

TRECC — Transforming Education in Cocoa Communities

Factsheet

Despite accounting for almost 40% of global cocoa production, Ivory Coast's smallholder cocoa farmers subsist on less than USD 0.5/day¹, which is considerably below the poverty line of USD 2/day. This high level of poverty is compounded by very low literacy and school attendance rates nationwide, gender inequality, and child labor, particularly in rural areas. As many as 48% of men and 70% of women above the age of 15 in Ivory Coast are illiterate, while 68% of Ivorian youths have not finished primary education and 36% have never attended school at all². Furthermore, 1.4 million children in Ivory Coast between the ages of 5 and 14 are involved in child labor, 49.1% in agriculture.³

In May 2015, the Jacobs Foundation announced a CHF 50-million commitment to change this situation by implementing a comprehensive strategy to transform education, empower women,

and ensure child protection in cocoa-growing communities in Ivory Coast. This initiative is called TRECC, and it builds on CocoaAction, an unprecedented commitment of the private sector to sustain the cocoa industry and improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers, with a strong emphasis on increasing farmer productivity and income.⁴

As a mid-term outcome, TRECC aims to reach over 200,000 children and youth directly by 2022. The intended long-term impact of this strategy is the creation of an ecosystem to transform education in cocoa-growing communities in Ivory Coast. TRECC is comprised of six interlinked axes: research, capacity building, matching grants, impact finance, engagement, and policy strengthening.



RESEARCH



CAPACITY
BUILDING



MATCHING
GRANTS



IMPACT
FINANCE



ENGAGEMENT



POLICY
STRENGTHENING

1. RESEARCH

In the area of research, the Jacobs Foundation will commission targeted research projects to investigate the relationship between increased productivity and improved livelihoods in cocoa communities. Managed by one of the world's leading research institutions, Innovations for Poverty Action, this axis will provide new insights and build an evidence base for TRECC's capacity-building, grant-matching, and policy-strengthening activities.

2. CAPACITY BUILDING

To build critical capacity on the ground, the Jacobs Foundation plans to support 60 local organizations working on education and women's empowerment. To that end, 5 incubators and accelerators will equip these local organizations with business expertise and scientific evidence to enhance business models and program design.

3. MATCHING GRANTS

The Jacobs Foundation plans to engage with cocoa and chocolate companies by co-financing innovative community development projects that go beyond existing CocoaAction commitments. TRECC's matching-grants axis is based on an innovative payment-by-results mechanism, geared to serve 160,000 children and youth in CocoaAction communities. Managed by the World Cocoa Foundation, this axis will prioritize interventions using holistic approaches designed to provide effective solutions for communities with urgent needs.

4. IMPACT FINANCE

The Jacobs Foundation intends to provide growth capital to 25 local investees in the form of loans and equity. Investees will be identified through TRECC's capacity-building axis and through local impact-investing funds targeting social businesses in the areas of education and women's empowerment.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Within TRECC's engagement axis, the Jacobs Foundation will develop a broad range of opportunities and mechanisms that will allow other donors, investors, and development organizations to improve the quality of life of cocoa farmers in Ivory Coast, particularly benefiting children and youth. The vision is to leverage TRECC's social, intellectual, and financial capital to engage the international community in creating a positive impact.

Time frame

2015–2022

Partners

CocoaAction industry members
International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)
Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)

Budget

CHF 50 million
(significant co-investments are expected from the private sector)

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6. POLICY STRENGTHENING

The Jacobs Foundation seeks to strengthen national child and youth development policies by gathering scientific information on what works, increasing public policy enforcement capacities, and co-financing strategic public-private interventions in the area of education and vocational training.

At the heart of TRECC is Jacobs Foundation's theory of change, which builds on the hypothesis that the socio-economic integration of children and youth in high-poverty environments is best achieved through child- and community-centered interventions, supplemented by measures to increase household income. CocoaAction's efforts to increase productivity and promote community development will provide a solid basis to build upon and a means of testing this hypothesis, and are therefore a critical factor for the success of TRECC.

While the Jacobs Foundation will provide strategic programmatic direction as well as executive management for TRECC, local partners will play an important role as advisors and implementing partners, as well as serving in administrative support functions.

¹ CocoaBarometer 2015 (2015). Barometer Consortium (http://cocoabarometer.org/Download_files/Cocoa%20Barometer%202015.pdf)

² Côte d'Ivoire National Profile 2014 update (2014). Education Policy and Data Center (EPDC), fhi360 (http://www.epdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/EPDC%20NEP_Cote%20d%20Ivoire.pdf)

³ Enquête nationale sur la situation de l'emploi et du travail des enfants. Rapport descriptif sur le travail des enfants (2014). Ministry of State and Ministry of Planning & Development, Côte d'Ivoire, with technical support of ILO.

⁴ Further information is available here: <http://worldcocoafoundation.org/about-wcf/cocoaaction/>

⁵ Website of Innovations for Poverty Action: <http://www.poverty-action.org/>

⁶ Website of World Cocoa Foundation: <http://worldcocoafoundation.org/>