

# TRECC – Transforming education in cocoa communities

## Factsheet



Despite contributing almost 40% of the global cacao production, Ivory Coast's cocoa smallholder farmers live on less than USD 0.5/day<sup>1</sup>, which is considerably below the poverty line of USD 2/day. This high level of poverty is compound by very low literacy and school attendance rates nationwide, gender inequality, and child labour, particularly in rural areas. 48% of men and 70% of women above 15 years in Ivory Coast are illiterate, while 68% of Ivorian youths have not finished primary education, and 36% have never gone to school<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, an estimated 1.3 million children in Ivory Coast, one in every four children between the ages of 5 and 14, are involved in child labour<sup>3</sup>.

TRECC (Transforming Education in Cocoa Communities) aims to improve the quality of life of all children and youth in Ivory Coast, while focusing on delivering quality education in cocoa-growing communities. The program was designed and initially financed by the Jacobs Foundation to capitalize on three key opportunities:

1. The high priority the Ivorian government has set on improving educational outcomes for all children and youth in the country.
2. The unprecedented and aligned commitment of the cocoa and chocolate industry and the Ivorian government to improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers.
3. The growing entrepreneurial power of smallholder farmers and civil society organizations to advance quality education at all levels.

In TRECC's 2020 vision, education in Ivory Coast should enable individuals to lead healthy and

fulfilled lives, be able to respond to their own challenges, and pursue goals that they value. This vision is based upon three beliefs: firstly, that education must begin at home with parents nurturing the creativity and knowledge of their children. Secondly, that the acquisition of foundational skills of literacy and numeracy through primary level must be guaranteed. And lastly, that building on analytical and non-cognitive skills is essential to improve youth's livelihoods through quality income generating opportunities.

Since Jacobs Foundation announced a CHF 50 million commitment to create TRECC in May/16, the program has become a growing coalition of public and private stakeholders aligning capital and knowledge to improve the quality of education in Ivory Coast. TRECC aims to leverage additional financial resources to mobilize roughly CHF 100M in investments. The Bernard van Leer Foundation and the UBS Optimus Foundation have committed important financial and intellectual capital resources to support the ECD (Early Child Development) component of TRECC, while various other organizations have started joining to further develop the primary education and youth inclusion pillars.

TRECC conveys a strong conviction in the power of public-private partnerships for social change. The program's funding instruments and activities seek to support the interlinkages between public policy, corporate strategies, civil society aspirations, and scientific evidence.

<sup>1</sup>[CocoaBarometer 2015 \(2015\). Barometer Consortium](#)

<sup>2</sup>[Côte d'Ivoire National Profile 2014 update \(2014\). Education Policy and Data Center \(EPDC\), fhi360](#)

<sup>3</sup>[The twin challenges of child labour and educational marginalisation in the ECOWAS region. An overview \(2014\) ILO.](#)

### TRECC Timeframe:

2015-2022

**Financial and Strategic Partners:**

Jacobs Foundation

Bernard van Leer Foundation

UBS Optimus Foundation

Government of Ivory Coast

CocoaAction members and other cocoa and chocolate companies

Swiss Embassy for Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

**Budget (Feb/2017):**

CHF 60 million (USD 61 million)

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