



# ICI Newsletter

## Highlights

- Success of the ICI Conference on child labour
- Special issue on the 2008 cocoa Protocol milestone

## Inside this issue:

<i>ICI conference: the ways forward</i>	1
<i>The Harkin-Engel Cocoa Protocol Revisited</i>	2
<i>Interview with Mme Acquah, Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Côte d'Ivoire</i>	3
<i>Mme. Frema, Deputy Minister, MMYE, Ghana</i>	4
<i>Discussion with Jonathan Atwood, Global Issue Group</i>	5
<i>Why Verification counts?</i>	7
<i>What others say...</i>	8
<i>Cote d'Ivoire : training of Cooperatives</i>	9
<i>In brief</i>	9

## International Conference on child labour in agriculture: The ways forward

*The International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) hosted child labour experts from across the globe at an event at the London School of Economics, in April 2008. The participants included senior Government representatives of Ghana and the Cote d'Ivoire, the cocoa trade, the chocolate industry, members of international agencies, civil society from producer and consumer countries, as well as internationally acknowledged experts on child labour. Conference Recommendations are available [on our Website](#).*

When ICI started its programme in 2003 there was very little work to reference with respect to combating child labour in agriculture, even less on smallholder crops and none that we could find on cocoa in particular. Since that time there have been initiatives by governments, projects by international agencies such as the ILO and UNICEF, activities by a number of NGOs and companies, in addition to our own work. This has led to a significant increase in the experience of tackling child labour in the cocoa sector, sometime from different perspectives and not always with the success we might hope for, but valid experience none the less.

One of the roles foreseen for ICI in its objectives was to act as a clearinghouse of best practice. It was in exercising this aspect of our mandate that the idea of hosting a conference to promote learning and sharing was formed. Given the approach that we have adopted, one of building meaningful long term partnerships, it seemed appropriate to us to reach out to a wide set of interested parties for this conference and structure it to maximise the time for in-depth discussion and debate.

I for one was very pleased with the varied and senior attendance, from Governments, industry, NGOs and experts, particularly with many from the global south. But more pleasing was that the attendees really engaged in the difficult and often sensitive discussion required to promote learning about what can work and what has not. By using the somewhat innovative approach of "open space" for the second full day of the conference the themes that emerged for the way forward were those that participants, not the conference organisers, felt were most important.

This debate has led to some wide ranging and challenging recommendations that implicate those represented at the conference but also others. Personally I am pleased to see the level of coherence and agreement that these recommendations demonstrate and promote. Only through effective collaboration, driven by a common vision and framework for action, can we hope to achieve the eventual elimination of child labour from agricultural activities. I believe that this conference has made a significant contribution to this vision.

ICI will now consider these recommendations as we review our own plans going forward. We will actively embrace those which fall under our direct areas of responsibility while advocating for others to similarly meet their challenges for greater action.

*Peter McAllister, Executive Director, International Cocoa Initiative.*

## The Harkin-Engel Cocoa Protocol Revisited

The objective of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, signed in 2001 by the chocolate and cocoa industry representatives, and witnessed by NGOs, social activists and trade unions, was "to ensure that cocoa beans and their derivative products are grown and processed in a manner that complies with ILO Convention 182 (on worst forms of child labour). "

As part of this commitment, one of the key action plan steps was the development and implementation of "*credible, mutually-acceptable, voluntary, industry wide standards of public certification [...], that cocoa beans and their derivative products have been grown and/or processed without any of the worst forms of child labor*".



© Kim Naylor

The Protocol can be downloaded from our Website:

<http://www.cocoainitiative.org/ici/reference-documents>

The development of a system of public certification is a key part of the Harkin-Engel cocoa Protocol. The next milestone in this framework will be in July 2008. In an agreement made in 2005, the industry have committed that by this date, a public certification system will be in place that will cover 50% of the cocoa farming sector of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. This certification process is being developed as a cooperative effort between the North American and European chocolate and cocoa industry and the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Described as a continuous cycle of improvement, it is based on annual surveys on child and adult labour practices. These surveys will eventually be representative of the entire cocoa sector, reporting the incidence of child and adult labour practices that are unacceptable. This is not the same as certification of products.

The producing country's government will issue a report based on the survey data every year. In essence the report will certify the status of the labour situation in the cocoa sector of that country at that time. These reports should help governments; industry and development partners like ICI to focus their efforts, in terms of geographic targeting, technical and program planning to ensure that we drive positive change over time. Therefore, subsequent surveys should, if the process works well, indicate an improvement in the status of child and adult labour practices from year to year.

### What is ICI's Position on certification?

ICI has not been involved in developing the process of "public certification" as required by the Harkin Engel Protocol, but is aware of its implementation. We understand that this process differs from the idea of certifying an end product, which in the cocoa sector currently applies to a very small proportion of the production, mostly for organic and fair trade products.

With an issue as sensitive and complex as child and forced labour any study or audit process is going to face many challenges. The Protocol inspired process of "public certification" is to be based on annual surveys. We believe that if the studies are based on best practice, are rigorous, and the report that is published is an accurate reflection of the study findings, then they should help as we programme effective remediation efforts. The quality of this process must be subject to a process of transparent and independent verification to help build confidence in the results. We know however that practices such as forced labour and trafficking of children do not easily lend themselves to this type of survey, or indeed audits. Therefore indications of such practices, whether from this reporting process or programme activities on the ground, will need expert follow up to complement this effort.



**Mme Acquah Assouan Amouan,  
Executive Secretary of Child Labour Monitoring System  
Cocoa Certification,  
Special Advisor of Prime Minister Of Côte d'Ivoire**

### Why is your country implementing this process of certification?

Cocoa certification improves the life and work conditions of cocoa farmers and their children and is perfectly in line with the rural development policy developed by the Ivorian Government. As well as the framework implemented to achieve it, it represents a great opportunity for Côte d'Ivoire to efficiently target the cocoa production areas in a sustainable way. Certification is the implementation of a continuous improvement cycle, which includes four steps:

1. Initial survey, to determine the scope of the problem;
2. Publication of the reports, in a transparent way;
3. Remediation activities, to measure the positive impact on farmers;
4. Independent verification, to keep improving the process.

### How will this help in the fight against child labour in the cocoa sector?

Certification, as implemented in Côte d'Ivoire, aims at directly improving life and work conditions of cocoa farmers and their families, in a sustainable way. Indeed, based on the survey results, remediation activities will be covering needs linked to: education and training; health and access to potable water; improved economic environment of producers.

### What are the challenges ahead?

Looking at the surveys results, one can identify two types of challenges:

- The scale of the need (high illiteracy rate, low school enrolment rate of children of school-going age, lack of infrastructure, difficult access to communities, etc.), and
- The coordination of initiatives (information regarding the implementation of actions should be available to Ivorian officials. From a technical point of view, officials will then be in a position to optimize and capitalise the efforts of the various stakeholders).

### How will the results be shared?

All information available regarding certification (surveys, reports, pictures, etc.) is available on the Website [www.cacao.ci](http://www.cacao.ci).

### How can your development partners, such as ICI, best use the information from the report?

As regards remediation activities, the information collected during the survey will be translated into concrete actions needed in the surveyed areas. Based on this, we then expect our partners to implement projects to efficiently respond to the needs.



**Honorable (Mrs.) Akosua Frema Osei-Opore**  
**Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Manpower,**  
**Youth and Employment, Republic of Ghana**

Extracts from Keynote address at meeting organized by Verité, March 2008



**About Ghana's National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa**

The NPECLC was established in August 2006 by the Government of Ghana as a programme of the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment, of which I am the Deputy Minister. [...] The purpose of the NPECLC was therefore to provide a national framework within which various institutions would implement programmes and projects leading to elimination of worst forms of child labour in cocoa. The NPECLC Secretariat would then coordinate the activities of various actors to ensure that the national objectives are met. The overall goal of the NPECLC is to eliminate worst forms of child labour in the cocoa sector by 2011, and to reduce the phenomenon in other sectors in the medium to long term.

**On the surveys conducted and the results**

In our bid to meet the requirements of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, surveys have been instituted. A pilot survey, which covered six cocoa-growing districts, was undertaken in the 2006/2007 cocoa season. Some of the key findings of the survey were as follows:

- 91% of children who take part in cocoa farm activities are enrolled in school;
- 71% of the children attend school regularly;
- Over 88% of these children worked over weekends and holidays and not during school hours;
- 25% used personal protective equipment;
- 1.7% desired to become full-time cocoa farmers in adulthood.

I need to emphasize that no child slavery was found in the cocoa sector. Neither was child trafficking for work on cocoa farms detected in the pilot survey. The full details of the pilot survey are available on the website of Ghana Cocoa Board, [www.cocobod.gh](http://www.cocobod.gh). This survey has been scaled up to cover 15 districts, representing an area that produces 60% of Ghana's cocoa. This shows Ghana's attempt to beat the requirement of the Harkin-Engel Protocol to survey an area that produces 50% of the country's cocoa. The survey was commenced in September 2007 and the data will be released soon.

**Outlook of the national programme**

Within the year, we are focusing on completion of the scaled-up survey and dissemination of the results. We are also preparing the Cocoa Certification Report as required by the Harkin-Engel Protocol, and we hope to submit it by the stipulated deadline of July 1st, 2008.

We are also expanding remediation activities to reach all 46 cocoa-growing districts, with funds from the Government of Ghana through Ghana Cocoa Board. We have targeted improving the incomes of cocoa farming households by exploiting cocoa by-products for alternative livelihood. We also intend collaborating with Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) in promoting labour-saving farming techniques to reduce the need for child participation in cocoa farming, which could lead to children being exploited on the farms.

We are also mapping interventions to eliminate worst forms of child labour in cocoa all over the country. This would help us to know where interventions need to be strengthened, and guide where new interventions would be sited. We have also developed a Hazardous Activity Framework for Cocoa. This framework spells out clearly which activities in cocoa farming that children cannot take part in due to hazards, and the conditions that make various activities in cocoa farming hazardous. The framework will soon be verified and shared with all our partners.

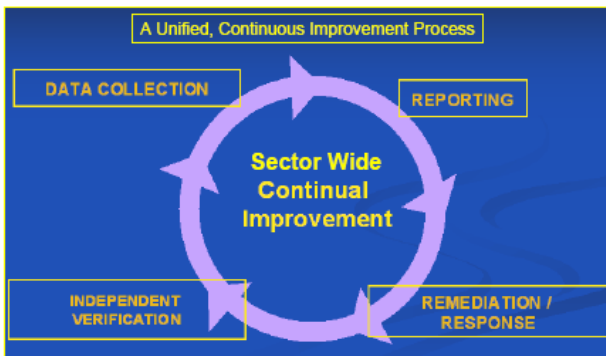
## Discussion with Jonathan Atwood, representative of the Global Issues Group

*The Global Issues Group (GIG) is an ad hoc working group that coordinates the industry efforts to address the worst forms of child labour and forced adult labour on cocoa farms.*

### Could you briefly describe the process of certification for the cocoa sector?

Certification of cocoa farming labour practices is driving positive change in labour conditions on cocoa farms -- through a system of ongoing reporting and action. Established under the Harkin-Engel Protocol, certification is a process that is being implemented through a partnership between the chocolate/cocoa industry; the governments of the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Certification process for cocoa farming includes:

#### Sector Wide, Country Certification Model



Implemented In Conjunction with National Government Programs

- Data collection at the community and farm level that provides a statistically representative view of child and adult labour practices
- Transparent, publicly available annual reporting on the findings from the data collection, and on what must be done to address the issues raised in the report
- Remediation: A range of programs to address the issues raised in the data collection process that improve the well-being of children.
- Independent verification of the certification process

These elements work together to drive continuous improvement in the well-being of children, families and cocoa farming communities in the cocoa growing regions of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana – the world's largest cocoa producers. When fully functioning, certification will report on the state of labour practices throughout the cocoa sectors of these countries. This form of certification will not attribute labour practices to particular quantities of cocoa beans or specific finished chocolate products.

### What is the current status?

There has been considerable progress in both the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Both countries have certification "up and running," and each is about to release their latest reports on labour practices (and related issues) in the cocoa farming sector. These reports will be based on a data collection effort that represents at least 50 percent of the cocoa production in each country – a genuine and significant achievement.

Remediation programs are already addressing issues raised in previous certification reports – such as children participating in hazardous farming tasks and access to education.

Verification of the certification process is moving forward, with the recently established International Cocoa Verification Board (ICVB) working with independent verifiers to review the data collection efforts in both the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. More information about the Verification Board and the verification process on page 7.

### Do you think you will meet the July, 2008 milestone?

By July of 2008, the certification process will be well underway – with each of the elements active. This is a significant achievement, the result of an ongoing partnership between our industry, West African governments, civil society and farming communities. Specific accomplishments that will have been reached by July, 2008 include:

- Both the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana will have a certification data collection process in place across a minimum of 50 percent of their cocoa production
- Both countries will have released reports providing a frank, detailed assessment of labour conditions (and related issues) on cocoa farms and in cocoa farming communities
- Industry will have substantially exceeded the \$15 million financial commitment in made in 2005 – funding a wide range of programs to help cocoa farming families and to support the implementation of certification
- A robust, independent verification effort will have been initiated – with independent verifiers evaluating survey techniques and visiting cocoa farms to check on the accuracy of the data collection effort.

### How does the process relate to/differ from other certification processes?

Other certification processes – such as Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance, the UTZ Certified effort – are complementary to the industry-wide certification process established as part of the Harkin Engel Protocol. In general, there are important similarities and differences:

- Each of these certification efforts focuses on a unique set of criteria in terms of how cocoa is farmed and/or marketed.
- All of the certification processes seek to improve conditions in cocoa farming communities. They may vary in terms of the issues they address, but they all share this common overall objective.
- Some certification processes – such as Fair Trade – “certify” actual goods produced on a relatively small subset of farms in the sector. The industry-supported certification effort takes a different approach, seeking to drive change across the entire cocoa sector through an ongoing system of reporting and action. This “process” approach will certify the state of labour practices throughout the sector instead of on a small number of selected farms.

### How will this process make a difference for children who work in the cocoa sector?

Certification shines a light on the issues that need to be addressed – and then drives response programs to address those issues. These programs are implemented by a broad group of participants, including the International Cocoa Initiative, who bring a range of experience and pursue an array of much needed community based solutions.

Through this approach, problems are identified and publicly reported. Action is taken. And we know from reports of partners in the field that children's lives are being improved now – as a result of this approach.



© Kay Chernush

## Why Verification Counts? By Verité

Independent verification of national surveys conducted by the Governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire of labour conditions in the cocoa producing areas is now underway. Verification of the surveys, a critical step towards implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, is key to validating the data and helping to improve data collection methodologies (with an emphasis on child-centred interview techniques) in the future.



Stakeholders at the NGO-Industry Consultative Meetings conducted in Boston, MA, USA, and London, England offered additional criteria to the original key requirements for verification outlined by Verité: independence, transparency, and efficacy. The International Cocoa Verification Board (ICVB), the multi-stakeholder organization responsible for overseeing the verification efforts, operates according to all three principles. Of the nine ICVB members, five represent the civil society sector, two represent the Governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, and two represent the cocoa industry (see below). The verifiers selected by the ICVB operate independently and will submit their report directly to the public. Finally, the reports will not only verify the government certification data but will also make recommendations about strengthening future remediation efforts.

The impact of verification on remediation efforts (both public and private) is over a longer horizon, but is indispensable. Cocoa remediation will be most successful if it is guided by the data necessary to bring targeted, enduring change to the farmers of West Africa. Good, reliable data means that strategic policy decisions serve those most in need and valuable resources are deployed strategically. The certification efforts initiated under the Harkin-Engel Protocol, of which verification is but one component, are unprecedented. Long-term, the verification currently underway will inform a process of continual remediation and change on the ground.

More information about the verification process and the ICVB is available at [www.cocoaverification.net](http://www.cocoaverification.net). Information on the NGO-Industry Consultative Meetings is available at: <http://www.verite.org/news/main.html>.

### International Cocoa Verification Board

The International Cocoa Verification Board (ICVB) is an independent, non-profit organization convened to create and implement the process by which government surveys of labour in cocoa production are validated. The Board will select and hire individual, independent verifiers who will analyze, and report on the robustness of the national surveys undertaken by the governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The ICVB members are:

- Dr. Stephen Ayidiya, University of Ghana, Legon
- Alice Koiho-Kipre, Afrique Secours et Assistance, Côte d'Ivoire
- Andrews Addoquaye Tagoe, General Agricultural Workers' Union, Ghana
- Diane Mull, International Initiative to End Child Labour, USA
- John Trew, CARE International, USA
- Tony Fofie, Ghana Cocoa Board
- Mme. Amouan Assouan Acquah, Special Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Côte d'Ivoire
- Jeff Morgan, Mars, Inc., USA
- Isabelle Adam, European Cocoa Association, Belgium

*Verité is an independent, non-profit socially responsible auditing, training, capability building and research organization established in 1995. Verité was originally selected by the global cocoa industry to develop a practical and independent approach to verifying and addressing labour conditions in cocoa production in West Africa. This included the convening of the ICVB, for which Verité now serves as secretariat. More on [www.verite.org](http://www.verite.org).*

## What others say ...

### International Labour Right Fund



"To date, the chocolate industry as a whole has failed to implement any programs to trace their cocoa beans to the farm level, to require suppliers to adhere to any labor standards, to monitor adherence to those standards, or to create any kind of product label or guarantee. Instead, the chocolate manufacturers have chosen to invest resources in the creation of a new 'Verification Group,' convened by the Amherst-based consulting group Verite, in a last-ditch attempt to suggest there is some form of credible public oversight to their efforts.

*"We see the new Verification Group as a real step backward from what the industry promised in 2001 or even in 2005,"* said ILRF Executive Director Bama Athreya. *"Product monitoring and certification are no longer on the table, and none of the major cocoa exporters will be accountable for what happens in their supply chains. Instead, responsibility has been pushed off to a data collection process, and a forum at which industry representatives have a powerful seat at the table. Should consumers trust this fox-guarding-the-henhouse approach?"*

(<http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign/1075>, May 2008).

### Stop the Traffik

"Industry has also failed to deliver on certifying that only farms free from trafficked labour can supply the cocoa that makes our chocolate. Now Industry only talks about making a survey and reporting progress—a far cry from the certification that they promised."

(<http://www.stophetraffik.org/chocolatecampaign/>, May 2008).



### Global Exchange

"[...] major chocolate manufacturers signed the voluntary Harkin-Engel Protocol, in which they committed to certifying cocoa as free of the worst forms of child labor by July 2005. When industry missed this deadline, it extended the deadline to July, 2008 and is set to miss the deadline once again."

(<http://www.globalexchange.org/update/press/5628.html>, May 2008).

### Aidan McQuade, Antislavery International

"How the process of certification evolves and how it is linked to remediation efforts are still relatively open questions. I would suggest that there should be linkage in at least two areas. First the certification process could be used as a one means, among others, of monitoring the impact of the complete portfolio of remediation efforts. Second if the certification work identifies areas where there are particular problems of child labour then this could use this as a targeting mechanism where remediation work should be focussed. "

*Reflections on visit to International Cocoa Initiative programmes in West Africa, [ICI Website](#).*



*Ghanaian boys in school uniforms, in a cocoa farms, Ghana, 2008*

## International cocoa Initiative

28, rue du Village  
CH-1214 Vernier Geneva

Tel: +41 22 341 47 25  
Fax: +41 22 341 47 26  
info@cocoainitiative.org

Want to know more?  
[www.cocoainitiative.org](http://www.cocoainitiative.org)

## Barry Callebaut subsidiary SACO - ICI: Training of Ivorian cooperatives

Barry Callebaut's subsidiary in Ivory Coast, Société Africaine de Cacao SA (SACO), and the ICI have started a collaborative effort with the aim of training Ivorian cooperatives on the negative consequences of the worst forms of child labour. The 31 selected cooperatives, representing approximately 40.000 cocoa farmers, are members of the Barry Callebaut Partenaire de Qualité (Quality Partner) program. In this context, in April 2008, the first sensitization meeting was held in Abidjan.

The specific module on child labour in cocoa was part of a one week training organized by SACO for cooperatives, and almost fifty people attended this session. The main objective was to sensitize cooperatives' managers on the concepts of worst forms of child labour and forced labour. Another objective was to discuss with them the future implementation of workshops on this issue, specifically dedicated to cooperatives members and cocoa farmers. The role that communities themselves could play, via cooperatives, to eventually eliminate child labour in its worst forms was discussed. The pilot phase of the training will take place in Divo, early in June, with members from nine cooperatives.

A participatory approach will be used, to give a chance to all participants to express themselves and to propose initiatives against child and forced labour to be implemented at community level.



Training of cooperatives managers, April 2008

### In Brief... In Brief... In Brief...

- The Ghanaian Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Empowerment (MMYE) will hold the validation workshop for **Hazardous Activity Framework in Cocoa sector** on 5th June 2008. The Ghana Child Labour Survey 2003 estimates that 242,074 children aged 5-17 were engaged in hazardous work. In this context the Government of Ghana, with the support of ILO and ICI, has implemented a **comprehensive National Programme for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour**. ICI strongly support this valuable initiative.
- **More than 1000 persons trained by ICI** on child and forced labour issues in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire! Part of ICI's mandate is to support capacity building for local partners and institution. Since 2004, our two master trainers, Mme **Sylvia Hinson** in Ghana (FURDEV) and Dr. **Alfred Babo** in Côte d'Ivoire have trained ICI's implementing partners, NGOs, officials, Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) staff, security officers, or journalists.
- **Upcoming events:**
  - ⇒ International workshop on topic "*Cocoa certification, a way to provide development in rural regions*", Abidjan, June 10th to 12th (more information on [www.cacao.ci](http://www.cacao.ci))
  - ⇒ Save the Children Canada Forum June 18-19 (invitation-only forum), Toronto.