



CLMRS Baseline Report

2021-2023

Beyond Cocoa



Contents

- Message from the Leadership 3
- Introduction 4
- Our CLMRS System & Impact 8
- Remediation Actions 13



Message from the Leadership

As we release our first Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Report, we are proud to reflect on the significant strides we have made since 2021 in addressing the pervasive issue of child labour in cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire. The gravity of this problem has been an impetus for change, and we are thrilled to share the progress we have achieved through unwavering dedication, hard work, and a commitment to social responsibility.

In Côte d'Ivoire, where cocoa is a cornerstone of the country's economy, the scourge of child labour has long cast a shadow over the industry. Since 2021, we embarked on a journey to confront this issue head-on, recognizing the moral imperative and our duty to ensure that the production of cocoa, a global delight, does not come at the expense of the well-being of our children.

Our relentless efforts have yielded tangible results, and this report is a testament to the transformative changes we have implemented. Through rigorous monitoring and remediation measures, we have not only identified instances of child labour but have actively intervened to provide support, rehabilitation, and educational opportunities for the affected children.

The road has been challenging, demanding collective resilience and a steadfast commitment to our social responsibility. We have worked closely with local communities, governmental bodies, and non-profit organizations to create a comprehensive framework that goes beyond mere compliance. By fostering sustainable practices, we are not only eliminating child labour but also nurturing a culture of ethical production that respects the rights and dignity of every individual involved in our supply chain.

This report is not just a compilation of statistics; it is a narrative of transformation. It reflects the dedication of our team, the collaboration with our partners, and the positive impact we are making on the lives of the children in our cocoa-producing regions. We have come so far, but our journey has just started. As we celebrate our achievements, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of social responsibility, ensuring that our impact continues to reverberate positively throughout Côte d'Ivoire and beyond.

We would like to thank our internal and external stakeholder for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to creating a world where the joy of cocoa is not tarnished by the shadows of child labour.

Sincerely,

Önem & pladis team

Introduction

Child labour in cocoa farming is a significant problem in Côte d'Ivoire, which is the world's largest cocoa producer, accounting for an estimated 45% of production. The typical Ivorian cocoa farm is small, and the farmer's annual household income is well below the poverty line, which leads to the use of child labour to keep prices competitive. The prevalence of child labour in the industry remained stable at 41% between 2013-14 and 2018-2019, even though cocoa production increased by 14%. Around 30% of children labouring on cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire do not attend school, which violates the ILO's Child Labour Standards.

To tackle child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire, the government has launched a new strategy to end child labour in cocoa farming and other sectors by raising women's incomes and building schools. The country's third national action plan against child labour will run from 2019-2021 at a cost of 76 billion CFA Francs (\$132 million). The plan goes further than previous strategies by tackling issues such as supply chain traceability and illegal plantations in protected forests.

Other initiatives to tackle child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire include:

Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System: We have developed our own system following the ICI guidelines.

Awareness raising: We engage the private sector to increase awareness of holistic approaches to children's rights, and to increase action to respect and support children's rights in cocoa growing and processing.

Community projects: We develop specific projects based on each communities' individual needs.

It is essential to continue to fight against the phenomenon of child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire. The government needs to modernize its borders and know who comes in and goes out. Empowering women and investing in education may not seem directly linked to child labour, but they are essential to breaking the cycle of poverty that leads to child labour.



MAIN CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR IN Côte d'Ivoire

The causes of child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire are complex and multifaceted. Some of the main causes are;

- **Poverty:** The typical Ivorian cocoa farm is small, and the farmer's annual household income is well below the poverty line, which leads to the use of child labour to keep prices competitive. Poverty forces families to rely on their children's labour to supplement their income.
- **Adult labour shortages:** The reliance on child labour by cocoa farmers is partly due to adult labour shortages. More labourers are needed precisely where they are not available, which results in more cocoa farmers relying on child labour.
- **Lack of access to education:** Around 30% of children labouring on cocoa farms in Ivory Coast do not attend school. Lack of access to education is a significant factor in child labour.
- **Trafficking:** Thousands of children work in cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire, some for their parents and some trafficked from abroad. Trafficking is a severe form of child labour and violates children's rights.
- **Weak law enforcement:** The prevalence of child labour is higher on more remote farms, which can be explained by weaker law enforcement in these areas. Weak law enforcement makes it easier for farmers to use child labour without consequences.

It is essential to address these causes to tackle child labour in cocoa farming in Ivory Coast. The government's new strategy to end child labour in cocoa farming and other sectors by raising women's incomes and building schools is a step in the right direction. Empowering women and investing in education may not seem directly linked to child labour, but they are essential to breaking the cycle of poverty that leads to child labour.

The minimum age requirement for children to work in cocoa farms in Ivory Coast is 18 years old for hazardous work, such as using a machete or handling agrochemicals. In 2017, Ivory Coast adopted a list of hazardous jobs prohibited for under-18s, and a list of work authorized for those aged between 13 and 16, which they can do when not in class. However, despite these laws, child labour remains a significant problem in the cocoa industry in Ivory Coast.

According to a report commissioned by the US Department of Labour and written by the research institute NORC at the University of Chicago, the proportion of children in Ivory Coast between the ages of five and 17 who work on cocoa farms has increased by 14 percentage points in the past decade, up from 31% to 45% of children living in the country. The report also notes that a large proportion of children in cocoa agriculture carry heavy loads, undertake land clearing, and are exposed to agrochemical products, which can cause injuries. It is essential to eliminate child labour in cocoa farming in Ivory Coast to protect children's rights and ensure that they have access to education and a better future.

TACKLING THE CHILD LABOUR ISSUES

Eliminating child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire is a complex issue that requires a miscellaneous approach. We have three main approaches to overcome the fundamental issues:

- **Education:** Building schools and educating children is the best way to stamp out child labour on Côte d'Ivoire cocoa farms. Education offers the best opportunity for children in Côte d'Ivoire to break the cycle of poverty. Encouraging community-led efforts to identify children at risk or in need, protect them, and improve their lives is a priority.
- **Empowering women:** Empowering women and raising their incomes may not seem directly linked to child labour, but they are essential to breaking the cycle of poverty that leads to child labour. Women's empowerment can help reduce child labour by increasing household income and reducing the need for children to work.
- **Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System:** The Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System was developed by leading companies. The system aims to identify and remediate child labour in the cocoa supply chain.

It is essential to continue to fight against the phenomenon of child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire. The government needs to modernize its borders and know who comes in and goes out. Collective action is needed by all stakeholders to eliminate child labour from the cocoa sector. The government also has a role to play in modernizing its borders to ensure that children are not trafficked across the border for labour. By working together, we can create a brighter future for the children of Côte d'Ivoire.

POVERTY IS THE MAIN OBSTACLE

Côte d'Ivoire may be one of West Africa's biggest economies, but the majority of its people have no share in the country's economic success. As of 2023, almost 40 per cent of the country's about 27 million people are living below the national poverty line; more than 40 per cent are food insecure.

Poverty is one of the main drivers of child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire and forces families to rely on their children's labour to supplement their income, making it difficult to eliminate child labour.

The poverty rate in Côte d'Ivoire is a significant challenge for the government in implementing policies to end child labour in cocoa farming. The government introduced a \$22 million scheme in 2011 to reduce the number of minors working on cocoa plantations by 70 percent by 2020, and to get more children into school. Building schools and educating children is the best way to stamp out child labour on Côte d'Ivoire cocoa farms. However, with school costs for books, uniform, and transport too expensive for many families, children are often pulled into work.

Empowering women and raising their incomes may not seem directly linked to child labour, but they are essential to breaking the cycle of poverty that leads to child labour. Poverty is a significant challenge for the government in implementing policies to end child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire. Collective action is needed by all stakeholders to progressively eliminate child labour from the cocoa sector.

HAZARDOUS WORK

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), child labour is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular schools, and is mentally, physically, socially, or morally harmful. The ILO sets the minimum age for work at 15 years (or 14 years for developing countries), and it defines hazardous work that is prohibited for anyone under the age of eighteen.

Working on a cocoa farm is hazardous for child workers due to several factors:

Physical hazards: Children working in cocoa harvesting are exposed to physical hazards without proper training or personal protective equipment. They often carry heavy loads, work with dangerous tools such as machetes, and climb cocoa trees to cut bean pods using a machete. These activities can lead to injuries, exhaustion, and physical pain.

Chemical hazards: Child laborers are exposed to hazardous agrochemicals used on cocoa farms³. They may handle and apply these chemicals without proper protection, leading to potential health risks and illnesses.

Long working hours: Child laborers in cocoa farming work long hours, with some being forced to work up to 14 hours a day. This can lead to exhaustion, fatigue, and negative impacts on their health and development.

The hazardous nature of the work exposes children to physical and chemical risks, leading to potential injuries, health issues, and negative impacts on their well-being. These conditions highlight the urgent need to address child labour in cocoa farming to ensure the safety and well-being of children.



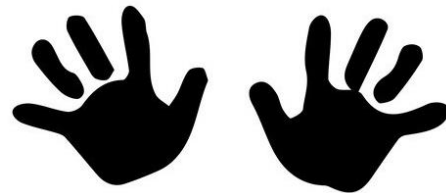
Our CLMRS System & Impact

THE SCOPE OF OUR CLMRS SYSTEM

Our target: 100% of farmers from partner Coops in Côte d'Ivoire to be covered by Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) to prevent, monitor and remediate Child Labour.

Definition of Dangerous Work

- Clearing
- Tree felling
- Plot burning
- Hunting game with a weapon
- Woodcutting
- Charcoal production
- Stump removal
- Harvesting
- Debudding with a machete or other sharp tool
- Harvesting with a machete or sickle
- Handling agrochemicals
- Driving motorized equipment
- Carrying heavy loads
- Night work



Our CLMRS Workflow

HOUSEHOLD VISITS & QUESTIONNAIRE

Data collection method: visits, interviews and observations

RECOGNITION OF CHILD LABOUR & GIVING AWARENESS

In case of child labour; instant awareness is given to the family

PLANTATION VISITS & SENSITIZATION

detailed awareness is given to the family

DATA ANALYSIS

REMEDIATION ACTIONS

Step 1 – Household Visits: Our CLMRS agents and coop facilitators visit the households of the cooperative farmers to make observations and conduct surveys. In case of child labour signs, instant awareness is given to the family. The data is collected through Farmforce mobile app.

Step 2 – Farm Visits: Follow-up visits are done by our CLMRS agents and coop facilitators at the plantations to identify the children who are at risk of doing hazardous work.

Step 3 – Sensitization: The CLMRS agents discuss the current situation and explains the hazardous actions and why their children must be avoided from them.

Step 4 – Data Analysis: Data analysis is done to identify the main cause of child labour and focus on individual solutions. Gather more information about the children and focus on why and how to resolve the situation.

Step 5 – Remediation Actions: Based on individual & community solutions, remediation actions start.

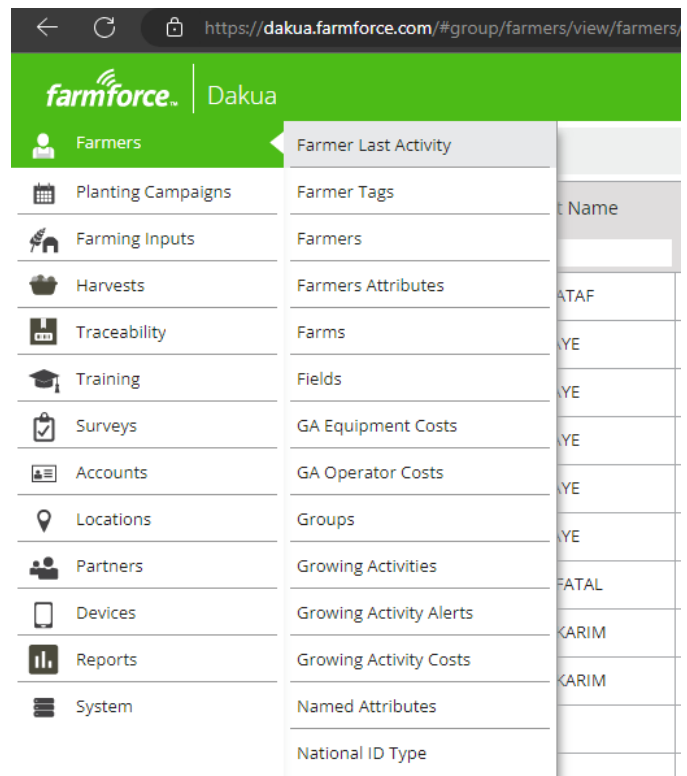


Surveys are done through Farmforce mobile apps by our CLMRS agents and data is collected in the system.

This way we collect all necessary information on;

- **Child labour**
- **Farmer & community needs**

and focus on remediation actions and community projects accordingly.



Our Farmforce dashboard of DAKUA cooperative

International Cocoa Initiative's child labour questionnaire is our guidance, and we enhanced the questionnaires;

- **Detailed farmer survey**
 - Family details
 - Access to community services (education, water, healthcare etc.)
 - Children identification (labour cases, lack of IDs, education status etc.)
 - Living Income (production per year, cooperative payments, farmer welfare etc.)
 - Farm surveys
 - Farmer Group survey done at the farm visits
 - Identification of the children and child labour in the farmer group

- **Child labour tracking survey (Follow-up)**
 - This survey is carried out at the follow-up visit in case of identified child labour

- **School survey**
 - This survey's answers are obtained from the schools in the localities visited.
 - Number of children with birth certificates
 - Student statistics

- **Locality survey**
 - Questionnaire intended to collect information relating to the farmer villages.
 - Information on the district (access to electricity, internet, roads, health facilities, agricultural products, education)

- **Community Awareness survey**
 - Posters, flyers, educational films are shown to the farmers
 - Themes covered: dangerous work, light work

Name	Type of survey	Questions	Responses	Pending Actions	Map	Comments
QUESTIONNAIRE MENAGE	Farmer Survey	183	1528		1512 (map)	Ce questionnaire est à renseigner pour tous les producteurs de la base de données de la coopérative
QUESTIONNAIRE MENAGE (copy 1)	Farmer Survey	177	0		0	Ce questionnaire est à renseigner pour tous les producteurs de la base de données de la coopérative
QUESTIONNAIRE PLANTATION	Farmer Group Survey	99	20		19 (map)	Ce questionnaire est à renseigner lors des visites de plantations
SSRTE FICHE D - SUIVI/TRACKING D'ENFANT TRAVAILLEUR	Farmer Survey	59	15		8 (map)	Cette fiche est à renseigner dès qu'un enfant a été observé et/ou a déclaré exécuter au moins une activité dangereuse. Ensuite, elle doit être mise à jour tous les 6 mois, jusqu'à ce que l'enfant soit déclaré comme n'exerçant plus d'activité dangereuse au c
QUESTIONNAIRE ECOLE	Farmer Group Survey	50	8		8 (map)	Ce questionnaire est à renseigner auprès des écoles des localités visitées
QUESTIONNAIRE LOCALITE	Farmer Group Survey	31	22	0	21 (map)	Questionnaire destiné à la collecte d'information relative à la localité. Les informations seront collectées jusqu'au niveau du village.
QUESTIONNAIRE SENSIBILISATION COMMUNAUTAIRE	Farmer Survey	18	0		0	

Our Farmforce dashboard of COODIG cooperative

Initial Farmer Surveys

The initial farmer surveys are carried out within the confines of their family households. This survey, deemed as one of the most exhaustive in our repertoire, encompasses a total of 183 questions. The primary focus of the survey revolves around the meticulous examination of various aspects, including family details, access to community services (such as education, water, healthcare, etc.), identification of children (addressing concerns like child labour cases, absence of identification documents, educational status, etc.), and an in-depth analysis of living income aspects (covering production per annum, cooperative payments, farmer welfare, etc.).

Families (household) visited / interviewed	COODIG	DAKUA	SCOOPAG	total
Number of families (household) visited / interviewed	1550	915	127	2592
Percentage of farmer covered by a least one visit (%)	99,30	99,13	11,72	72,65

The women farmer surveys has also begun On the field, we gather information about their families, educational background, marital status, socio-economic situation, access to facilities, association memberships and we listen to their needs. We promote transparency in wage structures and ensure that women receive equitable compensation for their contributions.

Woman farmer survey	COODIG
Number of Women Surveyed	41
Women farmer covered in coop	100%



Women farmers surveyed at the COODIG cooperative, 2023

Main KPIs	SCORES							
	COODIG		DAKUA		SCOPAAG		TOTAL	
	Done	Target	Done	Target	Done	Target	Done	Target
Total Number of Families visited	1561	1561	923	923	127	1084	2592	3568
Total Number of Children monitored	2876		1540		288		4704	
Number of children identified with CL and currently in the system	210		421		54		685	
Total families received CLMRS awareness training	210		421		54		685	



Mobile healthcare project done in November 2023, Guiberoua, Cote D'Ivoire

Remediation Actions

Our remediation actions mainly consist of:

- Healthcare services for mother & their children
- Providing birth certificates
- Training/awareness on child labour
- School kit distribution
- Schools/canteens built or refurbished
- Parental literacy training
- Other community services



A children's event from our school renovation project done in March 2023, Guiberoua, Cote D'Ivoire

OUR 2023 PROGRESS

Catalysing Change: A Commitment to End Child Labour through Remediation and Education Initiatives

In the heart of the cocoa-producing Guiberoua region in Ivory Coast, our commitment to sustainable and ethical practices goes beyond cocoa procurement. Beyond Cocoa, our initiative aimed at fostering positive change, encapsulates a transformative project with COODIG, our longstanding cooperative partner. While the overarching goal is to tackle the pervasive issue of child labour, our focus extends to the core elements of remediation actions, particularly the imperative of ensuring every child's right to education.



Our school renovation project done in March 2023, Guiberoua, Cote D'Ivoire

Child labour remains a complex challenge, often rooted in socio-economic disparities and lack of educational opportunities. Recognizing this, our project underscores the pivotal role of remediation actions in breaking the cycle of child labour. Beyond the immediate cessation of exploitative practices, remediation empowers us to address the root causes, placing a special emphasis on education.

Education stands as a beacon of hope, offering children the chance to break free from the constraints of poverty and limited opportunities. By prioritizing education within our remediation efforts, we not only advocate for the immediate welfare of the children involved but also actively contribute to the long-term eradication of child labour. Each child provided with access to quality education becomes a testament to our collective commitment to building a sustainable future.

Furthermore, the improvement of school conditions is intrinsic to our strategy. Our belief is rooted in the understanding that a conducive and supportive learning environment is indispensable for the holistic development of a child. We recognize that merely removing a child from hazardous work is not enough; ensuring their education takes place in a safe, nurturing, and inspiring setting is equally crucial.

This narrative explores the significance of our remediation actions, delving into the profound importance of prioritizing education and enhancing school conditions in our pursuit to eradicate child labour. Through this holistic approach, we strive not only to alleviate the immediate consequences but to sow the seeds of enduring change, nurturing a generation empowered through education and unburdened by the shadows of exploitation.

Distribution of school kits

- **2021:** 54 school kits
- **2022:** 78 school kits
- **2023:** 1200 school kits (October 2023)

Distribution of school benches

- **2021:** 140 bench tables

Önem's School Renovation Project in BILAHIO region:

- School canteen construction
- production of 80 school table bench for the classes and tables and benches for the canteen.
- Restrooms construction of a building (They are 386 school children)
- Renovation of the 12 classrooms of the school EPP BIHALIO.
- Includes floors and painting of the school.



School kit distribution, September 2023

The Importance School Renovation Project in the BILAHIO region was successfully executed, highlighting our commitment to community development in Côte d'Ivoire. The project encompassed the construction of a school canteen, production of 80 school table benches for classrooms, as well as tables and benches for the canteen. Additionally, a new building was constructed to provide restrooms for the 386 school children. The renovation effort extended to all 12 classrooms of the BIHALIO school, involving comprehensive upgrades such as flooring and painting, ensuring a conducive and vibrant learning environment for the students.

Mobile Healthcare Project

The significance of social responsibility initiatives targeted at women becomes particularly pronounced in the prevention and remediation of child labour. By addressing the health and well-being of women in cocoa-producing regions, we contribute significantly to breaking the cycle of child labour and fostering sustainable change.



The mobilized health services provided in this project play a pivotal role in mitigating the factors that contribute to child labour. By offering health screenings, consultations, and awareness programs to women, we not only enhance their overall well-being but also empower them with the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions for their families. Healthy and informed mothers are better equipped to create environments where their children can thrive without resorting to child labour.



Moreover, the focus on women extends beyond individual health to family planning, which plays a crucial role in reducing the economic pressure that can lead to child labour. Empowering women with family planning resources enables them to make choices aligned with their family's well-being and financial stability.





In the context of child labour prevention and remediation, the distribution of menstrual and hygiene kits to adolescent girls is a strategic move. By addressing the unique needs of young girls and providing education on menstrual health, we contribute to breaking barriers that might otherwise hinder their education and personal development. This, in turn, reduces the likelihood of early school dropout and involvement in child labour.



In summary, the social responsibility initiatives directed at women, coupled with the provision of mobile health services, not only improve the immediate health outcomes for women but also play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of child labour by empowering women with knowledge, resources, and the ability to make choices that positively impact their families and communities.

On November 23-25, 2023, as part of Beyond Cocoa, we conducted a social responsibility project at the COODIG cooperative in the Guiberoua region of Côte d'Ivoire, one of our long-term partners in cocoa procurement.

During this initiative, which provided mobile health services, health screenings and awareness programs were conducted for cocoa farmers and their children over a three-day period in three different regions of the cooperative. Our project partner was "Sauvons2vies" (English: Saving 2 Lives), a civil society organization based in Abidjan, and their activities were carried out under our leadership.



The first two days included consultations for approximately 500 women on pre and post-pregnancy care, family planning, screening for precancerous cells, and tests and awareness programs on chronic diseases. Men received diabetes detection, blood pressure measurement, and HIV testing.

On the final day of the event, menstrual and hygiene kits were distributed to adolescent girls in middle and high school, accompanied by educational sessions on the topic.