



CLMRS Progress Report

2024





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Message from the Leadership

As we enter the second year of our Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS), 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. Over the past two years, our efforts have evolved and scaled, achieving impactful progress through rigorous monitoring, targeted remediation actions, and collaboration with communities, cooperatives, and partners. This report highlights our journey so far and the transformative steps we are taking to create sustainable and ethical practices that prioritize children's rights and the well-being of cocoa farming communities.

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,

Ülker, Fildisi Cocoa and 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.





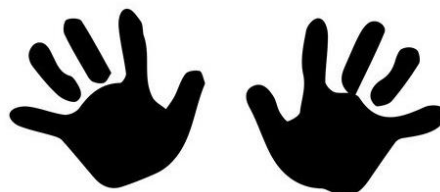
Our CLMRS System & Impact

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

REMEDIACTION 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.



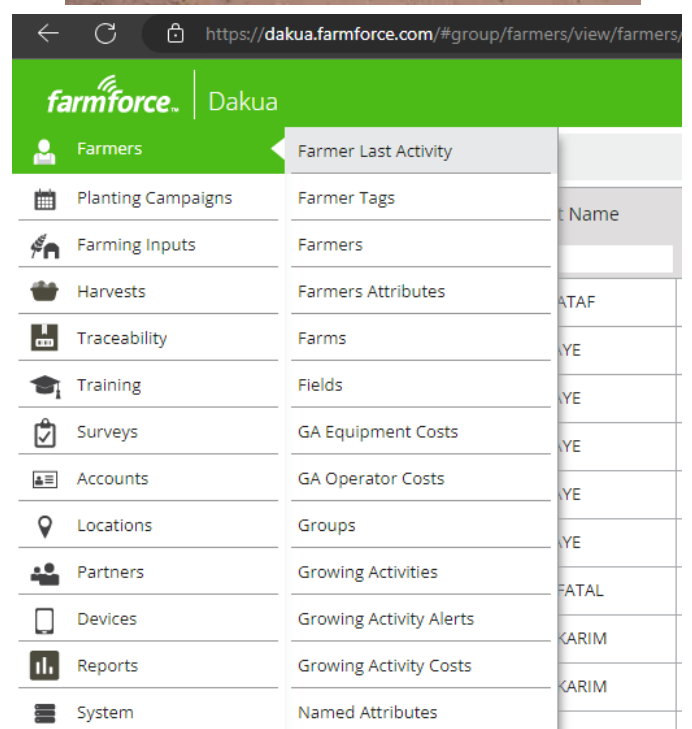
A family picture taken during our CLMRS household visits.

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

farmforce. COODIG		Buşra Tuğçe Özdemir		HELP		
Surveys > Surveys		Actions				
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	92	20		19 (map)	Ce questionnaire est à renseigner lors des visites de plantations
SSRTE FICHE D - SUIVI/TRACKING D'ENFANT TRAVAILLEUR	Farmer Survey	52	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 COMMU	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.).

Reach of our CLMRS System	2023	2024
Number of cooperatives in our CLMRS	3	4
Number of Community Liaison People (CLP)	8	8
Communities covered by our CLMRS (villages)	72	86
Farmers monitored by our CLMRS	2566	3557
Number of children being monitored	4635	7359
Number of children identified with child labor and currently in the system	546	601
Child labour rate	11,78%	8,17%

Hazardous activities	2023	2024
Garden Clearing	354	427
Tree felling	6	6
Plot burning	5	5
Hunting	4	4
Woodcutting	2	2
Charcoal production	2	2
Wood removal	10	10
Making holes in the ground	0	0
Debudding with a machete/sharp tool	143	143
Harvesting with a machete/sickle	137	137
Handling agrochemicals	17	17
Driving motorized vehicle/using motorized tools	7	7
Carrying heavy loads	277	277
Night work	12	12
Number of children who received at least one form of remediation	211	282
Number of children who were visited at least 2 times	0	279
Number of solved cases after 2 nd visit	0	275
Number of children still doing dangerous work	0	4



REMEDIATIONS	2023	2024
School kits distributed	1.200	3.764
Schools built or refurbished	2	3
School canteens built or refurbished	1	2
Tables benches built	80	228
People benefited from mobile healthcare system	1.188	1.320
Number of farmers received awareness on CL	2566	3557

Women Farmer Surveys

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	SCOOPAG
Number of Women Surveyed	41	56
Women farmer covered in coop	100%	100%



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

The remediation actions implemented within this program demonstrate a holistic approach to improving the lives of farmers and their families. These actions include providing healthcare services for mothers and children, carrying out household surveys and conducting training sessions on child labour awareness. Moreover, we support education by distributing school kits, building and/or refurbishing schools and canteens. These efforts are complemented by additional community services that address the unique needs of each area, fostering long-term societal growth.

The impact of these remediation actions is profound. By addressing fundamental needs such as health and education, Beyond Cocoa enhances the well-being and resilience of cocoa-farming communities. Investments in schools and literacy training strengthen educational foundations, ensuring that future generations are equipped with the skills needed for sustainable livelihoods. This integrated approach not only aligns with Ülker's sustainability vision but also contributes to the broader global goals of eradicating poverty and ensuring quality education, solidifying the program's role as a model for impactful and responsible business practices.

OUR 2024 PROGRESS

Mobile Healthcare Project Continues

As part of our commitment to community development and improving the health of cocoa farmers, Ülker and Fildisi Cocoa funded a mobile healthcare consultation in the **Gôh Region** from November 19 to November 23, 2024, in partnership with **ONGS2V**. This initiative aimed to address the healthcare needs of rural populations in Guiberoua while raising awareness among young girls about menstrual hygiene, a vital yet often overlooked subject crucial to their well-being and empowerment. Two sites in Guiberoua were selected: the villages of **Lébré** and **Tchogo**.



Objectives:

1. Facilitate access to healthcare for rural communities.
2. Raise awareness among young girls about the importance of menstrual hygiene and break associated taboos.
3. Distribute 500 reusable menstrual hygiene kits to promote sustainable management of menstruation.

Activity Overview:

Opening Ceremony

The event began with participation from local authorities (including the deputy sub-prefect), the village chief, the health authority representative, Fildisi Cocoa officials, and the president of ONGS2V. The ceremony, dubbed the **Cocoa Festival**, saw high community turnout, with the primary request being the construction of a health center in the village.

1. Deliverables:

- **Medical Team:** 1 doctor, 2 nurses, and 8 midwives.
- **Facilities:** Areas were set up for free medical consultations, awareness sessions, and distribution of menstrual hygiene kits.

- **Community Engagement:** Mobilization by ASC agents and community leaders.

2. Medical Consultations:

- **Services Provided:**
 - General consultations.
 - Prenatal care for pregnant women.
 - Contraceptive options.
 - Cervical cancer screenings.
 - Blood tests (urea, glucose, hemoglobin).
- **Medicine:** Essential drugs were distributed free of charge based on prescriptions.



3. Awareness Sessions:

Interactive workshops led by specialists addressed:

- Proper menstrual hygiene management.
 - Best practices for using reusable kits.
 - Dispelling myths and misconceptions about menstruation.
- Participants shared experiences and asked questions, fostering open dialogue.



4. Distribution of Menstrual Hygiene Kits:

- **500 kits** were distributed (200 in Lébré and 300 at Zomadré College), including reusable sanitary pads, storage pouches, cotton underwear, and user guides.
- Practical demonstrations were provided to ensure proper use and maintenance of the kits.



Results:

Activity	Number of Community Member Benefited
General consultations	398
Prenatal care	56
Contraceptive services	104
Menstrual hygiene kits	500
Cervical cancer screenings	38
People sensitized	1320



Impact:

1. Health Impact:

- 10% increase in attendance from 2023 to 2024.
- 500 adolescent girls equipped to better manage their menstrual cycles.
- Reduced risk of infections caused by poor menstrual hygiene management.

2. Social Impact:

- Strengthened confidence among young girls to manage menstruation with dignity.
- Community-wide awareness of menstrual hygiene, reducing social stigmas.





Supporting Farmer Families and Children: Addressing Child Labor in Cocoa Farming

Child labor remains a significant challenge in cocoa farming, particularly in West Africa, where approximately 1.56 million children are engaged in such practices. Contributing factors include poverty, lack of access to education, and insufficient awareness of child rights among farming communities.



Our Actions

In alignment with our commitment to the Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS), we launched a series of initiatives to support farmer families and protect children from exploitative labor practices:

- **Monitoring and Awareness:** A dedicated field team worked directly with cocoa-farming families to monitor for risks of child labor and raise awareness. Educational sessions were conducted to inform families about the importance of education and the consequences of child labor, fostering a cultural shift toward child protection.
- **Improving Educational Infrastructure:** To create a supportive environment for learning, we provided 140 school desks and renovated two schools, offering children a safe and conducive space to study.

REMEDIATIONS	2022	2023	2024
Schools built or refurbished	1	2	3

- **School Kit Distribution:** Over the past four years, we have significantly scaled up the distribution of school kits, supplying essential learning materials:

Year	Number of School Kits Distributed
2021	54
2022	78
2023	1,2
2024	3,764





Impact and Outreach



By 2024, we successfully established a network that directly reached 3,572 families within our cocoa-supplying cooperatives. This network is instrumental in building trust, ensuring participation, and extending the reach of our initiatives.

Through the network we established, by 2024, we directly reached 3,572 families within the cooperatives from which we source cocoa.

These initiatives aim to mitigate the root causes of child labor by enhancing educational infrastructure, increasing access to learning materials, and fostering community awareness. By addressing these fundamental issues, we strive to create a safer and more supportive environment for children in cocoa-farming communities.

REMEDIATIONS	2023	2024
School-based remediations		
School kit distributions	1.200	4.016
Schools built or refurbished	2	3
Table benches	80	450
School canteen construction	1	2
Income-generating activities & in-kind support	0	135
Wheelbarrows & agricultural kits distributed	0	135
Farmers & their families benefited from mobile healthcare families	497	513