

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS | SDG 10

## Equal opportunities make for good relationships within the community

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Inequality is increasing around the world, with the gulf between rich and poor widening ever further. This is detrimental for social cohesion within societies. However, where governments and societies fight inequality, for example by giving all children a good education, they lay the foundations for a fairer society – and for positive socio-economic development. Multi-stakeholder partnerships can improve structures and introduce change.

All individuals are equal before the law, but that certainly does not mean that they have equal rights. Inequality begins at birth, for instance when a boy grows up in an economically deprived family, goes hungry and has to work at a young age, or a girl has to leave education after primary school while other children go on to study at university. Wealth, too, is unevenly distributed. At the end of 2019, **one per cent of the world's population** owned 43.4 per cent of global wealth while 53.6 per cent shared a meagre 1.4 per cent.

This distorted situation leads to people leaving their home countries, social cohesion breaking down and people being left behind. Measures that counteract these inequalities can therefore have many positive impacts. Introducing higher taxes or closing tax loopholes, for example, can release funds for investment in infrastructure, and providing more funding for teachers, university staff and schools can improve opportunities for all children.

### Multi-stakeholder partnerships

A structural response is needed in order to combat equality, with key stakeholders – above all businesses, governments and non-governmental organisations – having to pull together. In this context, multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) can prepare the ground for change by providing a counterbalance, promoting models of more equitable community environments and setting a good example.

An MSP can be initiated by companies, associations, academic organisations, civil society organisations and public sector institutions. The added value is obtained from the partners pooling core competencies, experience and resources and thereby achieving greater impact in a particular field.



#### Partnerships2030 – the MSP platform

On behalf of the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**, the Partnerships2030 project promotes multistakeholder partnerships and thus contributes to implementing the 2030 Agenda. BMZ now promotes around 80 MSPs through the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** and **Engagement Global – benGo**. GIZ implements the Partnerships2030 project, supports MSPs and stakeholders in many different ways, creates networks to link them to partners and provides information.



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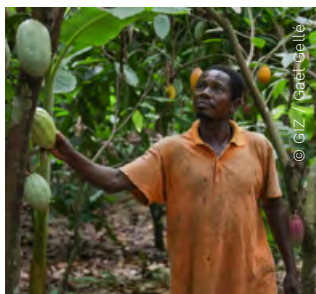
#### The MSP methodology

MSPs are a form of cooperation in which stakeholders from at least three sectors among civil society, the public sector, the private sector and academia join forces as equals in order to contribute to the common good. An MSP can generate a transformative impact through cooperation geared to the long term.

## Higher incomes improve lives

The work of the **German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa** is aimed at improving living conditions, introducing sustainable cropping systems and ending child labour in cocoa farming. The initiative is an example of how MSPs can contribute to achieving SDG 10.

Smallholder farmers, usually managing two to five hectares of land, **account for 90 to 95 per cent of the global cocoa harvest**. Living conditions are harsh for many families, particularly in West Africa. In Ghana or Côte d'Ivoire farmers earn **less than one euro a day**, an income well below the poverty threshold, currently defined by the World Bank as EUR 1.56 (USD 1.9) per day. As a consequence many children have to work to ensure the survival of the family.



The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa explains the essence of its work thus: 'For companies of the confectionery industry and the retail grocery trade, social responsibility starts with the primary producers, the cocoa farmers.' The initiative consists of **70 members** and wants to improve living conditions for cocoa growers and their families, to conserve and protect natural resources and biodiversity and to increase cultivation and commercialisation of sustainably produced cocoa. To meet these objectives, the MSP has set itself twelve specific goals including improved prices and premium systems as contributions to a living income. The initiative works with cocoa farmers in the producer countries, among other things providing professional training, practical courses and specialist instruction. The Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa is also committed to evaluating the impact of these activities, for which it encourages dialogue among its members, develops quality criteria for sustainable project approaches, promotes sustainable cultivation methods, cooperates with existing initiatives and provides information for the general population. In addition, it is networked with other national initiatives in Europe promoting sustainable cocoa growing and works closely with them on monitoring, for instance. Together with the Ivorian and German Governments, the partnership is implementing the **PRO-PLANTEURS** project with the aim of improving the living conditions of 30,000 cocoa farmers



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THE INITIATIVE, WITH ITS 70 MEMBERS, PURSUES THREE MAIN GOALS: IT AIMS TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR COCOA GROWERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY AND TO INCREASE CULTIVATION AND COMMERCIALISATION OF SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED COCOA.



in Côte d'Ivoire. One objective of the project is to enable women in parti-cular to optimise their incomes and grow other crops, broadening the nutritional basis for their families.

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