

Statement of Expert Panel

June 3, 2009

An Expert Panel with nearly 100 participants met in Accra from 18 - 20 May 2009 under the title of “Knowledge into Action: Balancing the Need to Know with the Need for Change” in the presence of both the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Welfare of the Government of the Republic of Ghana and of Mr. Malick Tohe, Executive Secretary of the Child Labour Task Force of the Government of Côte d’Ivoire. The Panel recognized that moving forward, efforts on Worst Forms of Child Labor must address the concerns of a broad group of stakeholders, while focusing on the needs of children. To that end, the detailed discussions reflected a broad range of stakeholder perspectives (Governments, farmers, civil society, industry, and consumers) and centered on three themes related to the lives/work of children and adults in the cocoa sector. Themes and major outcomes /agreements are noted below:

1. Collection, Reporting, and Uses of Quality Data

- Government representatives agreed to continue their efforts at “weighting” previous survey data per suggestions in the verifier report. The panel agreed that when this action is appropriately completed, the surveys of both countries will represent a sector-wide analysis of the cocoa producing areas of each country related to the incidence of WFCL.
- It was further agreed that significant value would be obtained by carrying out a meta-analysis of all recent surveys performed within the countries that address labor issues/practices.
- The group agreed that for improved consistency of future work a “Joint Working Group,” including technical and policy representatives from each country, along with invited experts, would convene.
- Initial items to be considered by this working group would be:
 - The comparison and agreement regarding indicators, benchmarks, and methods for future data collection efforts.
 - The group would also evaluate the results of the meta-analysis of the collected data in each country to recommend the methodology, frequency, and scope of future surveys.
 - Using the data, create child labor “data-gathering modules” for the possible addition to national surveys as an efficient method of sector-wide data collection in the future.
- The Community-based Child Labor Monitoring programs planned in each country will be pursued initially with pilot activities, focusing efforts on assuring that data collection and reporting methods are credible.

2. Improved Coordination of Remediation Efforts for Increased Impact

- It was agreed by all that the priority of future efforts in the cocoa sectors must be remediation.
- It was agreed that Governments would take the lead to further enhance the coordination efforts currently underway in each country. It was confirmed that Governments must lead this activity.
- Each Government will determine additional methods to engage those groups working in the country to share data and encourage a more strategic approach to the design and performance of remediation activities.
- It was agreed that a significant element of enhanced coordination would be the need to deliver improved communication of the activities of the large program of work that is currently underway.
- Industry, Donor, and NGO partners are called upon to actively engage with the Government-led coordination mechanisms already in place.

3. Addressing Trafficking and Forced Adult Labor

- Governments stated that they would welcome additional targeted research in each country, using other methodologies, to gain greater insight on the extent and root causes of trafficking and forced adult labor that may not have been revealed during household surveys.
- It was also noted that current efforts in remediation and planned community based child labor monitoring systems (CCLMS), can serve as a deterrent to both trafficking and forced labor, as well as building a comprehensive dataset of practices.
- It was also agreed that any incidents of trafficking or forced labor, discovered as a result of community monitoring, would be immediately acted upon.
- It was proposed that stakeholders further explore ways to strengthen existing rapid reaction response capability in each country, and that additional resources be mobilized for new programs, to follow up on suspected cases of trafficking or forced labor and where necessary to act to rescue the victim/s.
- It was proposed that stakeholders explore ways to mobilize additional support from multiple stakeholders to ensure that there is an appropriate facility for the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking or forced labor.

4. Key Contacts

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