

TRECC — Transforming Education in Cocoa Communities

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the overall goal of TRECC?

The Jacobs Foundation is seeking to create an ecosystem for sustainable social transformation to promote education, gender empowerment and child protection in cocoa communities in Ivory Coast, with a mid-term goal of improving the livelihoods of 200,000 members of smallholder cocoa farmer communities.

What is TRECC?

In order to achieve this goal, the Jacobs Foundation has developed TRECC in cooperation with the cocoa industry initiative [CocoaAction](#) as a comprehensive new strategy for Ivory Coast, comprising six interdependent engagement areas:

- 1 Research: Building scientific evidence to increase rural livelihoods, focusing on the relationship between increased productivity and improved livelihoods;
- 2 Capacity Building: Strengthening local organizations devoted to education and women's empowerment by providing business expertise and scientific evidence
- 3 Matching Grants: Co-financing community-development interventions in the fields of early, basic and vocational education, women's empowerment and child protection, in cooperation with companies in the cocoa industry that are part of the CocoaAction initiative;
- 4 Impact Finance: Supporting social businesses and local structures by providing funding to achieve a greater positive impact (women's empowerment and education)
- 5 Engagement: Incentivizing commitments of additional international stakeholders;
- 6 Policy strengthening: Creating public-private partnerships with local government, focusing on basic education and vocational training.

What impact can be expected and how will it be measured?

By 2022, the Jacobs Foundations expects to have reached over 200,000 direct beneficiaries.

To achieve this goal, it aims to increase the capacity of 60 local organizations, to implement 40 matching-grant projects, to invest in over 20 impact finance investees, to support 15 research studies, to leverage additional investments from industries and the private sector, and to strengthen 4 national policies in the areas of education, women's empowerment and child protection.

The Jacobs Foundation puts great emphasis on research, monitoring and evaluation. Innovation Poverty Action (IPA) will support Jacobs Foundation in establishing a solid research agenda and appointing an independent evaluation organization to verify data and monitor planned positive impact.

What is the budget and timeline for TRECC?

The Jacobs Foundation has committed CHF 50 million for TRECC. It aims to leverage co-investments from CocoaAction member companies, as well as from other investors, donors and governments.

The Jacobs Foundation will implement TRECC within a timeframe of 7 years, starting in June 2015 and ending in 2022.

What is the exit strategy of TRECC?

Sustainable Impact is an explicit goal of Jacobs Foundation's interventions, which is why the creation of a conducive ecosystem for social transformation is at the core of our intervention in Ivory Coast. Through our emphasis on building local research and organizational development capacity, as well as on shaping private and public agendas, we expect to empower local actors and provide the conditions for them to continue achieving a long-lasting impact beyond Jacobs Foundation's engagement.

Who will implement TRECC and what partners are we looking for?

The Jacobs Foundation is providing strategic programmatic direction as well as executive management for TRECC, with strong local advisory and administrative support. The Jacobs Foundation is therefore seeking the following additional operational resources for all strategic axes of TRECC:

- Research partners (individuals and organizations) investigating the living conditions of smallholder farmers in Ivory Coast, and particularly the relationships between productivity, livelihoods and education.
- Implementers of innovative models (organizations, social businesses and projects) that improve education, ensure child protection and achieve gender empowerment in cocoa communities in Ivory Coast.
- Administrators to coordinate strategies for matching-grant projects (World Cocoa Foundation) and capacity building.
- Partners with best-practice information on structuring effective policy-strengthening approaches.
- Donors and investors willing to co-invest and match funds to finance any of the initiatives described.

What are TRECC's target groups?

In line with its overall mission, the Jacobs Foundation targets first and foremost children and youth within the context of TRECC. In order to ensure a sustainable comprehensive ecosystem for improved education in Ivorian cocoa communities, the Jacobs Foundation also seeks to support women, those active in education at the local level and social entrepreneurs.

Secondary target groups include farmers and their families, in keeping with the Foundation's theory of change, which is based on the idea that in order to promote the socio-economic integration of children and youth in high-poverty environments, every child- and community-centered intervention must be complemented with measures to increase household income.

How is TRECC taking Jacobs Foundation's previous international programs to the next level?

TRECC builds on the Jacob Foundation's theory of change and previous experience in implementing projects focused on education in rural smallholder farmer communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is taking our international interventions programs to the next level in various ways:

- A comprehensive strategy: Composed of six engagement areas, TRECC is an innovative and comprehensive approach that concentrates on building an ecosystem for social transformation rather than simply carrying out a project.
- Leveraging new resources: By aligning TRECC to the private-sector platform CocoaAction, with the help of results-oriented matching grants, the Jacobs Foundation intends to leverage additional funding from the cocoa industry in the area of child and youth development and mainstream its evidence-based approach. This is also the first time the Foundation is utilizing state-of-the-art financing approaches like payment by results and impact-first investment vehicles.
- Scaling innovations: The matching-grant and policy-strengthening mechanisms are geared toward involving cocoa-industry companies and local authorities in scaling innovative models in the area of education, gender empowerment and child protection. CocoaAction serves as an unparalleled integrated platform for a soft commodity crop (cocoa) that relies on smallholder farmers.

Why Ivory Coast?

The Jacobs Foundation's TRECC engagement focuses on small-holder cocoa farming communities in Ivory Coast because of their high level of poverty, their children's low educational attainment and exposure to child labor, and overall limited opportunities for women.¹ Since Ivory Coast is responsible for approx. 40% of global cocoa production, critical mass and agenda setting in working with this soft commodity crop are assured.

What is the link between the Jacobs Foundation and cocoa?

With its mission and long-term experience supporting child and youth development worldwide, the Jacobs Foundation is looking for strategic opportunities to increase its impact. It therefore regards the platform CocoaAction — which brings the world's leading cocoa and chocolate companies together to sustain the cocoa industry and improve the livelihoods of cocoa smallholder farmers in Ivory Coast and Ghana — as a unique opportunity to leverage its intervention in rural livelihoods and education on a larger scale. By focusing on cocoa as the most important smallholder farmer soft commodity, and working alongside CocoaAction with its strong emphasis on increasing farmer productivity and income, the Foundation can take advantage of considerable leveraging potential to improve the livelihoods of rural families and their children over the long term.

In addition, the Jacobs Holding — the business side of the Jacobs Group — has historically invested in smallholder soft commodities such as coffee and cocoa, in the past with Jacobs Suchard and currently with its investment in Barry Callebaut.

How can interested organisations apply for TRECC funds?

The Jacobs Foundation issues calls for proposals; it does not accept unsolicited project proposals.

Where can you find more detailed information on TRECC?

For more information please visit:
www.jacobsfoundation.org/trecc/en

¹ Although Ivory Coast is the largest cocoa producer in the world, with almost 40% of global production, its cocoa farmers live on less than half a US dollar per day, which is considerably below the poverty line of two dollars per day.

Over 63% of the population aged 15–24 in Ivory Coast has not finished primary education, and 36% of the population 15–24 has never gone to school. The literacy rate among Ivory Coast's over-15 population is only 52% for males and 30% for females. In the rural areas of Ivory Coast, 45% of the population aged 6–12 and 60% of those aged 12–18 are not enrolled in school, and 24.7% of children aged 5–15 (1.4 million) in Ivory Coast are working, 49.1% in agriculture.

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Our Promise to Youth