



MINISTRY OF MANPOWER YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT (MMYE)
National Programme for Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
in the Cocoa Sector (NPECLC)

Responses to Questions for His Excellency Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei

Ambassador of Ghana

Question 1:

- a. The Scale-up survey will be published on NPECLC website www.childprotection.gov.gh which is being developed; and www.cocobod.gh. But confidential copies could be made available by 13th June 2008.
- b. The Hazardous Child Labour (Activity) Framework (HAF) was validated on 5th June 2008 and it is being finalized. A confidential draft however could be sent by 11th June 2008. It would be available on www.cocobod.gh and later NPECLC website www.childprotection.gov.gh by the end of June 2008. It must be noted that this frame is part of a larger one being developed by the child labour Unit of Ministry of Manpower Youth and Employment (MMYE). After this is developed, it will go through a legislation process to obtain cabinet and parliamentary approvals as protocol to the Children Act 1998 (Act 560)
- c. There are a number of surveys which provide baseline estimates for the measurement of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the cocoa sector of Ghana. These include the following:
 - i. Children's Involvement in Cocoa Practices in Ghana-Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, 2005
 - i. Research on Child labour on Cocoa farms in Ghana-General Agriculture Workers' Union of the Trades Union Congress, 2006
 - ii. Labour Practices in Cocoa Production in Ghana (Pilot Survey)-Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment, 2007

- d. The raw data cannot be given to the public because, the data was collected on confidentiality basis. The independent verification team (verifiers) appointed by the International Cocoa Verification Board (ICVB), after signing the confidentiality agreement has FULL access to the raw data of both the Ghana pilot and scale-up Cocoa Labour Surveys (2006/2007 & 2007/2008).
- e. The verification of Ghana Efforts on Certification since 2006 is being done by 2 organisations – HedgeGhana, Khulisa, South Africa; Fafo, Norway. These organisations are currently in the country to assess Ghana's Efforts especially pilot and the current scale-up survey as required by Harkin-Engel protocol.

Question 2:

The National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa (NPECLC) targets all farm families in the cocoa growing areas and especially those who involve their children in the hazardous activities. Nevertheless, the programme has adopted an integrated approach to ensure that all children in communities who need special attention are supported to prevent them from engaging in hazardous child labour.

The reason for targeting families pilot survey indicated that "Cocoa farmers are generally small holder who operates family farms and cultivate acreages that range from about 3 acres or less and 10-20 acres".

Support to children is based on needs identified and assessed by Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) in all beneficiary communities. Apart from the assistance NPECLC is given, the Government of Ghana is implementing free compulsory Universal basic Education policy for ALL children in public schools. Pilot school Feeding Programmes in selected communities; Free Bus Ride for ALL school children; National Health Insurance Scheme. Ghana Cocoa board (COCOBOD) scholarship for cocoa farmers' children – 7500 children to benefit during 2008/2009 Academic year. This has been in existence for over 50 years.

Under the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), a Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme has been instituted to provide cash (\$8-15 a month) support to the extreme poor in selected districts based on needs assessment and surveys

that provide baseline information (e.g. the Ghana Living Standards Survey). One of the criteria to access the fund is non involvement of children in child labour.

Question 3:

The pilot survey by the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment (2006) which assessed Labour Practices in Cocoa Production in Ghana (Pilot Survey) indicated 91% enrolment rate; 71% attendance which is higher than the national enrolment rate which is 88%. 97.6% of children stay with parents and children (aunts, uncles). 90% assisted their parents during weekends and 85% during school holidays. Children involvement differs by age and by activities as children age, their involvement intensifies. The study reported that for all age groups (50-75%) of children were engaged in weeding, 61-73% in carrying water for spraying, 84-89% in pod gathering and heaping, 58-65% in bean scooping, 50-74% in carting of fermented beans and involvement in pod plucking, drying of beans, and carting dry beans for sale dominate among 13-14 and 15-17 age groups. It should be noted that all the data above are based on a total of 610 children interviewed.

Question 4:

The government of Ghana has committed funds to support children to withdraw and prevent children in exploitative work at different levels. These include support through Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD). The breakdown is as follows:

COCOBOD child Labour Desk	: \$268,000
Support to NPECLC	: \$1,227,000
CODAPEC (free spraying for farmers)	: \$87,488,569
Solar Street light	: \$9,107,350.25
Solar/ powered deep well	: \$13,800,000
Scholarship for children	: \$2,000,000
	:
Total	: \$113,890,919.25

- Question 5:

The cocoa certification process involves 4 key stages. These are Data collection, Reporting, Remediation and Verification. Ghana has adopted a multi-sectoral holistic integrated approach to tackling the child labour situation in the country. The process as is being explained

below involved all the key stakeholders including Government Ministries Department and Agencies; Employers and Workers Associations; International partners such as UNICEF, ILO, Danish Embassy, US Embassy, Cocoa Industry and International Cocoa Initiatives etc. efforts are not only geared towards the elimination of child labour in the cocoa sector.

Data Collection:

The data collection refers to the conduction of well targeted, standardized and acceptable surveys that reveals the actual child labour situation in the cocoa sector. It provides the opportunity to assess the true situation of the extent and nature of child labour in the cocoa sector. It also helps to collect the views of various stakeholders including cocoa farmers and children in cocoa growing communities on the causes and remedial and preventive actions for its elimination. TWO SURVEYS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DONE 1. THE PILOT LABOUR PRACTICES 2006; 2. SCAL-UP COCA LABOUR SURVEY 2007.

A Community-based Child Labour Monitoring (CCLM) system is being developed and implementation expected to start during the later part of 2008.

- o This is viewed as a more effective process of data collection as it can drive more immediate local remediation and prevention efforts related to WFCL, forced labour (FAL) and trafficking.
- o The intention of the NPECLC program is to establish CCLM in districts and communities representing a "sector-wide" coverage of the cocoa producing regions of Ghana. This will be based on the significant experience and learning gained from the pilot and scaled up surveys.
- o NPECLC believes that the CCLM approach is more sustainable at the local level – and it will drive change in labour practices in the most effective manner.

Reporting:

After validation of data collected, results or findings are put into the public domain via website, dissemination forums, distribution of copies and other forms of publication. This allows all interest groups and stakeholders to access the findings for their purposes. THIS HAS BEEN DONE FOR THE PILOT SURVEY AVAILABLE ON www.cocobod.gh. The scaled-up cocoa labour survey will be available on the same website by the end of June 2008

Remediation:

Having known the extent and nature of child labour situation in the cocoa sector, positive remedial actions are instituted to provide support to children identified to be engaging in worst forms of child labour and also to institute preventive measures. Remediation actions are being implemented in all cocoa districts in Ghana. Activities include sensitization/occupational safety and Health (OSH) education; promotion of basic education and vocational training; training /strengthening existing institution that deals with child protection; Department of Social Welfare/Labour Dept. Law enforcement agencies. Traditional authorities, district and sub districts institutions; provision of micro credit, institution of measures that reduce the need for children labour. Civil Society Organisations and Community based organizations are also being supported and trained to implement activities. Apart from these, all CSOs and NGOs that are implementing activities on the grounds are doing them within the framework of NPECLC.

This is where an independent body audits data collected by testing tools and methodology used. The body also independently collects data in communities where data was collected and assesses the remediation efforts in beneficiary communities. CURRENTLY THERE ARE INDEPENDENT VERIFIERS ASSESSING AND AUDITING THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE (ref, 1d above)