

CLEF—child learning and education facility

Access to quality education to combat child labor

The Jacobs Foundation and UBS Optimus Foundation, the Ivorian government and 11 cocoa and chocolate companies want to create **Child Learning and Education (CLEF)**, a pooled financing facility to ensure access to quality education as one essential tool of promoting children's rights and fighting child labor in Côte d'Ivoire. By 2030, CLEF aims to provide **quality education for 5 million children** and affect the behavior of **10 million parents**. To achieve this goal, CLEF is expected to bring effective learning to up to **10,000 primary schools** in cocoa growing areas and beyond, and to construct **2,500 classrooms and other education infrastructure** (e.g. bridge classes, community schools, school canteens, and pre-school classrooms).

The facility would be endowed with minimum **seed funding of CHF 45 million** and a **target capitalization of CHF 110 million** in pooled funding. CLEF responds to two national strategies targeting children: The 10-year Education Sector Plan, and the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labor. CLEF will be designed to further catalyse action within the scope of existing broader public-private partnerships addressing child labor. As such, CLEF could become the first public private partnership focused on scaling investments for quality education in Côte d'Ivoire.

Background: the promise of education

Quality education is increasingly seen as one of the most effective tools for combating child labour, owing to its positive effects on well-being, the dependency ratio, and other variables affecting household decisions on children's work or schooling. When delivered well, education also promotes employment, earnings, and health. "It drives long-term economic growth, reduces poverty, spurs innovation, strengthens institutions, and fosters social cohesion" (World Bank, 2018).

However, poor quality education is an empty promise. When quality is poor, the returns of households' investments in children's education in cocoa growing areas are no better than zero. "Schooling without learning is a terrible waste of precious resources and of human potential. Worse, it is an injustice" (World Bank, 2018).

Complementary to existing efforts

Access to quality education is a necessary condition for combating child labor and ensuring children's rights. CLEF will be much more effective if it is embedded in the context of a broader child rights framework addressing concurrent efforts (maintained or scaled-up) such as child protection/due diligence systems, poverty reduction or improved child survival. Jacobs Foundation and its philanthropic partners strongly believe that CLEF is a catalytic investment with the potential to accelerate broader multi-stakeholder agreement.

Expected results

Expected results (2030)

Target capitalization of CHF 110 M



2 M children in cocoa communities reached with quality education



10 k learning schools ensure learning across the entire cocoa belt



2500 classrooms built ensure access to education in most vulnerable communities



5 M farmers reached with effective child learning/child rights messages



3 rigorous studies, including 1 RCT investigating the links between quality education, poverty, and child labour



National policy on quality education



Accountability framework using bi-annual surveys to monitor progress against quality education/child labour targets

Call to action

Companies or institutions interested in partnering with CLEF should contact: irina.hotz@jacobsfoundation.org

Contributing partners

– **Ivorian government**

– **Philanthropy**

Jacobs Foundation, UBS Optimus Foundation

– **Cocoa and chocolate companies**

Barry Callebaut, Cargill, Chocolonely Foundation, ECOM, Ferrero, Hershey, Mars Wrigley, Mondelez International, Nestlé, Olam International, Touton

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