The Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG), supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), convened the inaugural Ghana Impact Dialogue in Accra as a side-event to the maiden Accra SDGs Investment Fair organized by the Ministry of Finance, to support the country’s impact investment community establish a National Advisory Board (NAB).

Over 150 delegates consisting of investors, entrepreneurs, policy-makers and development finance professionals heard from leaders from across the public, private and not-for-profit sector. Keynote speeches were delivered by Ms. Amel Karboul, CEO, Education Outcomes Fund; Mr. Yaw Owusu-Brempong, CEO, Ghana Venture Capital Trust Fund; Gita Welch, Country Director, UNDP, and H.E. Iain Walker, The British High Commissioner to Ghana.

The summary of findings in GSG’s recently published Ghana State of Impact Investing Report (developed in conjunction with Intellecap and supported by DFID) were presented, which outlined Ghana’s potential to unlock $5 billion of capital in the West Africa region, to finance impact programs that fulfill the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the active efforts of a Ghanaian NAB.

Six main recommendations to unlock this capital were outlined to kick off the day. These included:

1. Allocation of capital to private equity by pension funds, and to impact funds by institutional investors
2. Creation of a national impact wholesaler
3. Development of an enabling and stable regulatory and policy environment for both impact investors and social enterprises.

The event continued with two invigorating panel discussions revolving around a sectoral focus on Education and an ecosystem focus on Capital and Impact to answer the following questions:

- What role can private sector play in the education value chain in Ghana to deliver learning outcomes?
- How can private capital be best leveraged in Ghana to address SDGs at scale?

The half-day dialogue concluded with a networking lunch, and was immediately followed by a NAB Workshop in the afternoon to constitute the Task Force and define the action steps for coming months. The workshop was briefly addressed by the Ghanaian Finance Minister, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta, himself who endorsed GSG’s efforts to establish the Ghana NAB and showed his willingness to support it to the best of his capacity.

Enthusiasm for GSG’s NAB building initiative in Ghana was loud and clear, and the GSG looks forward to continue work to support this platform.
You can invest in Education with return by investing in results.

Dr. Amel Karboul
CEO, Education Outcomes Fund

This is my call for action - Let us try new and innovative ways of ‘doing development’.

Dr. Gita Honwana Welch
Country Director, UNDP Ghana

We are supporting GSG in its efforts to set up National Advisory board for impact investment in Ghana. A NAB can be a place to ‘explore Ghana’s potential for growth’ and ‘help Ghana with its ambition to ‘move beyond aid’.

H.E. Iain Walker
British High Commissioner to Ghana and non-resident Ambassador to Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso

Impact investment in Ghana has not realized its potential largely due to an under-developed impact investment support ecosystem. An acceleration in the velocity and expansion in the volume of capital mobilized for impact investing can be achieved through strengthening the capacity of intermediaries, increased formation of private-public investment syndicates, and design and implementation of large-scale investment funds.

Yaw Owusu-Brempong
Venture Capital Trust Fund

We want to position Ghana as the entry point to invest in Africa. We are ready to embrace all investment ready to help Ghana achieve the SDG’s while making a decent ROI.

R.Yofi Grant
CEO, Ghana Investment Promotion Center

We think that if Ghana were to develop a National Advisory Board for impact investment, working with all the stakeholders in the ecosystem as we saw before, it would be possible, in Ghana, to develop the impact investments available annually from a 100 million to 320 million.

Krisztina Tora
Marketing Development Director, GSG

The impact investment thesis is a simple and bold idea like any revolution - Capital has a purpose.

Amit Bhatia
CEO, GSG

For more pictures, click here

GHANA IMPACT DIALOGUE