THE RESILIENCE JOURNEY

Develop insight-driven recommendations for potential future investments in women’s empowerment and gender equality

Using a design-thinking approach

Informed by KIT’s model of women’s and girl’s empowerment

Understanding women’s lives

Financial dependency and lack of transparency limit agency.

Adolescence and early adulthood are critical for female youth.

Conservative gender norms maintain unequal power dynamics.

Young women are excluded from cocoa’s benefits, while this is the main livelihood option.

Empathy generation

Viability

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The time to act is now.

Cocoa’s first mile is a key local institution, intertwined with the social fabric, but is gender blind.

Gender equality remains an ‘afterthought’ in sector-wide sustainable cocoa priority areas.

There is untapped potential amongst existing and new partners.

Improving farmer income requires the recognition of women’s contribution to cocoa production. When agri-services do not recognize and include independent female farmers and co-farming wives, the full potential of family farms will never be achieved.

Child protection cannot be achieved without recognizing the differences between boys and girls. Sons and daughters have differentiated tasks at home and on-farm, which warrant sex-disaggregated monitoring and remediation. Girls also face distinctive human rights risks that require dedicated approaches.

Forestry initiatives could benefit from taking a gender-sensitive household approach. Forestry initiatives are about behavioral change in communities, everyone needs to be on board, including women who are key users of the forests.

Transformative change is needed to pursue gender equality, with interventions at multiple levels. There is no ‘silver bullet’.

Roadmap building blocks

Mainstream in cocoa sustainability strategy: Build critical consciousness in HQ and in operations to apply a gender lens to the strategy.

Diversify cocoa’s first mile sourcing operations: Develop a gender-inclusive first mile work force that can act as role model for gender equality and to ensure the provision of services to cocoa farming households will be non-discriminatory.

Targeted approaches are needed at community and household level: Promoting and developing targeted approaches that nurture, inspire and protect female youth and engage men and boys as gender allies.