



National Programme For The Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour In Cocoa
(Cocoa Our Heritage, Children Our Future)

MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE/NPECLC AND WORLD COCOA FOUNDATION SIGN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS AND STRENGTHEN COCOA GROWING COMMUNITIES WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTERVENTIONS

ACCRA, Ghana, October 27, 2011 – The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare/National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa (MOESW/NPECLC) announced today a cooperative agreement to formalize a collaboration working with cocoa- producing communities to provide economic and social interventions and improve livelihoods.

WCF and MOESW/NPECLC have partnered in the past year in organizing community sensitization events, such as the program to commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour. They recently worked together with COCOBOD to launch the “CocoaLink” programme which makes use of Ghana’s rapidly developing mobile phone infrastructure to reach Ghanaian cocoa farmers with productivity and child labour messages. Such programs help increase farmer productivity while decreasing child labour in cocoa communities.

A Memorandum of Understanding between WCF and MOESW/ NPECLC signed at the WCF Partnership Meeting in Accra will provide the framework to guide the collaborative effort to develop and implement projects. This work expands access to quality universal basic education; develops human resources through vocational training for youth and women; trains men and women farmers to grow cocoa more productively and profitably and mobilizes communities, district assemblies, the cocoa industry and other key stakeholders to work together to holistically address development challenges in cocoa-producing communities.

“The signing of this cooperative agreement with the World Cocoa Foundation will facilitate our partnership process and enable us achieve significant strides in our quest to ensure child labour free, economically thriving cocoa farming households and communities,” said Hon E. T. Mensah, Minister of Employment and Social Welfare. “Today marks a key milestone in our joint effort and we are pleased to join forces to implement programs aimed at improving the quality of life in cocoa communities.”

“Working with host governments to collectively empower cocoa communities through holistic and partnership-driven programs to develop human capital and enhance productivity will go a long way to accelerate the process of ensuring improved quality of life for men, women and children in cocoa-growing communities in Ghana,” said WCF President Mr. Bill Guyton. “Ongoing World Cocoa Foundation programs such as the WCF ECHOES Alliance, the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) and the WCF Cocoa Livelihoods Program (CLP) have enjoyed tremendous support and collaboration from the government of Ghana through its key agencies such as the Ghana Cocoa Board, local government in the districts where we work and the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare which has culminated in this event today.”

Ghana, which has more than 700,000 cocoa farmers in the 69 districts of the 6 cocoa-growing regions has seen government, industry partners and international organizations contribute to addressing child labour in cocoa communities. The Government programs, through direct interventions by the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare as part of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, include the Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS), provision of school infrastructure, direct support to beneficiary school children in cocoa-producing communities and developing labour saving devices in partnership with the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG). Since 2007, the World Cocoa Foundation’s education and youth livelihood program, WCF ECHOES Alliance, has worked with cocoa-growing communities in Ghana to create education opportunities for in-school and out-of-school youth thus enhancing the gold standard indicator measuring the reduction in child labour; namely, increased school attendance.

World Cocoa Foundation’s partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare’s National Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour will create the platform for sharing of best practices to continue to improve livelihoods in cocoa farming communities that contribute to a remarkable reduction in the Worst Forms of child labour in Ghana.

For more information, visit www.childprotection.gov.gh and www.worldcocoa.org

About NPECLC

In 2006 the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment (now Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare) in collaboration with the Ghana Cocoa Board and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP), the International Cocoa Industry, ILO and other partners established the National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa (NPECLC) as Ghana’s response to addressing the worst forms of child labour.

The NPECLC seeks to enforce ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour which Ghana ratified in 2000, and the Children’s Act 1998 (Act 560). The overall goal is to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in the cocoa sector by 2011 and contribute towards their elimination in all other sectors by 2015. The goal of the programme changed after the signing of the new Harkin-Engel protocol in August 2010. The new overarching goal is “by 2020, the worst forms of child labour as defined by the ILO Convention 182 in the cocoa sectors of

Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana will be reduced by 70% in aggregate through joint efforts by key stakeholders to provide and support remediation services for children removed from the worst forms of child labour, including education and vocational training, protective measures to address issues of occupational safety and health related to cocoa production, and livelihood services for the households of children in cocoa growing communities; the establishment and implementation of a credible and transparent sector-wide monitoring system across cocoa growing regions in the two countries; and the promotion of respect for core labour standards.

About the World Cocoa Foundation

The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) is an international membership foundation that promotes a sustainable cocoa economy by providing cocoa farmers with the tools they need to grow more and better cocoa, market it successfully, and make greater profits. WCF's membership includes cocoa and chocolate manufacturers, processors, supply chain managers, and other companies worldwide, representing more than 80 percent of the global cocoa market.

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