

Comparative analysis of child labour decrees in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

Key concepts and definitions

Light Work

Not all work done by children is classified as child labour targeted for elimination. Children's or adolescents' participation in economic work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with / prejudice their schooling or their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes is generally regarded as positive.

This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays for a few hours and under adult supervision. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and the welfare of their families. It provides them with skills and experience, and prepares them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

Child Labour

The term "child labour" is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially and/or morally harmful to children. It interferes with their schooling by:

- depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
- obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
- requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Worst Forms of Child labour (WFCL)

"Worst forms of child labour" covers four major categories:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (hazardous work).

"[...] Research efforts revealed that although some unconditional WFCL such as child trafficking and *Trokosi* exist [in Ghana], the predominant form of the WFCL is hazardous child labour."¹

¹ Hazardous Child Labour Activity Framework for Ghana [HAF], 2016

	Ghana HAF (2016)	CIV Decree N°2017-016 and 017 MEPS/CAB (2017)																																							
Minimum age																																									
Socializing light work under adult guidance	5-12 years	13-15 years																																							
Light work (but cannot be employed)	13-14 years	13-15 years																																							
Normal/non-hazardous work (can be employed)	15-17 years	16-17 years (apprenticeship possible from 14 years)																																							
Hazardous activities	> 18 years	> 18 years (hazardous activities can be undertaken by children aged 16-17 under the condition that i) "their health, safety, and morals are guaranteed" and ii) that they have received a specific and adequate training or vocational training in relation to the activity)																																							
Working hours for light work																																									
for children aged	13-14 years	13-15 years																																							
- # hours per day	- 2 hours/day	- 2 hours/day on school day (4 hours/day on non-school day)																																							
- # hours per week	- 14 hours/week	- 10 hours/week on school day (14 hours/week on non-school day)																																							
for children aged	15-17 years	16-17 years																																							
- # hours per day	- 8 hours/day	- 8 hours/day																																							
- # hours per week	- 42 hours/week	- 40 hours/week																																							
Night work																																									
	Prohibited between 6 PM and 6 AM	Prohibited between 7 PM and 7 AM																																							
Carrying Weight																																									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum 30% body weight for walking distances up to two miles (3km) - up to 50% of body weight for short distances (i.e. less than 1km) 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Types of loads</th> <th colspan="2">Boys</th> <th colspan="2">Girls</th> </tr> <tr> <th>14-15 years</th> <th>16-17 years</th> <th>14-15 years</th> <th>16-17 years</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Carrying of heavy loads</td> <td>15 Kg</td> <td>20 Kg</td> <td>8 Kg</td> <td>10 Kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport by railway cart</td> <td colspan="2">500 Kg vehicle included</td> <td colspan="2">300 Kg vehicle included</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport by wheelbarrow</td> <td colspan="2">40 Kg, veh. incl.</td> <td colspan="2">30 Kg, veh. incl.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport by a vehicle with 3 or 4 wheels</td> <td colspan="2">60 Kg, veh. incl.</td> <td colspan="2">35 Kg, veh. incl.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport by handcart</td> <td colspan="4">130 Kg, veh. incl.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport by a tricycle-carrier</td> <td>50Kg, veh. incl.</td> <td>75Kg, veh. incl.</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Types of loads	Boys		Girls		14-15 years	16-17 years	14-15 years	16-17 years	Carrying of heavy loads	15 Kg	20 Kg	8 Kg	10 Kg	Transport by railway cart	500 Kg vehicle included		300 Kg vehicle included		Transport by wheelbarrow	40 Kg, veh. incl.		30 Kg, veh. incl.		Transport by a vehicle with 3 or 4 wheels	60 Kg, veh. incl.		35 Kg, veh. incl.		Transport by handcart	130 Kg, veh. incl.				Transport by a tricycle-carrier	50Kg, veh. incl.	75Kg, veh. incl.		
Types of loads	Boys			Girls																																					
	14-15 years	16-17 years	14-15 years	16-17 years																																					
Carrying of heavy loads	15 Kg	20 Kg	8 Kg	10 Kg																																					
Transport by railway cart	500 Kg vehicle included		300 Kg vehicle included																																						
Transport by wheelbarrow	40 Kg, veh. incl.		30 Kg, veh. incl.																																						
Transport by a vehicle with 3 or 4 wheels	60 Kg, veh. incl.		35 Kg, veh. incl.																																						
Transport by handcart	130 Kg, veh. incl.																																								
Transport by a tricycle-carrier	50Kg, veh. incl.	75Kg, veh. incl.																																							

Hazardous Activities in Cocoa		
List of Activities	Ghana HAF (2016)	CIV Decree N°2017-016 and 017 MEPS/CAB (2017)
Clearing of forest	X	X
Felling of trees	X	X
Removing tree stumps	X	X
Digging holes		X
Bush burning	X	X
Sale, transportation, handling and application of agro-pharmaceutical products	X	X
Being present or working in the vicinity of farm during spraying of agrochemicals or re-entering a sprayed farm within less than 12 hours	X	
Using machetes/long cutlass for weeding or pruning	X	X
Climbing trees higher than 2.5metres to cut mistletoe or harvest or prune with sharp cutlass or implement	X	
Working with motorized farm machinery	X	X
Harvesting overhead cocoa pods with Malayan knife, axe or other implements	X	X
Breaking cocoa pods with sharp breaking knives	X	X
Working without adequate basic foot and body protective clothing	X	
Carrying heavy load beyond permissible carrying weight	X	X
child working alone on the farm in isolation	X	
Charcoal production and working as a lumberjack		X
Hunting		X