

# ACTION ON POVERTY



## Building the Local Systems Behind Responsible Supply Chains

APT Action on Poverty is a UK-based NGO, established in 1985, working with companies, local partners and rural communities to make supply chains more resilient, responsible and inclusive. We help businesses move from ESG commitments to practical implementation in the places where supply chain risks are hardest to see, measure and address.

### What Makes APT Different



- 1. We work where supply-chain visibility usually stops**

APT operates at the “last mile” of sourcing systems: smallholder farmers, informal labour, rural communities and local intermediaries. This is where many ESG risks emerge, but where companies often have the least direct access.



- 2. We address root causes, not only symptoms**

Instead of only identifying risks, APT builds the conditions that reduce them: better incomes, adult labour alternatives, women's enterprise, financial inclusion, literacy, local governance and child protection systems.



- 3. We build community systems companies can rely on**

APT helps create local structures that continue beyond a project: savings groups, seed banks, adult labour groups, child welfare committees, producer groups and community by-laws.



- 4. We translate HRDD into practice**

APT supports companies to turn human rights due diligence into field action: risk assessment, community engagement, monitoring, prevention, remediation and evidence for reporting.



- 5. We create shared value, not charity**

Communities gain safer livelihoods and stronger incomes. Businesses gain stronger supplier relationships, better compliance readiness, improved trust and more resilient sourcing networks.

### Proof of Delivery



**500,000+**

People reached directly and indirectly through livelihoods, ESG, resilience and supply-chain programmes



**35,000+**

People accessing financial inclusion services



**15,000+**

Jobs, enterprises and inclusive livelihoods supported



**60,000+**

Smallholder farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture



**25,000+**

Women supported through economic empowerment and enterprise activities



**50+**

Private sector, NGO and community partnerships established



APT builds local systems that create **opportunity**, **protect rights** and **strengthen supply chains** from the ground up.

# The Reality of Responsible Sourcing



## Businesses Are Navigating More Complex ESG Expectations

Supply-chain transparency • Human rights due diligence • Traceability • Supplier engagement • Measurable ESG impact – are now part of responsible sourcing practice.



### Driven by:

Investor scrutiny • Consumer expectations • Procurement standards • Certification systems • Due diligence regulations



### Key Frameworks

CSDDD • CSRD • EUDR • OECD Due Diligence • UNGPs



## THE LAST MILE IS OFTEN THE HIGHEST-RISK PART OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Many agricultural supply chains still depend heavily on:

- Smallholder farmers
- Informal labour systems
- Fragmented sourcing networks
- Remote rural communities

Smallholders produce:



**~35%**  
of global  
food supply



**70–80%**  
in parts of Africa  
and Asia

Yet these are often the environments where businesses face:

- The least visibility
- The weakest traceability
- The highest ESG exposure



## What We See in Practice

On the ground, ESG risks rarely appear in isolation. They are often linked to:



Poverty-driven  
child labour  
risks



Low and  
unstable  
incomes



Weak farmer  
organisation



Limited  
supplier trust



Climate  
vulnerability



Difficulty  
translating ESG  
policies into  
field-level practice



## Where APT Adds Value

APT helps companies close the gap between responsible sourcing commitments and local implementation by building:



Local trust



Supplier  
engagement



Community  
accountability



Practical  
HRDD systems



Field monitoring  
and evidence



Measurable  
impact at the  
last mile

“ Behind every resilient supply chain is a resilient farming community. ”

# The APT Model

## From Risk Identification to Local Systems That Work

APT helps businesses move beyond assessment and reporting — into practical ESG delivery at supplier and community level.

### Our Model: Build the System Around the Risk

|    |                                         |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | <b>Understand the Real Drivers</b>      |    | APT works with companies, suppliers and communities to identify the root causes behind ESG risks: poverty, labour shortages, food insecurity, weak farmer organisation, low trust, gender inequality and climate vulnerability. |
| 2. | <b>Build Local Accountability</b>       |   | We strengthen the local structures that make responsible sourcing possible: community organisations, producer groups, child protection committees, local by-laws, grievance channels and business-community dialogue.           |
| 3. | <b>Strengthen Livelihood Resilience</b> |  | We reduce dependency on harmful coping strategies through practical economic systems: VSLAs, revolving loans, seed banks, income diversification, apprenticeships, women's enterprise and climate-smart agriculture.            |
| 4. | <b>Support Practical HRDD</b>           |  | APT translates human rights due diligence into action: risk analysis, community engagement, prevention, remediation, monitoring, supplier accountability and evidence for reporting.                                            |
| 5. | <b>Turn ESG into Shared Value</b>       |  | Communities gain safer livelihoods, stronger incomes and greater voice. Businesses gain better supplier trust, improved audit readiness, lower reputational risk and more resilient sourcing relationships.                     |



**Stronger Communities**  
Safer livelihoods, higher incomes, greater voice



**Stronger Suppliers**  
More accountable, more resilient, more productive



**Stronger Business Value**  
Better trust, lower risk, audit readiness, investor confidence



**Stronger Supply Chains**  
More stable, more responsible, more future-proof



APT builds the local operating system that allows responsible sourcing to become **real, measurable and sustainable.**



# Real-World Results

## Building Responsible Supply Chains in Practice



### SIERRA LEONE — PALM OIL SUPPLY CHAIN (2022–2025)

APT partnered with Planting Naturals, Goldtree and MAPCO to reduce child labour and strengthen responsible sourcing systems among smallholder palm oil farmers in Kailahun District, Sierra Leone.

#### RESULTS ACROSS 40 COMMUNITIES



##### HUMAN RIGHTS & CHILD PROTECTION

- Child labour reduced from **98.9%** to **5%**
- Child labour gangs fully eliminated
- School attendance increased from **67%** to **95%+**
- Community child protection systems established



##### SUPPLIER STABILITY & FARMER RESILIENCE

- **15,250** loans issued through VSLAs
- **100%** loan repayment rate
- Smallholder farmer incomes **nearly doubled**
- Food insecurity reduced from **97%** to **below 2%**



##### WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- **3,000+** women trained in climate-smart agriculture
- **2,944** women supported through green gardening initiatives
- **52** community seed banks established
- **40** community organisations investing profits into local enterprises



##### BUSINESS VALUE

- Stronger supplier trust and loyalty
- Improved traceability and monitoring
- Better audit conditions and compliance readiness
- Reduced reputational and regulatory risk
- Stronger alignment with RSPO and HRDD expectations



### UGANDA — SUGAR & RICE SUPPLY CHAINS (2023–2026)

APT partnered with Platform for Labour Action (PLA), businesses, communities and local authorities to strengthen ESG accountability and reduce child labour across sugar and rice value chains in Eastern Uganda.

#### RESULTS



##### SUPPLY CHAIN ENGAGEMENT

- Awareness campaign reached **22,000+** business actors
- Private-sector-led self-regulation guidelines developed for sugar and rice sectors
- Stronger collaboration between businesses, communities and local government



##### HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE

- Three district child protection ordinances developed
- Local accountability and grievance systems strengthened
- **1300+** children taken out of child labour



##### LIVELIHOOD RESILIENCE

- **3,479** household heads trained in alternative livelihoods
- Families connected to VSLAs and local enterprise systems
- **300** children supported back into education
- **300** youth supported into apprenticeships



##### BUSINESS VALUE

- Improved supplier relationships and trust
- Stronger community accountability systems
- Greater due diligence readiness
- Better alignment between ESG policies and local implementation