The WCF ECHOES Alliance

ECHOES III: Empowering Cocoa Households with Opportunities and Education Solutions

Overview
The WCF ECHOES Alliance is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and WCF member companies. The alliance aims to strengthen cocoa-growing communities by expanding opportunities for youth and young adults through relevant education in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana.

The four-year WCF ECHOES III program expands livelihoods and economic opportunities for rural households in cocoa-growing communities through a replicable, scalable model of agriculture training and relevant education implemented and managed by local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs) in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire. Through trainings in program management, organizational development, reporting and implementation of activities, implementing partners Winrock International and World Education will collaborate to build LNGO capacity to take over all aspects of project implementation by midway through the life of the program. Additionally, ECHOES will work with partners such as local Micro-finance Institutes (MFIs) and government entities to provide necessary organizational and financial support to communities to ensure the long-term sustainability of ECHOES initiatives.

ECHOES III enhances the components of basic education, youth livelihoods and innovative activities. The basic education component provides teacher training in early grade reading instruction and evaluation, formal school re-enrollment support to out-of-school teens, functional literacy training for adults, and resource centers to cocoa farming communities. ECHOES III will include an intergenerational literacy program in Ghana, as well as after-school reading support to primary school students in both countries. Under the youth livelihoods component, both in-school and out-of-school youth participate in a vocational agriculture and youth leadership education program. ECHOES innovative activities include: training local youth in sustainable modern cocoa farming techniques; equipping youth with leadership skills; and funding conditional family support scholarships to support a child’s education and enhance the parent’s income-generating potential.

Program Goals
- Equipping cocoa-growing households with the skills and knowledge to improve agricultural practices through classes and practical training programs
- Strengthening teacher and administrator capabilities with an emphasis on teaching and assessing reading
- Improving literacy rates in program communities
- Training out-of-school youth in literacy, sports and life skills and helping them re-enter formal school
- Improving family income generating potential and education with conditional family support scholarships
- Increasing capacity of community groups to improve education and livelihoods for expanded opportunities
- Building capacity of local NGOs to manage and implement ECHOES activities
The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) is an international membership foundation that promotes a sustainable cocoa economy by providing cocoa farmers with the tools they need to grow more and better cocoa, market it successfully, and make greater profits.

World Cocoa Foundation
1411 K Street, NW, Suite 1300
Washington, D.C. 20005 USA
202.737.7870
www.worldcocoa.org