages of different actors in unblocking the scalable solutions, and further explored the potential of strategic partnerships to advance progress.

The power of civil-society and international development organisations to bring their skills as practitioners, and their influence as advocates, alongside the private sector (with their own resources, supply chain skills and farmer relationships) was a commonly emerging theme. The potential of the private sector both to have greater operational impact, and to influence more effectively, resided on its ability to coordinate itself better. Linking with others to learn and adopt common good practices was deemed essential both for efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. Subscribing to principles of national ownership and coordination (whilst retaining an ability to implement independently) was viewed as essential, not only for sovereignty and sustainability, but also to avoid substituting for governments’ distinct responsibilities.

The importance of putting communities first was repeatedly raised, recognising their inherent capacity, their ability to define problems and solutions according to their contextual reality, and the unavoidable fact that change will only happen if it brings incentives and alternatives to farmers. At the same time, a clear role was identified for both private-sector and development practitioners who are working in communities, to serve as a bridge between those communities and their local and national governments. Partnerships built on operational collaboration and coordination could go further if they foster smarter leveraging and reciprocal conditionality, so that different actors are tied more firmly to a commitment to deliver according to their respective strengths, and towards a shared goal. If this is reinforced by greater accountability (to farmers, to communities, to donors etc), it was felt that a dynamic momentum could be achieved.



5. Closing remarks

In closing the day's event, Nick Weatherill commended the assembled participants for the breadth and richness of subjects covered, and for their energy in considering so many extremely complex challenges facing children in cocoa-growing communities. He confirmed his overall impression that, in spite of the clear strengths and mandates of different distinct actors, having impact at scale would depend far more on strategic collaboration than on independent action. He also stressed, however, the recurrent themes of coordination, national leadership, community ownership, conditionality and accountability that need to be built into collaborations if they are to deliver meaningful and lasting change. He concluded by reflecting on ICI's potential as an "honest broker" to nurture such collaboration between its multiple stakeholders, and how this role conformed to ICI's new strategic identity as an operationally-grounded catalyst for change, echoing one participant's conviction that ICI should "assist, advise and advocate".





ANNEX I: Meeting agenda

09: 30 – 10:00 AM	Registration
10: 00 – 10:15 AM	Introductions and opening remarks (Nick Weatherill – ICI Executive Director)
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Guest Speaker: Ellie Kemp on “Influencing”
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Invited Speakers: “Stock-Taking” <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Empowerment of Smallholder Farming Households and What this Means for Children</i> by Andrews Tagoe, General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU), Ghana2. <i>Community Child Protection Systems and Capacities</i> by Luisa Ekelund Book, Save the Children-Sweden3. <i>Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation</i><ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Kenneth Mamudu: Govt of Ghana - NPECLCb. Martin N’Guettia: Govt of Cote d’Ivoire – SOSTECI4. <i>Improving Access to Education</i> Adele Khudr, Country Representative, UNICEF – Cote d’Ivoire5. <i>Strengthening Women’s Livelihoods in Cocoa Communities</i> by Bart van der Linden, World Cocoa Foundation
11:30 – 11:45 AM	BREAK
11:45 – 12:30 PM	Mixed Group Exercise: “From Obstacles to Impact”
12:30 – 1:00 PM	Groups Report Back in Plenary
1:00 – 1:45 PM	LUNCH (sandwiches will be provided)
1:45 – 3:00 PM	Mixed Group Exercise: “Strategic Collaboration versus Independent Action”
3:00 - 3:15 PM	BREAK
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Groups Report Back in Plenary
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Stakeholder Group Exercise: “Reflection and Synopsis”
5:00 PM	ADJOURN



ANNEX II: Participant list

Marina Morari

Barry-Callebaut

Andrea Husser

Berne Declaration

Amany Konan

Cabinet de la Première Dame, Côte d'Ivoire

Paula Byrne

Caobisco

Elizabeth Fay

Cargill

Penelope Kemp

Consultant

Ebakoué Assi Laurent

Côte d'Ivoire Permanent Mission in Geneva

Daria Cibrario

Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing (ECLT) Foundation

Sonia Velazquez

Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing (ECLT) Foundation

Joha Braimah

Free the Slaves

Andrews Tagoe

General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU)

Andy McCormick

Hershey's

Simon Steyne

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Michaela Macchiavello

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Eva Gutiérrez Carrera

Interpol

Nora Derrer

Jacobs Foundation

Jeff Morgan

Mars

Chantal Koné

Ministre de la Solidarite de la Famille, de la Femme et de l'Enfant, Côte d'Ivoire



Elizabeth Akanbombire

Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ghana

Victoria Natsu

Ministry of Gender and Social Protection, Ghana

Dr. Martin N'Guetia

Ministry of State, Employment and Social Affairs (SOSTECI), Côte d'Ivoire

Cathy Pieters

Mondelez

Virginie Mahin

Mondelez

Kenneth Mamudu

National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa (NPECLC)

Joan Morer

Nederland

Filipa Secretin

Nederland

Darrell High

Nestlé

Hilary Parsons

Nestlé

Goetz Schroth

Rainforest Alliance

Nicole Moran

Right To Play

Luisa Ekelund Book

Save the Children

Beate Weiskopf

Secretariat to the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)

Hans Perk

Solidaridad

Nienke Keen

Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)

Laurent Pipitone

International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)

Arjen Boekhold

Tony's Chocolonely



Jenny Heap

Twentyfifty

Chris Kip

UNICEF

Adele Khudr

UNICEF

Albertine de Lange

UTZ Certified

Antonie Fountain

VOICE

Ella Mae Lewis

Walk Free

Bart van der Linden

World Cocoa Foundation

Peggy Ljubicic

Independent

Nick Weatherill

International Cocoa Initiative Secretariat

Matthias Lange

International Cocoa Initiative Secretariat

Terri Salter

International Cocoa Initiative Secretariat

Grégoire Labhardt

International Cocoa Initiative Secretariat

Sonja Molinari

International Cocoa Initiative Secretariat

Borjana Pervan

International Cocoa Initiative Secretariat

Sherelle Wilson

International Cocoa Initiative Secretariat

Marianne Gemin

International Cocoa Initiative Secretariat

Euphrasie Aka

International Cocoa Initiative National Office in Côte d'Ivoire

Avril Kudzi

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Facilitator:

Mil Niepold

The Mara Partners