

Strategies for the improvement of the living conditions for cocoa farmers – Human Rights and Children’s Rights

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Children's Rights

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) consists of 41 articles, each detailing a different type of right, interacting with each other to form one integrated set of rights.

1. **Survival Rights** – right to life and needs basic to existence - nutrition, shelter, care, medical services and living standards.
2. **Development Rights** – rights to education, play, leisure, cultural activities, access to information, freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
3. **Protection Rights** – safeguard for children in the criminal justice system, against abuse, neglect, exploitation, special care for refugee children, protection for children in employment, protection and rehabilitation for children who suffered exploitation and abuse of any kind.
4. **Participation Rights** – freedom to expression, join association and assemble peacefully. Say in matters that affect their own lives, increase in opportunity to participate in activities of society, in preparation for adulthood.

Article 32 of UNCRC recognizes the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and hazardous work.

FLA Workplace Code of Conduct Children's Rights

Children's rights is not just about child labor and child labor does not exist in isolation

Fair Labor Association's Benchmarks (updated 2016) include the following components on Children's Rights.

- Age of employment
- Conditions of safe employment on family farms
- Right to education
- Access to decent and appropriate child care facilities
- Safety from exposure to dangerous agricultural activities
- Assessment of situation at the household level (in case of child labor cases)
- Indicators of forced labor
- Access to grievance mechanism
- Remediation through area- and community - based approach and which is best suited to children's needs
- Harassment and abuse free work environment
- Non-discrimination
- Right to freely associate
- Access to medical care
- Access to water and sanitation
- Safe living quarters
- Provision of nutritious food in case food is provided by the employer

FLA's Monitoring of Children's Rights

Independent External Monitoring (1400 farms)



- Community Profiling
- External Information Gathering
- Review of the Internal Management Systems
- Farm Visits
 - Workers' Interviews
 - Growers' interviews

Social Impact

Assessments (Gender Project) (1771 families)



- Community Profiling
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Indicators Setting
- Individual structured survey
- Focus Group Discussions

Research & Projects

(GISCO, SCSC, CLEAR) (1200 families)



- Stakeholder mapping
- Task and risk mapping
- Individual interviews
- Focus Group Discussions
- Farm visits
- Household Survey

Data from Cooperatives' Supply Chain

Household Survey conducted in 2015 in 799 cocoa producers in three cooperatives based in Niablé, Divo and Bangolo

Cooperatives	Total number of farmers registered	Total number of farmers profiled during CLEAR	Number of children in schools going age (6-14 years)	Number of children in school going age and attending school	Number of children in school going age and out of school
A	212	260	431	387	44
B	350	316	879	674	205
C	291	223	491	443	48
TOTAL	853	799	1801	1504	297 (16.5%)

Cooperatives	Number of children out of school	Financial difficulties	Large distances between house and nearest school	Personal refusal	Family problems (unspecified)
A	44	32	0	8	4
B	205	144	10	19	32
C	48	33	0	7	8
TOTAL	297	209 (70%)	10	34	44

Data from a Trader's Supply Chain

Children at Risk– 39%

Particulars		ALLAKABO	SARAKAJI	KROHON	ZOGBODOUA	TOTAL
Number of interviewed farmers		33	28	26	23	110
Number of workers	Family	65	55	54	61	235
	Contractual	25	14	27	21	87
Number of children (5-15 years) in interviewed households		64	124	66	63	317
Number of children without birth certificates in interviewed households		39	20	18	24	101
Number of children attending school*		37	86	41	31	195 (61%)
Number of children present in farms during farm visits		9	8	6	0	23
Number of children and Young Workers performing farm work		6	3	4	0	13

* Children can be enrolled and attend school without birth certificate until they reach Grade 6 (Age 10 years)

Child Labor and Women in Cocoa

- The number one reason cited by workers for having their children work is the weak financial status of the family.[^]
- 93% women interviewed were directly involved in cocoa production, without financial benefits. The main source of women's income is food crops, livestock rearing, and small businesses^{^^**}
- Women are the main care takers of the families also responsible for their children's education, providing care, taking them to clinics and providing meals. True for 100 percent women and families ever interviewed.^{^ * ^^ **}
- 73 percent of women work in cocoa without terms, unrecorded and unrecognized.*
- 98 percent of women reported income too low to afford decent living.*

**(2013-2014 FLA Gender Survey Sample - 200 cocoa farms, 120 cocoa farm workers, 244 women amongst 370 additional interviews in 12 communities covering six regions in Côte d'Ivoire) .*

<http://www.fairlabor.org/report/nestle-womens-roles-assessment-cocoa>

*** (2015) Baseline Social Impact Assessment - NDGP- 210 respondents in two communities - Yaokouakoukro (Gagnoa) and Zaranou (Abengourou)*

<http://www.fairlabor.org/report/gender-dialogue-project-ivory-coast>

^ (2013 – 2015) FLA IEM Reports <http://www.fairlabor.org/> and Nestle Standard Supply Chain Mapping Report <http://www.fairlabor.org/report/standard-supply>

^^(2015) FLA GISCO Study Sample 264 interviews + 20 stakeholder interviews in 5 communities in Aboisso and Agboville

<http://www.fairlabor.org/report/women-and-youth-nutritional-status-ivory-coast-cocoa-communities>



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Child Labor and Women in Cocoa

- Only 1 woman among 43 board members across five surveyed cocoa cooperatives.*
- 89 percent of women do not participate in any trainings.*
- Women rarely use existing grievance mechanisms, and grievance processes remain largely controlled by men.**
- Many women remain unaware of their rights; lack confidence and skills to express themselves; are unorganized; and have lesser access to all types of resources.**
- Many women say they understand and appreciate how participating in a Women's Association can provide benefits and mutual assistance.**
- **Economic empowerment is the principal determinant of a woman's socio-economic status and ability to participate in any decision-making process. Economic autonomy would provide women a higher status in the families and expand their role in decision making – including access to education, nutrition, food security and medical care for their children. **^^**


* (2013-2014 FLA Gender Survey Sample - 200 cocoa farms, 120 cocoa farm workers, 244 women amongst 370 additional interviews in 12 communities covering six regions in Côte d'Ivoire).

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Conclusions based on data..



Gender equality
and enhanced
economic
empowerment of
women



Reduction in child
labor, better access
to education,
medical care and
nutrition

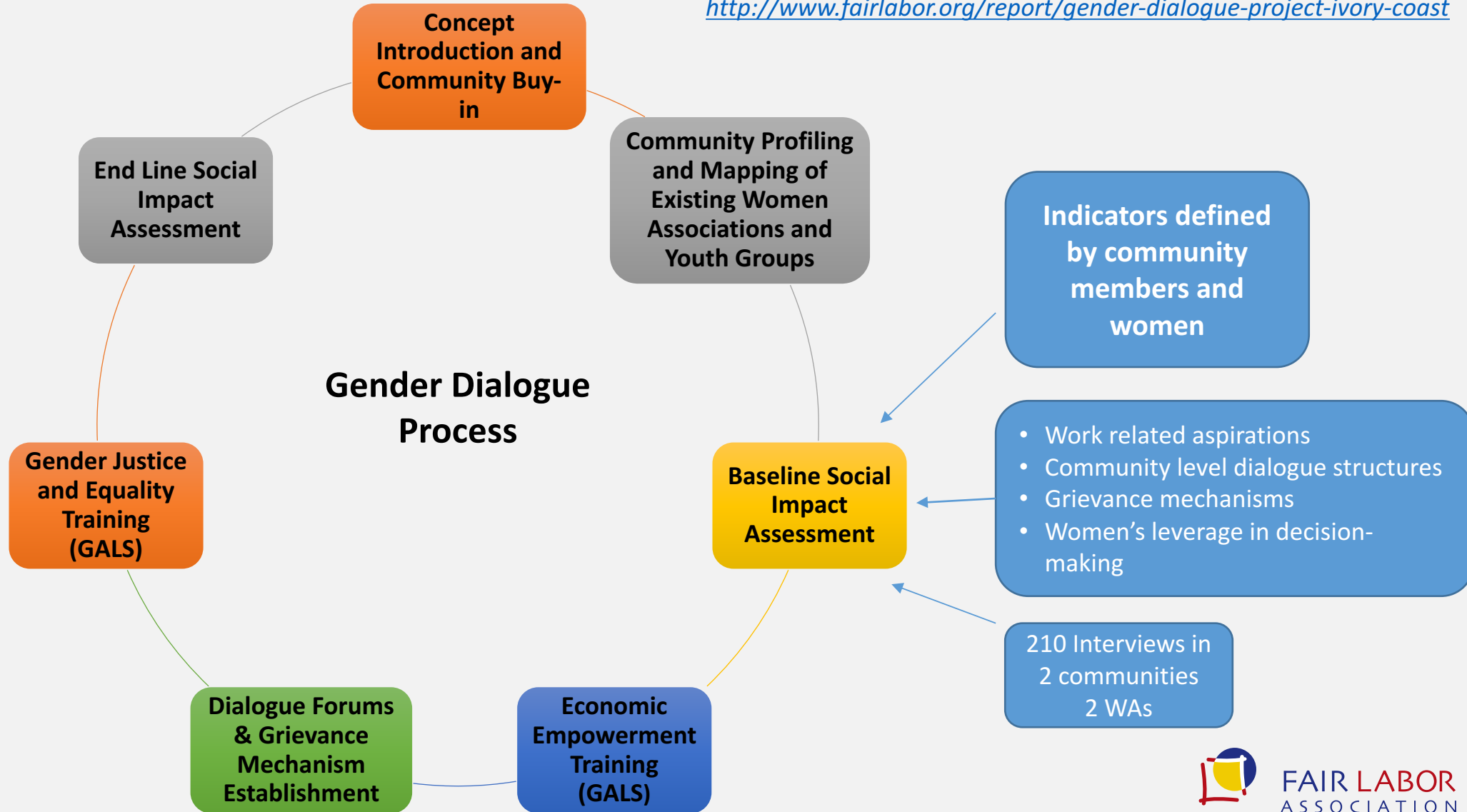


Improvement in
Children's Rights

FLA-Nestle Gender Dialogue Project

<http://www.fairlabor.org/report/gender-dialogue-project-ivory-coast>

Application of community-based and household methodologies to address workplace issues in the context of global supply chains, alongside use of Social Impact Assessments.



Vision Road Journey



Realizing Individual Visions → Collective Vision for the Household → Community Vision

Economic Empowerment (Challenge Action Tree)



A women participating in GALS create a small hen pen for sale

Tomato patch grow by a group of women after the training



- Charcoal trading
- Juice Shop
- Pig rearing
- Food crops (egg plant, tomato)
- Slippers selling
- Fish trade

Gender Equality (Gender Balance Tree)



Assesses the roles that men and women play at household and the balance of work between them.

Achievements and Next Steps

- GALS (Economic Empowerment) training for 500 beneficiaries.
- 100 individual and 11 group income-generating activities implemented without external funding.
- Two women-oriented nurseries developed in the two project communities by Nestle.
- Dialogue forums installed and trained for effective grievance handling in each project community.
- Two Women's Associations supported for registration and professionalization, and linked to the existing social structures in the communities.
- Awareness building on Gender Balance and Gender Justice for community members in both project areas.

Next Steps

- End line Social Impact Assessment
- Steps for scaling-up (covering other communities) and determining the role of the supply chain partners including the cooperatives and the company
- Using GALS with a focus on Children's Rights and measuring impact
- Funding women's project to have more impact
- Provide areas for scale up for women and men to increase their activities so the income can list them out of poverty.

