Nestle: integrating and empowering women in the company’s value chain

Key Results:

- 600,000 women reached through workplace business and entrepreneurial skills training through local initiatives in Central and West Africa, Argentina and Venezuela
- Over 130,000 women reached through technical assistance programs in dairy farming and food safety in India, Pakistan, and Morocco and in cocoa and coffee farming in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana
- 17 Women’s Economic Empowerment programs in 20 countries
- Over USD $10 million in total investments as of 2013

Socio-economic benefits for women participants include:

- Poverty reduction & social inclusion
- Additional income
- New business start-ups
- Improved financial management skills translating into greater economic independence
- Improved economic situation of women farmers
- Better yield for women dairy farmers
- Improved animal healthcare
- Increased awareness of food safety and health hazards
- Healthier cooking habits and awareness of obesity

NESTLE COMMITTED IN 2011 to Every Woman Every Child to strengthen its business-related activities and programs to promote gender equality, capacity-building and education for women and girls.

Nestle’s Women’s Empowerment initiatives are integrated in the company’s shared value approach and result in increased penetration, footprint and additional volume for Nestlé; strong and emotional links with consumers; increased loyalty to the company; a shortened supply chain & improved traceability; sustainable sourcing and enhanced trust with all stakeholders.

The company aims to achieve a natural increase of women’s participation in and contribution to its value chain, and to do so in a sustainable manner with large-scale impact.

In particular, the company aims to:

1. **Promote equal opportunities**
   - Provide training on gender issues and assist women to reach leadership roles along the value chain

2. **Give women a voice**
   - Encourage women’s associations connected with operations or supply chain

3. **Help increase women’s income**
   - Provide training modules for women farmers, technical assistance and micro-credit

everywomaneverychild.org
PARTNERSHIPS
To implement its women’s economic empowerment initiatives, Nestle has developed local partnerships in Argentina, Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Thailand, Venezuela and Vietnam. Local partners include:

- The Dairy and Rural Development Foundation (DRDF) in Pakistan
- The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ghana
- The Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- CMS Ltd (Coffee Management Services) in Kenya

LESSONS LEARNED
Besides training on good agricultural practices, nutrition or health issues, as well as basic business management, the company has recognized the importance of giving women a voice and helping them build confidence through leadership development.

NEXT STEPS
The ‘Nestlé Action Plan on Women in the Cocoa Supply Chain’ which is currently active in Côte d’Ivoire will be extended to Ghana, Indonesia and Ecuador. It will also be updated later in 2014 after the Fair Labor Association publishes its assessment on our cocoa supply chain in Côte d’Ivoire. Nestle plans to continue to measure and share progress on its activities in order to continue to innovate and seek enhancements to its women’s economic empowerment programs.