

Concept Note for a Side Event on

Integrated, Multistakeholder Partnership Solutions to End Child Labour: Ghana's Experience and Lessons for Cross-Country Learning

at the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, Marrakech, Morocco

Thursday, 12 February 2026, 13:00-14:30 (Morocco Time) / 12:00-13:30 (Ghana time)

Online link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/6d19e829-2366-441a-a243-c0848b174375@77410195-14e1-4fb8-904b-ab1892023667>

I. Keywords

Please select 3–6 keywords that best describe your session and support programme clustering.

Examples: SDG 8.7; Social protection; Conflicts and crisis contexts...

II. Background & Rationale

Despite sustained global commitments, child labour remains a persistent challenge across the world, often driven by fragmented interventions, limited coordination across sectors, and weak links between community-level action and national systems. Addressing child labour at scale requires integrated, area-based solutions that are anchored in government leadership, supported by strong social service delivery systems, and reinforced through coordinated engagement with development partners and the private sector.

Over the past years, Ghana has deliberately pursued such an integrated approach to tackling child labour. Building on national policy frameworks and institutional coordination mechanisms, the Government of Ghana, with support from UNICEF, ILO, JICA, World Bank and other partners, has tested and scaled complementary models that link prevention, identification, referral, remediation and reintegration of children affected by child labour. These include the Child Labour Public-Private Partnership (PPP), the piloting of Child Labour Free Zones, ACCEL Africa programme, and mainstreaming child labour and safeguarding through the World Bank-supported

projects and operations. Together, these initiatives aim to move beyond isolated projects towards sustainable, system-strengthening solutions that address the root causes of child labour while promoting responsible and sustainable business practices.

This side event will showcase Ghana's experience in implementing integrated, multistakeholder approaches to ending child labour, highlighting both progress achieved and challenges encountered. The session will examine how area-based community interventions can be effectively connected to district and national systems, how public-private partnerships can complement government action, and how joint programming, data interoperability and policy coherence can reduce fragmentation and enable scale.

Importantly, the event is designed as a platform for dialogue and learning rather than a one-way presentation. Participants will be invited to reflect on the relevance and transferability of Ghana's approaches to their own country contexts, discuss institutional and financing challenges, and explore opportunities for cross-country learning, South-South and triangular cooperation.

By sharing practical lessons, success factors and unresolved challenges, the side event aims to contribute to global efforts to eliminate child labour by fostering collaboration, mutual learning and collective action in line with SDG 8.7 and the priorities of the Durban Call to Action.

III. Key Objectives

The side event aims to:

1. Demonstrate how government leadership, policy coherence and system strengthening can anchor integrated, area-based and multistakeholder approaches to effectively address child labour.
2. Share Ghana's experience in implementing transformational solutions, including the Child Labour Free Zones, Climate Cocoa Project, ACCEL Africa, Child Labour Public-Private Partnership, and child labour risk mitigation and mainstreaming.
3. Promote learning and collaboration by facilitating dialogue on the transferability, challenges and enabling conditions of Ghana's approaches across different country contexts.

IV. Expected Outcomes and Deliverables

- Increased understanding among participating countries and partners of how integrated, multistakeholder approaches can strengthen national and sub-national systems to prevent and respond to child labour.
- Shared practical lessons from Ghana's experience that can inform adaptation in other contexts.
- Identification of key enabling conditions for scale and sustainability, including government leadership, coordination mechanisms, data systems, integrated service delivery, and financing arrangements.
- Strengthened dialogue and collaboration among countries, development partners, private sector partners, and others.



V. Session Format

Presentations, interactive dialogues and a video.

VI. Session Flow

13:00–
13:10

Opening and scene setting: Why integrated solutions matter

Welcome and introduce the objectives and house rules of the side event. This session will set the scene by outlining why fragmented approaches have limited impact on child labour and why Ghana has deliberately pursued integrated, area-based and multistakeholder solutions anchored in national systems.

Moderator: **Ms. Lucia Soleti**, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Ghana

13:10–
13:25

Government of Ghana's vision and system anchoring

This segment will present the Government of Ghana's vision and leadership in addressing child labour through policy coherence, institutional coordination, strategic planning and budgeting, and system strengthening, highlighting the role of government in aligning partners and sustaining impact.

Moderator: **Ms. Lucia Soleti**, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Ghana

Speakers:

- **Ms. Esther Ofori Ayemang**, Head of the Child Labour Unit, Labour Department, Ministry of Labour, Jobs and Employment, Ghana
- **Mr. Stephen Ampem Darko**, Principal Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission, Ghana

Structure: Presentation (15 minutes)

13:25–
13:40

Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZ): making area-based approach functional

This session will present Ghana's experience in piloting Child Labour Free Zones through integrated, area-based approaches in cocoa-growing



communities. Drawing on joint work supported by JICA and International Labour Organization, including the Climate Cocoa Project and ACCEL Africa, the session will highlight how child labour prevention is addressed alongside climate risks, livelihoods, and social protection. Speakers will reflect early results, implementation challenges, and lessons learned from linking community-level action to district and national child labour coordination mechanisms.

Moderator: **Ms. Lucia Soleti**, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Ghana

Speakers:

- **Ms. Tomoko Shiroki**, Consultant, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- **Mr. Bismark Quartey**, National Project Coordinator, ILO

Structure: Presentation (15 minutes)

13:40–
13:55

Partnership at scale: public-private collaboration and joint programming

This presentation will explore how the Child Labour Public-Private Partnership complement government systems, strengthen responsible business practices, improve linkages between public and private sector partners' information management systems and contribute to scalable and sustainable solutions to address the root causes of child labour.

Moderator: Ms. Lucia Soleti, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Ghana

Speakers:

- **Ms. Young Joo Lee**, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Ghana
- **Mr. Isadore Nii Attoh Armah**, Landscape Project & Partner Support Manager, ICI Ghana

Structure: Presentation (15 minutes)

13:55–
14:10

Mainstreaming child labour risk management in World Bank operations

This session will highlight Ghana's experience in integrating child labour risk management into development financing and operations, drawing on World Bank-supported approaches. It will focus on how child labour risks can be systematically identified, mitigated and monitored at scale by aligning project safeguards, data systems and national child labour frameworks, and will share lessons relevant for other country contexts.



Moderator: **Ms. Lucia Soleti**, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Ghana

Speaker:

- **Ms. Nneka Okereke**, Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank

Structure: Presentation (15 minutes)

14:10–
14:20

Interactive exchange: What resonates with your context?

An interactive session inviting participants to ask questions, reflect on the relevance, transferability and feasibility of Ghana's approaches in their own country contexts. Participants will be asked to share insights on opportunities, constraints, and enabling conditions for adaptation.

Moderator: **Ms. Lucia Soleti**, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Ghana

Structure: Q&A and reflection (10 minutes)

14:20–
14:30

Key takeaways and closing

Summary of key messages, lessons learned and next steps, and an invitation for continued collaboration beyond the Conference.

Moderator: **Ms. Lucia Soleti**, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Ghana

Speaker:

- **Hon. Ernest Yaw Anim**, Member of Parliament of Kumawu, Chairperson of the Parliament of Ghana's Human Rights Committee

Structure: Video (5 minutes) + Closing remark (5 minutes)
