

INTERNATIONAL COCOA INITIATIVE

Working towards responsible labour standards for cocoa growing

PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 3 2007

November 9th 2007

I Overview

This report is made against the programme objectives that have been established, complemented by any other activities that are not directly related to these objectives. The report covers the period July 1st to September 30th 2007.

The 2007 programme has developed pace with both the community action programme and the capacity building programme fully active. Progress in Ivory Coast still lags that of Ghana and has been the priority of the new programme manager who joined in this period.

II Programme Activity

Objective 1, *A combination of cost effective, replicable and sustainable community led practices and activities to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and forced labour (WFCL & FL), are demonstrated in a limited number of pilot communities.*

Ivory Coast: As part of the orientation of the new programme manager and communications/information coordinator a field trip allowed ICI staff to visit the community based work of partners in Ivory Coast. Compared to Ghana the communities are typically larger, with a large proportion of the overall population living in “campement” ie outlying hamlets. There is a wide diversity of ethnic groups and nationalities involved in cocoa growing which presents particular challenges in engaging the community as a whole. Having said that the reaction to the sensitization process in the areas around San Pedro and Divo that were visited demonstrated that the process does open up the various issues around child labour as intended.

The reception in all the communities visited was very positive as these communities at this time were starting the implementation of their action plans. It was clear from discussions with the partners themselves that there is still need for further support as they are piloting the process of implementation for the first year. Closely supporting the local NGO partners and identifying new partners was seen as a priority for the new programme manager.

Ghana: Six NGO partners are now fully active in implementing the community based element of the ICI programme in over 110 communities. This expansion of the programme is in line with the objectives established to build a significant visibility and demonstrate that the change witnessed during the more limited pilot phase can be replicated at scale. PDA acting as the coordinating partner is now able to provide support with limited day to day input from ICI in this programme and indeed is also to

accommodate visits from ICI stakeholders, local government agents and other interested parties to help disseminate the approach.

Objective 2, *Local government and decentralized structures, representatives from civil society, projects and other initiatives actively support community action plans to eliminate the WFCL & FL.*

Ivory Coast: As part of the ICI field visits ICI staff met with various local government officials at the sous-prefecture and prefecture level in the areas of implementation. As noted in the second report this year has permitted the full training programme to be rolled out in Ivory Coast and this was reflected in the positive attitude that was encountered in meetings with local official. In DIVO department as a response to the training the local authorities have taken the decision to set up a departmental committee against the worst forms of child labour. Recently a number of key people have been moved due to government reappointments so additional training may be needed.

Ghana: The local partners have continued their work of engaging local authorities building on the joint training held earlier in the year for the new districts.

Objective 3. *The concerns of the cocoa sector in relation to WFCL & FL are integrated into legislation, key ministries plans and efforts.*

Ivory Coast: The visit of ICI staff to the region permitted a chance to meet with key people at the national level. With the formalisation of the National Action Plan for Ivory Coast the Ministry of Public Administration, Labour ????? engaged ICI in a specific discussion regardin joint objectives for the year ahead.

Ghana: The radio programme developed in collaboration with the Ghana Cocoa board was launched during this period. Initial reaction of both the audience and the Cocoa Board itself are very positive. In addition to meeting with some of the key national figures in the August field trip efforts have continued to support the Government of Ghana in presenting their Child Labour priorities for the next cycle of European Development Funding.

Objective 4, *A coordinated social network is initiated in collaboration with specialized agencies, relevant ministries etc to address and absorb the most urgent cases of WFCL & FL in the pilot districts/prefectures.*

Ivory Coast: The most significant event during this period was the report that the special unit of police created to deal with child trafficking has successfully intercepted 32 children. This reflects their new skills and confidence resulting from ICI developed training. While not all of these children were necessarily destined to go to the cocoa sector the success of this intervention is nonetheless important. While in Ivory Coast the ICI team were able to visit one of the sites proposed by the government as a regional centre for rescued children which is to be rehabilitated with ICI support.

Ghana: Continued efforts were made during this period to follow up on reports of cases of trafficking in support of governments own efforts in this area.

Objective 5, ICI is an established and credible source of information on WFCL & FL in the cocoa sector.

The new ICI web-site was launched in this period with a more up-to-date and easy-to-use look. In addition the Newsletter was re-launched in a new format and will be a more regular feature of the ICI communications efforts. Both of these initiatives were aided by the arrival of a dedicated information and communications person to strengthen the ICI team in August.

Aidan Mcquade the Director of Anti Slavery International visited the ICI programme in both Ivory Coast and Ghana. As one of the leading civil society voices in the fight against slavery ICI was very pleased to be able to host this visit, to share our experiences and the challenges found in the cocoa sector. Exposing active organisations such as Anti Slavery International to the realities of the cocoa sector helps develop the informed international debate necessary to bring about long term change.

The ICI executive director was invited during this period to present an update on the ICI at the bi-annual event of the European Cocoa Association (ECA). This time held in Berlin the platform was shared with the CEO of the Ghana Cocoa Board Ambassador Ossei, John Claringbould General counsel of MARS Inc. and ICI Co-President, Kevin Bales Anti Slavery expert and ICI board member, Jeff Morgan Director Global Programmes MARS Inc. and Bill Guyton President of the World Cocoa Foundation. The importance of the processors and traders represented in the ECA to the cocoa sector cannot be understated. This event allowed the presentation of the different efforts and initiatives that are working together in partnership.

In September ICI partners and in the case of Ivory Coast ICI's National Coordinator participated in the review meetings held by the Tulane University as part of their consultations under the "Oversight" project.