

Child protection in cocoa growing communities

Child-centred community development is an essential counterpart to productivity investments for cocoa sustainability.

Key facts

 **60%**
40%

More boys than girls are engaged in child labour in cocoa-growing communities



In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, 98% of child labourers in the agricultural sector **work on their family farm**



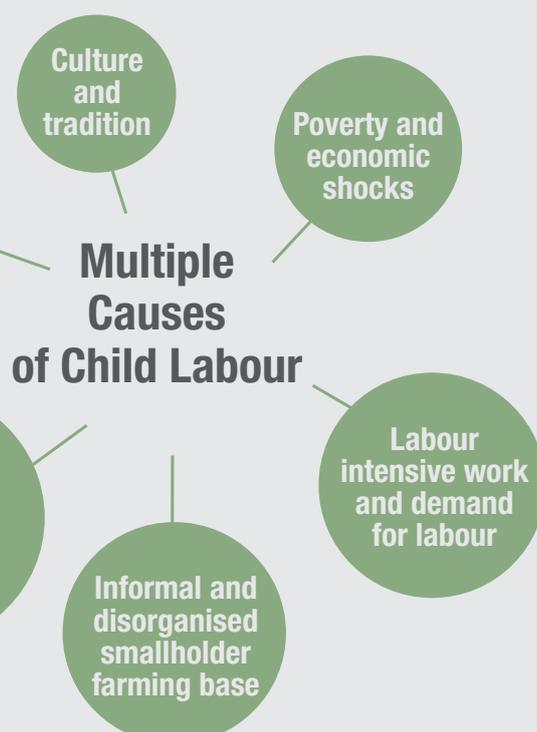
In the cocoa sector, children in the age group 14-17 years are more likely **to be engaged in child labour**



Out of every 10 children in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, **3 children are engaged in child labour**

20.9 km

The **average distance to the nearest junior secondary school** for children in ICI surveyed communities in Côte d'Ivoire is 20.9 km



Good practices

Child Labour Prevention

Child-Centred Community Development is an essential counterpart to productivity investments for cocoa sustainability, ensuring that increases in income are combined with empowerment and improved access to basic services.

Lessons learned on Child-Centred Community Development

- Community awareness-raising is an essential building block to preventing child labour. This should be interactive, use various platforms and ensure that the key differences between household work and child labour are understood at the community level. In isolation, awareness-raising can be off-putting and should always be accompanied by tangible changes within communities.
- Building partnerships with local governments, businesses and civil society can increase empowerment and community ownership while generating resources to meet children's needs in a coordinated and holistic manner.
- Improved access to quality education and vocational training is important in reducing child labour. Provision of school meals and other social protection incentives for families can increase school attendance; however schooling is often insufficient to ensure children's non-participation in child labour or hazardous tasks.
- Articulation, resourcing and implementation of community development plans which prioritise child welfare, can deliver tangible improvements in gender empowerment and child protection. However, community child protection structures must be representative and women, children and youth should participate in decision-making, which prioritise child welfare, can deliver tangible improvements in gender empowerment and child protection. However, community child protection structures must be representative and women, children and the youth should participate in community decision-making.