

Final Evaluation of the Project Adwuma Pa: Empowering Vulnerable Women and Girls within the Cocoa Supply Chain in Ghana

Evaluation Contractor: Sistemas, Familia y Sociedad Limited (SFS)

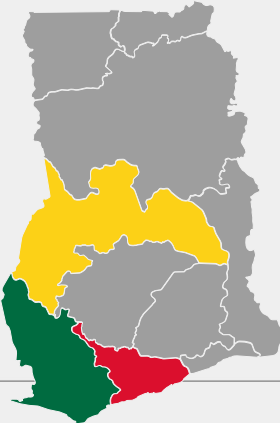


Objective

- The project aimed to reduce the risk of child labor, forced labor, and other violations of labor rights for vulnerable women and girls working within Ghana's cocoa supply chain.
- The project targeted 5,200 vulnerable women and girls in 80 cocoa-growing communities across four districts in three regions of Ghana (Ahafo, Western Region and Central Region).

Project areas of intervention:

- 1 Ahafo
- 2 Western Region
- 3 Central Region



Period of Performance:

November 2018 – November 2023



Funding:

\$5,000,000



Implementer:

CARE International

Key Findings

Relevance

- Focus on women and adolescent girls highlights the interconnectedness between gender-specific challenges and child labor.
- Addressed gender disparities within the cocoa supply chain by enhancing women's decision-making role and providing economic empowerment opportunities for women.

Coherence

- Aligned with Ghana's National Plan of Action (NPA II, 2017-2021) and with the recently launched Ghana's Accelerated Action Plan Against Child Labor (GAAPACL-NPA 3, 2023-2027).
- Alignment with local priorities led to support from District Assemblies and government bodies, emphasizing the need for continued national-level engagement.

Efficiency

- The Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (CMEP) played a crucial role in tracking progress and ensuring the project met its targets, including efficient use of resources.

Effectiveness

- The project overcame challenges posed by COVID-19 and was successful in achieving over 90% of project targets at the output level.
- 421 drop-out children in project target areas went back to school. 656 children were prevented from dropping out of school.
- 1,201 girls received vocational training and 3,780 women and adolescent girls received business start-up support. 137 village savings and loans associations were formed or strengthened.
- 5,081 community members were successfully involved in community dialogues on rights and economic empowerment.
- Economic strengthening activities, led to 2,151 women-owned businesses registered with the Ghana Enterprises Agency.

Sustainability

- A comprehensive sustainability strategy was deployed that emphasized the formation of community committees and public/ private partnerships.
- The sustainability plan evolved over the project lifecycle, adapting to changing contexts and learning.
- Alignment to formal governance structures and the adoption of community by-laws on child protection contributed to the sustainability of outcomes.
- Capacity building of women and adolescent girls, formation of community committees, strengthening of women-led cooperatives and the long-term benefits of education and vocational training were key elements leading to sustainable impact.
- Successful integration of project interventions into permanent public and private sector institutions was a crucial factor for sustained impact.

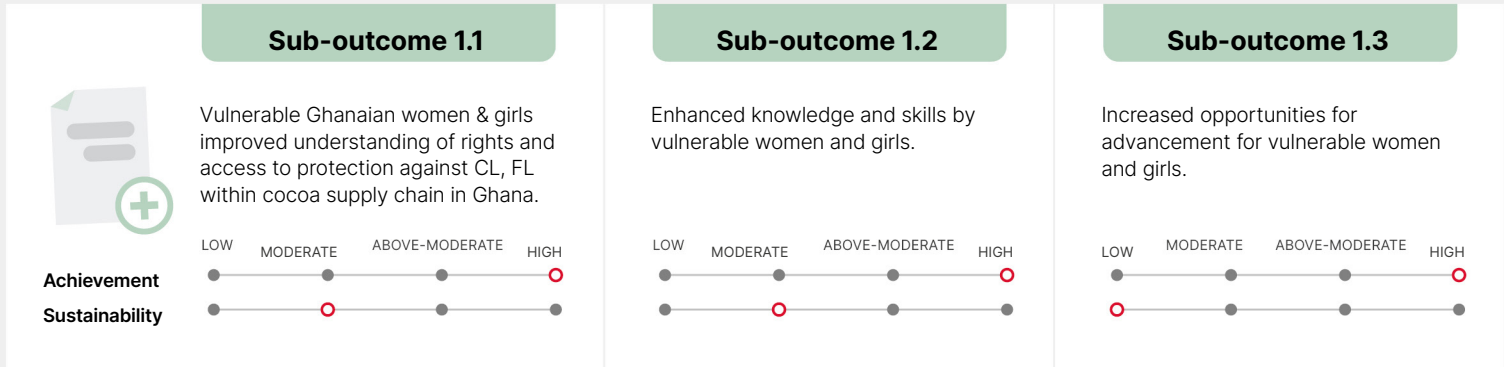


“The Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) trainings facilitated by the project for Ofi staff have been very useful and has empowered us to the extent that, we now have access to more female cocoa farmers and source cocoa beans directly from women cooperatives, thus widening the Ofi supply base.”

- Head of Sustainability, Ofi

Performance Summary: Achievements and Sustainability per Sub Outcome

Outcome 1: Improved economic participation of women and girls vulnerable to child labor, forced labor and other violations of labor rights within Ghana's cocoa supply chain.



Outcome 2: Improved business practices by private sector actors to protect against child labor, forced labor, and other violations of labor rights for vulnerable women and girls working within Ghana's cocoa supply chain.

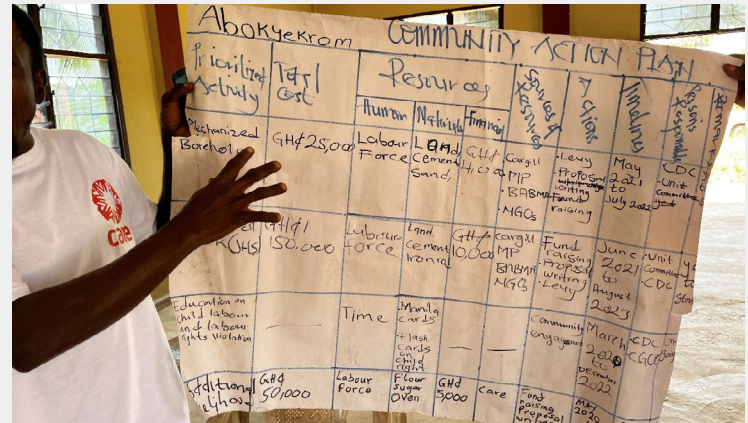
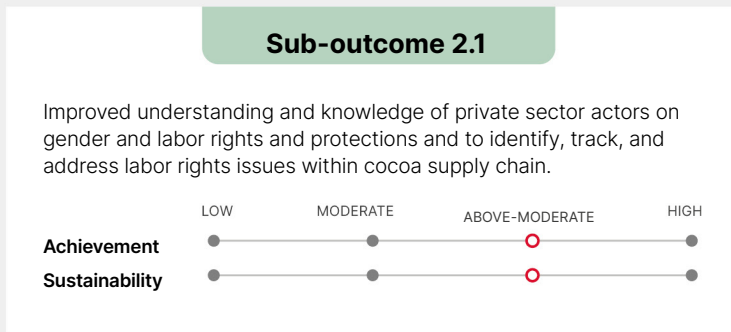


Photo Credit: Niels Ayenor

- ### Promising Practices (PP)
- Engaging local communities in the design and implementation of interventions** ensured that solutions are tailored to specific needs and contexts.
 - Flexible and adaptive strategies** helped respond to unforeseen challenges, reinforcing resilience in dynamic environments.
 - Capitalizing on partnerships for sustainability**, by including community committees and public/private partnerships in the project's sustainability strategy.
 - Integrating gender equality principles into the organizational frameworks** of public and private sector institutions.
 - Prioritizing capacity building and advocacy**, especially through innovative mediums like radio broadcasts, is an effective strategy for long-term positive change.
 - Bringing stakeholders together and developing a shared platform helped** them communicate and address issues more efficiently.
 - Interventions targeting women and adolescent girls** spurs others in the community to create their own opportunities.

- ### Lessons Learned (LL)
- Vocational training business start-up support, and education** help empower adolescent girls and reduce their susceptibility to child labor.
 - Women-led cooperatives** increase women's participation in the cocoa supply chain and decision-making processes.
 - Community-driven action plans** help address specific local needs and challenges, with the potential for wide-scale implementation.
 - A multi-stakeholder partnership model with the private sector** reinforces the implementation of impactful interventions.
 - Continued long-term support** from Government, community leaders, civil society organizations and donors addressed the challenge of weak stakeholder coordination to combat child labor.

"Now, we can read and write, know how to calculate profit from capital, sort our children's hospital cards by ourselves without asking for help from others anymore, and record our business transactions. Nobody dares cheat us anymore with the money calculations."

Woman from Amanbete community



Recommendations		USDOL	CARE
1 Fund a Second Phase of the Adwuma Pa project:	Replicate and scale up successful results and best practices of the Adwuma Pa project (see below) in a second phase or new project.	✓ USDOL	
2 Promote Effective Multi-Stakeholder Models for Enhanced Impact:	Prioritize multi-stakeholder partnership models such as community committees and public/private partnerships, as a central part of any new project. These approaches are effective in reducing the risk of child labor and other labor rights violations against women and girls.	✓ USDOL	
3 Prioritize Promising Practices and Sustainable Outcomes:	Focus on activities that have proven successful, in particular, the empowerment of women and adolescent girls, improving labor practices, the adoption and effective implementation of community by-laws, and enhanced governance mechanisms, such as Municipal Gender and Child Protection Committees.	✓ USDOL	
4 Align with National Priorities and Strengthen National Coordination:	Adopt a comprehensive approach for eradicating child labor that prioritizes close collaboration with the national child labor ecosystem. Regularly assess and adapt initiatives to align with national priorities and plans (GAAPACL/NPA 3), to remain responsive to evolving national goals and objectives.		✓ CARE
5 Broaden Inclusion Strategies and Community Action Plans (CAPs):	Integrate young boys into any project scope, acknowledging that child labor affects both genders. Broaden CAPs to include the perspectives of vulnerable young boys, in addition to women and girls, to ensure a balanced approach that addresses a broader range of child protection needs.		✓ CARE
6 Integrate Gender-Focused Approaches:	Ensure equity-and gender-equality principles and approaches tailored to meet the specific needs of vulnerable women and adolescent girls are maintained in any future project. Focus priorities on women's economic empowerment, addressing societal perceptions, vocational skills training, educational clubs, women-led cocoa cooperatives, community engagement, dialogue, and activities like Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).		✓ CARE
7 Strengthen the Gender Focus of Local Authorities and Businesses:	Develop strategies for the integration of gender sensitivity into local authorities and the private sector through policy development and changes in practices.		✓ CARE
8 Put in Place Comprehensive Sustainability Strategies:	Develop and implement comprehensive and deliberate sustainability strategies built on multi-stakeholder approaches (community committees and public/private partnerships), participatory strategies, legal reform and institutional integration to ensure results endure beyond the project's lifespan.		✓ CARE
9 Support Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plans:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDOL: Allocate specific funds for the development and implementation of a CMEP, and set clear milestones, timebound performance indicators and a reporting schedule. • CARE: Develop a realistic CMEP with detailed methods for data collection, analysis and reporting, engage stakeholders in the process, and ensure dedicated staff, that are trained and have access to sufficient resources, are responsible for implementation. • USDOL & CARE: Jointly use the CMEP to regularly track progress, inform timely decision making and make necessary adaptations to unforeseen challenges. 	✓ USDOL	✓ CARE



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