



GLOBAL MARCH

Against Child Labour
Contra el Trabajo Infantil
Contre le Travail des Enfants

CHILD LABOUR IN COCOA FARMING IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE



REPORT OF THE SCOPING MISSION CONDUCTED BY
GLOBAL MARCH AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

January - February 2013

Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by the International Secretariat of the Global March Against Child Labour under the overall guidance of Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson, and Cleophas Mally, Governing Board Member.

The report depends on the valuable insights of the representatives in Côte d'Ivoire.

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Foreword

Child labour is the biggest scandal of our times. It is a blatant denial of human rights, social and economic crime, a development disaster and a horrific sin against humanity. There cannot be any excuse to tolerate this evil.

Most of us knowingly or unknowingly use products made by children under exploitative and inhuman conditions. I have met child slaves as young as eight years stitching footballs whose only dream was to kick a ball just once. Children making garments for others in asphyxiating sweatshops only dream about donning such clothes. Children with burns and injuries inflicted on their tender bodies while working in brick kilns and stone quarries never ever get a chance to live in houses made of those bricks.

Every time I meet such children I am ashamed and angry. On 02 February 2013 while interacting with children in a remote cocoa farming community of Côte d'Ivoire, I had similar emotions when the village children upon asking told me that they had never tasted a chocolate. Most of them were working full time or part time in cocoa fields; growing and harvesting cocoa bean – the key ingredient of our eclectic delight.

They were among the 1,237,911¹ child labourers in Côte d'Ivoire. Thanks to Senator Tom Harkin for his visionary and dynamic leadership in the global fight against child labour. The Harkin Engel Protocol is the prime-mover for multiple initiatives in combating worst forms of child labour. I have the privilege of being associated with him for our shared mission for over two decades, and also being a founding member of International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) – a unique multi-stakeholder coalition. ICI has undertaken several interesting efforts in bringing this issue in the social and political domain with a significant community outreach. Also, there are several other actors as well who are contributing on ground.

Despite all the efforts and best intentions child labour in cocoa farming continues to be a matter of grave concern for everybody. Against this backdrop Global March Against Child Labour (Global March) decided to undertake a scoping mission for gathering information from the ground, and explore the possibilities for effective, expeditious and sustainable solutions that would feed into the existing efforts.

This mission was undertaken by Mr. Cleophas Mally, Board Member and Regional Coordinator of Global March, Francophone Africa, and Director WAO-Afrique and I from 29 January to 02 February 2013.

During our mission we identified several enabling factors and gaps, which need to be addressed rather urgently. On one hand there are the pressing issues related to coordination, communication and messaging, capacity, accountability, participation, clarity, time-bound approach, infrastructure and resourceability, access, inclusivity, equity and quality in education etc. On the other there are enablers like the First Lady's Initiative substantiated with her personal involvement and passion, genuine interest among some industry members, financial and technical support of United States Department of Labor (USDOL) through International Labour Organization (ILO), support from Global Partnership for Education (GPE), emerging civil society, conducive political environment and above all The Harkin-Engel Protocol having enormous potential to put an end to child labour.

On behalf of Global March Against Child Labour, I extend sincerest gratitude to Mrs. Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for providing us the opportunity to discuss about possible interventions that we could undertake in conjunction with her office.

1. National Survey on Household Living Standards (NSHLS, 2008)

Further, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Rosemary Gutierrez from the office of Senator Harkin for helping us in reaching out to and organising the meeting with the First Lady and her Cabinet.

I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Jeffrey N. Morgan, Director- Global Programmes, Mars Incorporated for not only joining in during the scoping mission but also facilitating field visits, interaction and meetings with community members in remote parts of Côte d'Ivoire.

We earnestly hope that this report will be useful in translating good intentions and efforts of various stakeholders into speedy and tangible results on the ground.

Lukku an ordinary farmer of village Petit d' Bouake says "Education for our children is a must so that they can grow up to become doctors, teachers, businessmen and rich, but child labour is the obstacle". While a 12-year-old child labourer in village Petit Djene aspires to become the village head if given an opportunity to be educated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kailash". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kailash Satyarthi
Chairperson

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Purpose and rationale of the scoping mission	1
Background	3
▪ About Côte d'Ivoire	3
▪ Situation of children in Côte d'Ivoire	4
▪ Education in Côte d'Ivoire	4
▪ Child Labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire	5
Legislative and institutional framework related to child labour, trafficking and education in Côte d'Ivoire	7
Important initiatives to combat child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire	9
▪ Harkin-Engel Protocol	9
▪ National Monitoring Committee for Actions to Fight against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour, National Oversight Committee	10
▪ Children of Africa Foundation	10
▪ International Cocoa Initiative	10
▪ World Cocoa Foundation	11
▪ International Cocoa Verification Board	11
▪ Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy	11
▪ Child Labour Cocoa Coordinating Group	11
▪ ANADER - Le Partenaire Privilégié du monde rural	12
▪ Tulane University's Payson Centre for International Development and Technology Transfer' project	12
Some of the important meetings and site visits held in Côte d'Ivoire	13
Discussions and experiences shared on efforts to eliminate child labour and child trafficking for forced labour	14
▪ Meeting with the National Oversight Committee for Actions to Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour	14
▪ Triangular Paradigm of Child Labour, Illiteracy and Poverty	14
▪ Child Friendly Village	14
▪ Social Labelling initiatives	16
▪ Conditional Cash Transfer Schemes	17
▪ School Feeding Programmes	18
▪ Public Awareness Campaigns	19
▪ Rehabilitation and remediation of child labourers and child victims of trafficking	19

Observations, enabling factors and gaps identified by Global March	20
▪ Observations	20
▪ Enabling factors for eliminating child labour in Côte d'Ivoire	22
▪ The main gaps identified	24
Recommendations for bridging the gaps	27
Meeting with the First Lady of Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	29
▪ Suggested interventions	30
▪ Global March's proposal for sustainable action	30
 Annexure 1	 31
Annexure 2	32

Executive Summary

Elimination of child labour in agriculture is one of the strategic focus areas that Global March Against Child Labour (hereforth, Global March) had identified for policy and programmatic interventions for the period 2012-2016. This had been outlined in the Framework of Action that evolved out of the International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture that was held in Washington D.C., USA from 28 to 30 July 2012.

Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, a West African nation is the leading supplier of cocoa accounting for more than 40 percent of global production.² However, cocoa is mired with the distinction of having rampant child labour. Global March undertook a scoping mission to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in January – February 2013 to gain an in depth knowledge about child labour in cocoa growing sector; existing interventions of various stakeholders for fighting child labour; identifying the gaps in sustainable withdrawal; protection and prevention of child labour in the cocoa farming sector. With the promulgation of Harkin-Engel Protocol, the efforts towards elimination of the worst forms child labour in cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire and the neighbouring cocoa producing country of Ghana were initiated.

The socio-political crisis that marred Côte d'Ivoire in the first decade of this century had left the children and vulnerable sections of the society exposed to unabated exploitation and violence. With the new President Alassane Ouattara in 2011 the nation is picking up pace for restoring political and human rights, but a stable political and economic situation would be the foundation for sustainable action towards child labour free cocoa. While the interventions and activities undertaken in Côte d'Ivoire have shown discernible results there were many areas with a scope of improvement for catalysing the fight against child labour in the cocoa production.

The scoping mission was undertaken with the clear objectives of gaining on ground experiences through interactions with the key stakeholders and community members on the situation of child labour in Côte d'Ivoire, identifying the key strengths and gaps and proposing comprehensive strategies for tackling child labour in cocoa production in the country.

An overview of the country's socio-political background, the legislative framework, the range of stakeholders and actors and their roles and initiative, formed the background for the discussions with the Ivoirian First Lady and her Cabinet, the responsible government officials, intergovernmental agencies and their representatives, teachers representatives, community workers, families and children during the scoping mission. Based on knowledge and experiences, possible intervention strategies and emerging good practices were elaborated during the proposals to the different stakeholder and actors.

The main **observations** of the scoping mission are:

- Child labour is still a serious problem in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire
- Traditional belief and practices about the maturity of girls are prevalent within the society
- The quality of education is poor leading to poor learning among the pupils
- Majority of the farmers are illiterate and unskilled
- Country has a swelling population with poor reproductive rights
- Growing independence among women is symbolic of a progressive society
- Social disconnect among the social and community workers and the community

The key **enablers** identified were:

- Active commitment of the First Lady in the fight against child labour and trafficking
- The renewed National Action Plan 2012-2014 of Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour

2. <http://www.cacao.gouv.ci/index.php?rubrique=1.1.6&langue=en>, accessed on 8 April 2013

- Reaffirmed commitment to the Harkin-Engel Protocol and the Declaration of Joint Action to support the implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol and its accompanying Framework
- Intergovernmental and international organisations including NGOs and donor agencies were action in Côte d'Ivoire
- ILO-IPEC action for elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Côte d'Ivoire and the child labour monitoring systems
- Presence of multi-stakeholder initiative working to address child labour in cocoa production
- Other development initiatives by the chocolate/cocoa industry
- Strong focus on national education sector plan and the partnership with the Global Partnership for Education

The main **gaps** identified were:

- Poor and inadequate coordination between various agencies
- Lack of capacity at sub-national levels
- Lack of genuine commitment and adequate funding support by cocoa and chocolate industry
- Incoherent messaging by government and civil society organisations
- Low level of involvement of the Development Committees
- Insufficient responsibility and accountability among cooperatives and monitoring agencies
- Multiplicity of social certification systems in cocoa production causing confusion
- Uneven transformation from hazardous working conditions for adolescent to decent working conditions for youth
- Lack of participation of children and youth
- Poor social and education infrastructure

Key **recommendations** for bridging the gaps:

- Strengthening the primary as well as secondary education system, and including teachers' as partners in the growth story
- Regular capacity building, sensitisation and orientation of stakeholders on trafficking, child labour and forced labour
- Substituting hazardous child labour with decent work for youth
- Uniform messaging and communication for development
- Effective remediation of child labour and child victims of trafficking
- Strengthening socially responsive and accountable community groups
- Active participation of children and youth in education and community development
- Developing robust, accountable and transparent monitoring and certification mechanism
- Sustaining efforts towards poverty eradication with income generation prospects for women empowerment

Purpose and rationale of the scoping mission

International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture convened by Global March Washington D.C., USA on 28-30 July 2012 prioritised the organisation's focus on elimination of child labour in the agriculture and allied activities. Agriculture and allied activities employs 60 percent³ of the world's child labourers totalling to about 130 million children. The sector remains the most neglected in terms of policy framework and remedial interventions. The situation is exacerbated with the rate of decline in child labour that has slowed over the last few years registering a mere 3 per cent decline during 2004 and 2008. Amidst financial upheaval in the last few years there are fears that the declining trend of child labour may actually reverse.



Global March has been concerned about the continuing menace of child labour in the cocoa farming sector of Côte d'Ivoire since its early days. Following its *Chocolate Campaign in 2001* and the call for collaborative action to abolish child labour from cocoa farming across the world and particularly in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the worlds' largest cocoa producing nations, Global March is a founding member of the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI). ICI is a multi-stakeholder initiative constituted in 2002 to oversee and sustain efforts to eliminate worst forms of child labour and forced labour in the growing and processing of cocoa beans and their derivative products.

In its recent endeavours Global March and through its strategic framework of action will lay specific emphasis on child labour in agriculture and allied activities, and support the development of sustainable and replicable model for elimination of child labour and promotion of education in target countries, including Côte d'Ivoire.

Kailash Satyarthi, the Chair of Global March has been a board member of ICI since its inception. Cleophas Mally, Member of the Governing Board of Global March and the Regional Coordinator for Francophone Africa; Director WAO-Afrique is also a board member and one of the co-chairs of ICI. Global March through regular board meetings of ICI participates in the decision-making and policy efforts towards child labour elimination and the challenges faced in the ICI programme.

Further Global March remains committed to ensure that the Harkin–Engel Protocol⁴ which was initiated in 2001 with the core objective of developing voluntary, industry-wise standards of certification and the subsequent Declaration of Joint Action of Support and implementation of the Protocol and its accompanying framework of action are implemented in true spirit and substance.

3. <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Agriculture/lang--en/index.htm>

4. Full name: Protocol for the Growing and Processing of Cocoa Beans and Their Derivative Products In an Manner that Complies with the ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour

In light of the above, Mr Kailash Satyarthi and Mr Cleophas Mally undertook a scoping mission to Côte d'Ivoire from 29 January-03 February 2013 with the following objectives:

- a) To gain recent understanding on the situation of child labour in Côte d'Ivoire, its plausible causes and the actions adopted by various stakeholders for addressing the menace vis-à-vis the existing legislative and policy framework for combating child labour.
- b) To review the conditions at community level with an endeavour to review strategies for instilling a child friendly approach and giving impetus to socio-economical empowerment of the vulnerable sections.
- c) To understand the roles and capacities of stakeholders and institutions relevant to child labour in cocoa growing and identify gaps in the sustainable withdrawal, protection and prevention of child labour;
- d) To suggest efforts to strengthen all ongoing interventions for eliminating child labour made by all state and non-state actors, especially the First Lady Initiative and suggest new strategies for abolition of child labour from cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire.

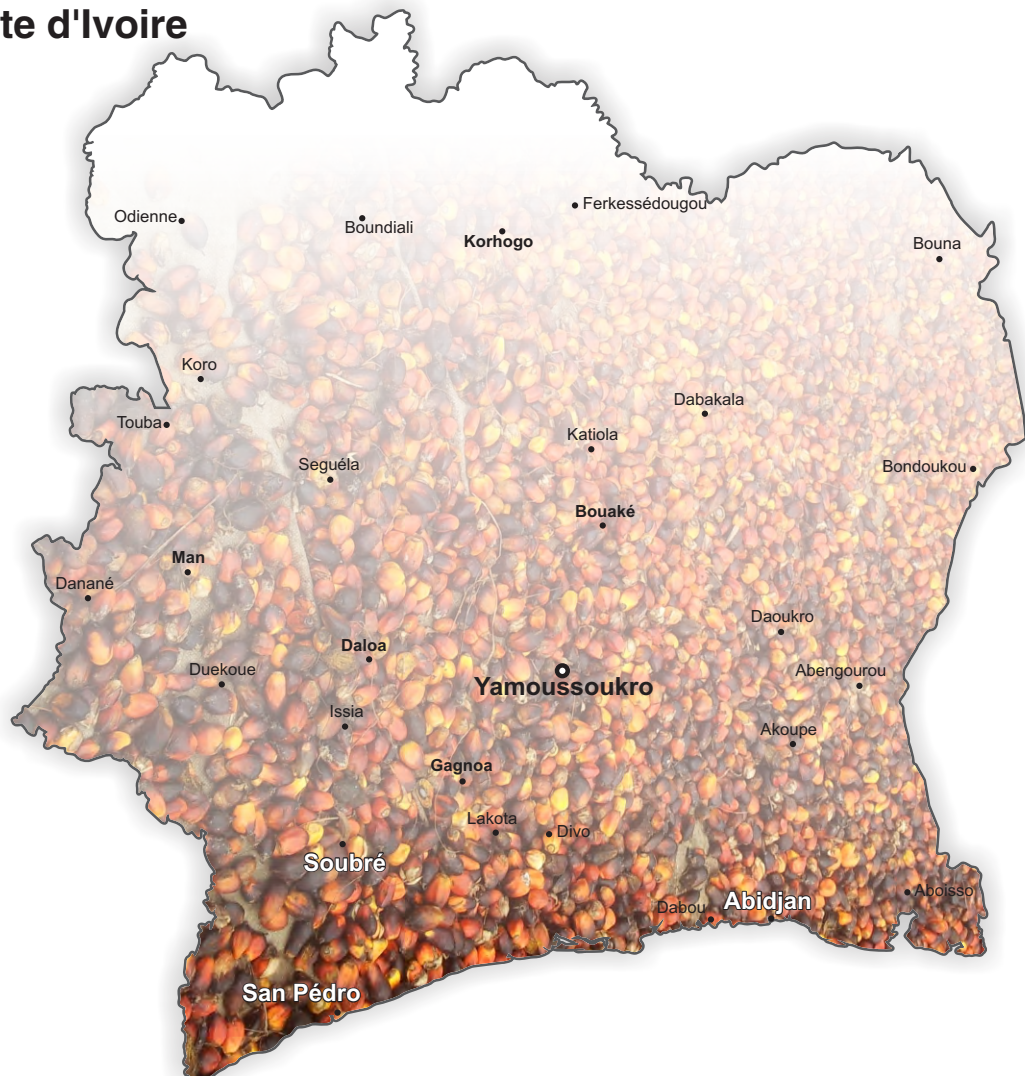
Mars Inc. had participated in the Global March's International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture and had expressed interest in Global March's active participation in policy advocacy and grassroots interventions for elimination of child labour from cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire. With this, the Global March proposed for a country visit to Côte d'Ivoire to explore collaborative, effective and sustainable interventions for addressing child labour in the cocoa-producing sector. Mars Inc. facilitated the local site visits and meetings in the interiors of the State of Subre. Mr. Jeffrey N. Morgan, Director- Global Programmes, Mars Inc and Board Member and Co-Chair of ICI coordinated the field visits as well as participated in the visits with the Global March delegation.

Acknowledging serious efforts being made by the First Lady and her Cabinet to address the problem of child labour in the country, Ms. Rosemary Gutierrez, Legislative Assistant to Senator Harkin's supported the meeting with the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire Mrs. Dominique Ouattara and senior authorities.



Background

About Côte d'Ivoire



The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (also referred to as Ivory Coast) is 124,500 square miles (322,500 sq. kms), with its economic capital being Abidjan (population around 3 million). The political capital is Yamoussoukro that is about 240 kilometres north of Abidjan. Côte d'Ivoire has a population of 20.15 million (2011) with numerous ethnic groups and also includes migrant workers from neighbouring nations.

The poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (per cent of population) stood at 42.7 % in 2008.⁵ The income of workers in Côte d'Ivoire has markedly dropped during the last decade and experts estimate that if this situation continues, the poverty rate will reach 64 per cent by 2015.⁶ As often happens, rural areas are particularly affected by poverty. Access to health care is remains a challenge in Côte d'Ivoire.

Cote d'Ivoire's economy is primarily dependent on its agriculture and related activities, which engage roughly 68 per cent of its population. Cote d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa beans and a significant producer and exporter of coffee and palm oil.

For several years the country was in deep crisis due to a variety of reasons including poorly controlled immigration, the absence of a real policy to manage land assets and the fragility of the country's institutional and democratic governance systems.

5. <http://data.worldbank.org/country/cote-divoire> - accessed on 12 April 2013

6. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/iv.html> - accessed on 06 March 2013

Since the end of the civil war in 2003, political turmoil has continued to damage the economy, resulting in the loss of foreign investment and sluggish economic growth. In April 2011, Côte d'Ivoire's economy began to recover from a severe downturn that was caused by widespread post-election conflict.

In June 2012 the IMF and the World Bank announced US\$4.4 billion in debt relief for Cote d'Ivoire under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.⁷ Cote d'Ivoire's long term challenges include political instability and degrading infrastructure.

After a prolonged anti-incumbency wave against erstwhile President Laurent Gbagbo, the year 2011 finally brought peace and stability for Republic of Côte d'Ivoire with Alassane Dramane Ouattara assuming the Presidential Office.

Situation of children in Côte d'Ivoire

Nearly 41 per cent of the population of Côte d'Ivoire were between 0-14 years.⁸ In 2009, life expectancy at birth (m/f) stood at 55/58.⁹ Probability of dying under five (per 1000 live births) was 115.¹⁰ Côte d'Ivoire has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in West Africa: 10 per cent of individuals in Africa who are infected by this pandemic live in Côte d'Ivoire. It was estimated at 4.7 per cent; with 74,000 children living currently with HIV and 450,000 orphaned by AIDS (State of the World's Children, UNICEF, 2008).



Only one half of births were officially registered in Côte d'Ivoire.¹¹ This shortcoming may be explained, in part, by the violent conflicts which had torn the country apart during recent years. Birth registration and attribution of nationality grant judicial capacities to a child. Children without an identity are not officially recognised as members of society nor are they able to access services and facilities due to them as part of their citizenship rights.

According to Child Soldiers Global Report 2008, published by Child Soldiers International, there was no tangible evidence of children participating in the regular armed forces (Forces nationales de Côte d'Ivoire, FANCI). The same report further claims that children were evidently associated with armed militia groups close to the ruling party, the Popular Ivorian Front (Front populaire ivoirien). Children were associated with armed groups on both sides of the conflict, in pro-government militias and the Forces armées des Forces nouvelles (FAFN).

Education in Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire, the right to basic education for an important part of children is not yet achieved. Almost one child out of two between 6 and 11 does not go to school, with a gap between boys and girls (59 per cent against 51 per cent), and a considerable difference between urban and rural areas (66 per cent against 48 per cent).¹²



7. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2012/car062612a.htm>

8. UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) Statistics in Brief, 2010

9. <http://www.who.int/countries/civ/en/> accessed on 12 April 2013 (Source: Global Health Observatory)

10. *ibid*

11. <http://childrensrightsportal.org/cote-d-ivoire/>

12. <http://www.unicef.org/cotedivoire/education.html> (Former UNICEF Representative for Côte d'Ivoire Youssouf Omar speaks about education in conflict-affected areas of the country - November 2007)

Parental preference for educating boys rather than girls is a persisting challenge, especially in the West of the country where the primary school enrolment rate is 37.9 per cent among girls compared to 55.9 per cent for boys. Country wide, the primary enrolment rate is 51.3 per cent for girls compared to 58.6 per cent for boys (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2006).

According to UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in 2010 the literacy rates in females (15 years and older) was 46.6 per cent. In males 15 years and older the literacy rate was 65.2 per cent, while in the age group 15-24 years the literacy rates stood at 61.9 per cent and 72.2 per cent for females and males respectively.

The low education rate is essentially due to the insufficient educational offer: not enough teachers and school buildings. Children who go to school do not always benefit from quality teaching, which consequently leads to a low probability to reach 5th primary grade (52 per cent).¹³ The low quality of the offer also affects parents' motivation for educating their children.

According to 2011 UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report (EFA-GMR),¹⁴ grievances over education inequalities in the north were at the root of the civil strife in Côte d'Ivoire over the past decade. The EFA GMR 2011 further elaborating on the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire reported that it was causing grave harm to an already broken education system destroying schools, with *"gunfire disrupting classes, teachers staying home for political reasons and families increasingly desperate about their children's schooling."* However, since the new Government the situation has begun to improve with the return of many public services across the country including education services.

Child Labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire

An estimated 39.8 per cent (2,181,894) of children aged 5-14 years are working in Côte d'Ivoire according to the 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour by US Department of Labor (US DOL).

Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Per cent
Working	5-14 years	39.8
Attending School	5-14 years	53.6
Combining Work and School	7-14 years	24.3
Primary Completion Rate		58.6

Sources:

Primary completion rate: Data from 2011, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.

All other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from MICS3 Survey, 2006.

13. <http://www.unicef.org/cotedivoire/education.html> 2007

14. UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report (2011)

The National Action Plan of Côte d'Ivoire highlights that one out of four children in the country is a child labourer. Children in Côte d'Ivoire mainly work in agriculture, many in hazardous conditions in the cocoa, banana, pineapple cotton, palm, rubber and other plantations.



Hazardous activities done by children in cocoa fields of Côte d'Ivoire include harvesting, pod breaking, piling/gathering of cocoa pods, spraying pesticides and fertilizers, handling dangerous tools and carrying heavy load. In the cocoa sector alone, 50.6 percent or an estimated 414,778 children report injuries from dangerous activities according to a report by Tulane University that assessed data collected during the 2008-2009 harvest. A government report released in 2010 estimated over 30,000 children in conditions of forced labour in rural areas of Côte d'Ivoire (USDOL 2011).

The country lacks contemporary data on the number of child labourers. National Survey on Household Living Standards 2008 (NSHLS 2008) identified 1,570,103 children as economically active in the agriculture sector, out of which 1,202,404 or 91.1 per cent were involved in hazardous work and 3,364 were victims of trafficking.¹⁵ Furthermore, it found that 1,237,911 children aged 5 to 17 years in all regions of the country are forced to do jobs which should be banned.

Trafficking of children within Côte d'Ivoire's borders is a problem. Boys are trafficked for agricultural labour especially cocoa plantations and the service sector, while girls are trafficked in domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation (USDOL 2011, US Trafficking in Persons Report 2012). Children, primarily boys are trafficked from neighbouring countries, Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo and are found in forced agricultural labour, including in cocoa, coffee, pineapple and rubber farms, in the mining sector, and in carpentry and construction (US Trafficking in Persons Report 2012).

Child Labour in Côte d'Ivoire can be clubbed into one of the following three categories¹⁶:

- a. Children trafficked from countries with shared borders like Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso and forced to work at very little or no remuneration at all. Such children do not have any kinship, family or communal ties to the farm household in which they work.
- b. Family labour, e.g. children of the farmer or that of close relatives of the farmer who live on the farm.
- c. Foster labour, e.g. children with well established kinship or communal ties to the household.

In Côte d'Ivoire education is not compulsory by law, although it is officially free. In practice, some parents are still required to pay fees for teachers' salaries and books. For some schools, birth certificates are also a requirement for continued enrolment. Since many children do not have birth certificates, they are consequently prevented from attending school. Teachers also reportedly demanded sexual favours from students in exchange for grades or money.¹⁷

The absence of a compulsory educational requirement coupled up with the requirement by some schools for birth certificates and school-related fees further decreases the likelihood of children attending school. This in turn is quite likely to increase their vulnerability to enter the vicious circle child labour, poverty and illiteracy.

15. National Action Plan 2012-2014 of fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labour, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, National Oversight Committee for Actions Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour

16. Child Labour and Cocoa Production in West Africa – The case of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, 2006, Fafo- research program on trafficking and child labour Morten Bøås and Anne Huser (pg 11)

17. 2011 Findings on the worst forms of child labour, United State Labour's Bureau of International Labour Affairs

Legislative and regulatory framework related to child labour, trafficking and exploitation in Côte d'Ivoire

According to the “*National Action Plan 2012-2014 For the Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour*” the legislative and regulatory framework for combating child trafficking, exploitation and labour has been enriched. At the international level, the Government of Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has ratified The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) in 2003; ILO conventions 138 on minimum age of employment and 182 on worst forms of child labour in 2003; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict with an aim to repress and punish trafficking, particularly women and child trafficking in August 2011; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography of children in September 2011.

In an endeavour to strengthen cooperation with its neighbours in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labour, the Government signed the cooperation agreement between Côte d'Ivoire and Mali in September 2000 while a multilateral agreement between Côte d'Ivoire and nine other countries in West Africa was signed in July 2005.

At the national level, the State adopted the following texts:

- Law No. 2010-272 of September, 20 2010 prohibiting trafficking and worst forms of child labour;
- Decree No. 2005-264 of July 21 2005 on the promotion of family wife and child laying down detailed rules of Law No. 2003-208 of 07 July 2003 on the transfer and distribution of State powers to local authorities;
- Decree No. 2006-11 of February 23, 2006 organising the Ministry of Interior for establishment of a Sub- Department of the Fight Against Child Trafficking and Juvenile Delinquency. The Sub-Department is responsible for pursuing and arresting the perpetrators of child trafficking;
- Decree No. 2007-449 of March, 29 2007 establishing the Steering Committee of the Monitoring System of Child Labour as part of the certification process of cocoa production;
- Order No. 0074 of September 23, 2009 of the Ministry of Education amending and completing Decree No. 0093 of 02 December 2005 on the establishment and regulation of the community education centres;
- Order No. 009 MEMEASS/CAB of January 19, 2012 revising Decree No. 2250 of March 14, 2005 determining the list of hazardous work prohibited for children under 18 in all economic sectors.

Furthermore, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) adopted the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child in 1990 and in 2010 it had been ratified by 45 member states.¹⁸ Article 15 refers specifically to child labour, stating that:

“ Every child shall be protected from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. ”

18. www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/2011TDA/CotedIvoire.pdf

State Parties to the present Charter take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure the full implementation of this Article, which covers both the formal and informal sectors of employment and having regard¹⁹ to the relevant provisions of the International Labour Organisation's instruments relating to children, State Parties shall in particular:

- i) Provide through legislation, minimum wages for admission to every employment;
- ii) Provide for appropriate regulation of hours and conditions of employment;
- iii) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of this Article;
- iv) Promote the dissemination of information on the hazards of child labour to all sectors of the community.

The Ivorian Constitution prohibits forced labour and slavery. The Trafficking and Worst Forms of Child Labour Law extends this prohibition to include debt bondage or servitude and the sale or trafficking of children. It calls for life imprisonment when trafficking or the worst forms of child labour results in the death of a child and introduces other strict penalties. This law also prohibits all forms of prostitution, the use of children for illicit purposes and the involvement of children in armed conflict. The minimum age for both voluntary and compulsory recruitment into the military is 18. On August 3, 2011, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire ratified the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict, and on September 7, 2011, it ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

The Ministry of Labour is responsible for enforcing labour laws and employs approximately 200 labour inspectors for this purpose. Twenty-five of these inspectors are focused on child labour. Labour inspectors are trained to inspect all sectors and may conduct surprise inspections of any establishment.¹⁹

The Ministry of Interior's national police runs an anti-trafficking unit, overseen by a police chief and staffed by four police officers and two social workers. This unit investigates cases of child trafficking. New monitoring brigades established as part of the new National Monitoring Committee for Actions to Fight against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour in 2011 also are responsible to investigate trafficking. These brigades, composed of security forces, are tasked with dismantling trafficking networks and rescuing exploited or trafficked children. The ILO Committee of Experts observes that there is weak enforcement of the laws governing the worst forms of child labour, particularly trafficking, in Côte d'Ivoire. In 2010 and 2011, statistics were not collected systematically; records related to the number of children rescued, offenders prosecuted, or sentences issued for trafficking and any of the worst forms of child labour may have been destroyed as a result of the crisis.²⁰



19. *ibid*

20. *ibid*

Important initiatives to combat child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire

Harkin-Engel Protocol²¹

Amidst growing concerns about child labour and child trafficking in the cocoa supply chain, US Senator Tom Harkin and US Representative Eliot Engel in 2001 initiated a legislative process that resulted in the Harkin-Engel Protocol. The public-private agreement signed by global chocolate and cocoa industry representatives in September 2001 aimed to work towards the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in the growing of cocoa beans and their derivative products in line with the ILO Convention 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. A central objective of the Protocol was to develop voluntary, industry-wide standards of certification by 2005, and served as the catalyst for action in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire over the last decade.

In response to Article 5 of the Protocol, the International Cocoa Initiative (See Page 10), a multi-stakeholder initiative was founded in 2002, and to date has stimulated remediation activities in a total of 290 communities in both countries.

In 2008 a renewed benchmark was established calling for half of all cocoa farms to be certified as free from child labour by July 2008. In September 2010, both the Ghanaian and Ivorian Governments along with the representatives from the US Government and international cocoa/chocolate industry have signed a Declaration of Joint Action to Support Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol with the aim to reduce the worst forms of child labour by 70 per cent across the cocoa sectors of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire by 2020.

In 2011, Côte d'Ivoire re-affirmed its commitment to the 2010 Declaration of Joint Action to Support the implementation of Harkin-Engel Protocol and its accompanying Framework of Action. Under this Declaration, Côte d'Ivoire agreed to provide appropriate resources and coordinate with key stakeholders (including USDOL and the international cocoa/chocolate industry) on the ongoing efforts to reduce the worst forms of child labour in cocoa-producing areas.

By promoting improved coordination and more integrated planning, implementation, and assessment of interventions, the Framework of Action to Support Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol formulated in 2010 offers a number of important benefits²²:

- i. **For cocoa growing communities**, this approach has led to thriving cocoa communities fostering safe, healthy, and productive environments for children and families.
- ii. **For Côte d'Ivoire's Government**, the approach has helped to focus and coordinate assistance on meeting national goals related to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, provision of universal basic education, poverty reduction, and employment creation. National capacity will be built in data collection, including nationally representative surveys; monitoring, including CLMS; impact assessment; and remediation.
- iii. **For Financial Partners**, the Framework offers a coordinated approach that will help maximize impact in target areas. Moreover, by demonstrating an effective model of cooperation, the Framework can serve as a platform for attracting increased funding from other donors, including other chocolate and cocoa companies, other manufacturers who purchase or use cocoa, chocolate and their derivative ingredients, and other international agencies with an interest in tackling the worst forms of child labour.

21. Text of Protocol - www.harkin.senate.gov/documents/pdf/HarkinEngelProtocol.pdf

22. Framework of Action to Support Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol (pg 5)

- iv. **For the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry**, the Framework provides an integrated approach to enable the sustainable supply of cocoa in a manner consistent with the commitments made under the Harkin-Engel Protocol.
- v. **For social partners and civil society**, the Framework provides opportunities for the involvement of social partners and civil society in dialogue on how best to support sustainable change.
- vi. **For all stakeholders**, the Framework provides mechanisms for promoting greater transparency and accountability for all parties.

National Monitoring Committee for Actions to Fight against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour, National Oversight Committee

In November 2011, Côte d'Ivoire reorganised its government structures, creating a new Joint Ministerial Committee to serve as a coordination mechanism for combating the worst forms of child labour. This Joint Ministerial Committee on the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour with representatives from 13 Ministries, including the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Family, Women and Children; and the Ministry of Agriculture, has a technical Secretariat to conceive, coordinate and ensure the implementation of programmes and projects for the prohibition of child labour. This is chaired by the Ministry of Employment and Labor.

A National Oversight Committee for Actions to Fight against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour was created on 3 November 2011, which will oversee the new Joint Ministerial Committee, and is composed of international and national organisations working in the field of child protection. This Oversight Committee is chaired by the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire Mrs Dominique Ouattara.

The National Oversight Committee has the mandate to host workshops and seminars with the district and regional-level officials (prefects), to invite them to join in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and child labour, and provide exact figures that will enable in developing reliable statistics on child labour and child trafficking to influence the policy framework concerning the wellbeing of children. The district and regional level officials are local authorities that are close to people in the communities and effectively relay the message of the interventions of the National Oversight Committee in the field. The National Oversight Committee within the framework of monitoring and evaluation activities conducts field visits to areas of cocoa production to ensure implementation of policies for eliminating child labour.

Children of Africa Foundation: The First Lady has also created Children of Africa Foundation to help underprivileged children in Africa. This foundation is operative in 11 countries of the continent. This foundation aims to ensure a better future for children in need in Africa either directly through social work to populations or through grants to recognised charities. The Foundation is proactively working in the sectors of education; health and subsidized social that targets street children; children exploited in plantations; children or young people from broken families or in social disruption; young girls deprived of school education; women's empowerment projects and people in difficult situations.

International Cocoa Initiative

Established in 2002, the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) is a charitable foundation whose mission is to “oversee and sustain efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and forced labour in the growing and processing of cocoa beans and their derivative products”²³ and is a direct outcome of the Harkin-Engel Protocol. ICI is a partnership between labour unions, civil society including Global March, and the chocolate and cocoa industry, all of whom are represented on the Board. ICI works together with the authorities in cocoa-growing countries, with national and international technical agencies, and with the cocoa growing communities for elimination of worst forms of child labour in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

23. <http://www.cocoainitiative.org/en/about-ici/history-and-mission> accessed on 07 March 2013

ICI's Strategy²⁴ for 2011-2015 is to focus its work on evidence-building (e.g. through research, monitoring and evaluation), knowledge-management (ensuring that evidence and learning adequately influence project-design, strategy, capacity-building and policy), and advocacy (for appropriate political, policy and strategic engagements). These efforts will complement ICI's on-going community-based support projects, and will accelerate it towards proliferating protective environments for children, and bringing about the holistic and sustainable social changes required.

Some of the ways by which ICI intends to expand its reach and impact are securing additional resources to increase its scope of work; concentrating on vulnerable communities and continued investment in evaluation and monitoring to counter child labour.

World Cocoa Foundation

Founded in 2000, the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) is an international membership organisation representing more than 100 member companies across the cocoa value chain. It is committed to creating a sustainable cocoa economy by putting farmers first--promoting agricultural and environmental stewardship, and strengthening development in cocoa-growing communities.

In July 2012, in collaboration with the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire WCF chalked out a strategy for offering educational and training programs between supporting the literacy of youth and adults in West Africa. This strategy is valued at over \$3.6 billion and will help more than 12,000 Ivorians, including limiting children's susceptibility to exploitation, such as trafficking and child slave labour, which have been cause of concern for the international fraternity.²⁵

International Cocoa Verification Board

The International Cocoa Verification Board (ICVB) is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organisation that was convened by Verité in December, 2007, to ensure that certification efforts to evaluate the occurrence of child or forced adult labour in cocoa producing areas in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana are independently verified.²⁶ A wide range of stakeholders from governments to civil society actors use the results of this verification effort to strengthen their efforts and interventions against child labour in cocoa growing sector.

Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy

The Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy (RSCE) is an initiative for dialogue and sustainability amongst all stakeholders in the cocoa economy: cocoa farmers and cooperatives, traders, exporters, processors, chocolate manufacturers, wholesalers, governmental and NGOs, financial institutions as well as donor agencies. The principal objectives of RSCE are to build a consensus on defining a concept or model of criteria, indicators and ways to achieve a sustainable world cocoa economy through a participatory and comprehensive approach.

Child Labour Cocoa Coordinating Group

Child Labour Cocoa Coordinating Group (CLCCG) is comprised of representatives of the United States Department of Labour, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Government of Ghana, the international chocolate and cocoa industry, Senator Tom Harkin and Representative Eliot Engel. The group functions as a steering committee and a working task force. The role of the CLCCG is to promote more effective coordination of action under the Framework, avoid duplication of remediation efforts, monitor and assess the progress of programs, and support the goal of more rapidly bringing about a significant reduction in the worst forms of child labour in cocoa-growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

24. www.cocoainitiative.org/en/what-we-do/ici-strategy-2011-2015

25. <http://worldcocoafoundation.org/our-work/our-approach/> (As published on the web page as on 07 March 2013)

26. blog.worldcocoafoundation.org/ICVBpercent20FAQ.pdf

27. www.anader.ci/ ANADER - Le Partenaire Privilégié du monde rural

The US DOL plays an active role as a donor supporting projects that reduce the worst forms of child labour in the cocoa sector in West Africa. It had committed US\$10 million in 2010 for a new, multi-year program to be implemented by International Labour Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child labour (ILO-IPEC) that supports the efforts described in this Framework.

ANADER - Le Partenaire Privilégié du monde rural

ANADER²⁷ was created to improve the provision of agricultural services to producers. It aims to contribute to improving the living conditions of the rural world by designing and implementing appropriate tools, adapted programs for sustainable development and control. ANADER's mission is to:

- Promote the farmers, ranchers and foresters;
- Enhance the quality, productivity and income;
- Promoting agricultural cooperatives and producer associations;
- Carry out agricultural projects and effectively respond to customer demand;
- Run any program or development project entrusted to it by the State;
- Advise the government on issues related to the promotion of rural training, credit, research / development, rural developments, land tenure, etc.

Tulane University's Payson Centre for International Development and Technology Transfer' project²⁸

"Oversight of Public and Private Initiatives to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Cocoa Sector in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana" is a project spearheaded by the Payson Centre for International Development at Tulane University and financed by the US DOL. Tulane studies progress made towards the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Forced Adult Labour in the cocoa sector of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana and towards meeting obligations under the Harkin-Engel Protocol.



28. <http://www.childlabor-payson.org/>

Some of the important meetings and site visits held in Côte d'Ivoire

30 January

A briefing meeting with Mr. Jeff Morgan from Mars Incorporated and Georges Bredou from ICRAF, World Agroforestry Centre, Coordinator Community Development was held to understand the work being done to eliminate worst forms of child labour from cocoa growing farms.

31 January

Meeting with First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire: Mrs. Dominique Ouattara at the President's House

Meeting held at First Lady's Office: Mme Sylvie Yao, Chief of Staff and the members of National Monitoring Committee for Actions to fight against Trafficking and top officials from Joint Ministerial Committee on the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour-

Meeting with ILO, Côte d'Ivoire: M. Honoré Boua Bi Semien, Senior Officer IPEC at Côte d'Ivoire and attended by officials responsible for monitoring and coordination.

Meeting the teachers unions representatives: Mr. Paul Gnelou, President of National Confederation of Teachers' Union (RIP-EPT) along with the National Secretary of the Confederation.

Meeting with ICI: Mme Euphrasie Aka, National Programme Coordinator and three of her senior staff members including those responsible for training, sensitization and monitoring at the national level and that at the field. This was a very insightful meeting to understand ground realities, national environment and challenges.

Meeting with Mars country office: Senior officials at the country office of Mars Inc to understand the development and growth projects run under the Vision for Change (V4C) programme.

01 February

Visit to Village Petit d' Bouake: Meeting with a group of cocoa farmers, representatives of development committee and field staff of Mars Incorporated one of the farms belonging to Mr. Lukku at Village Petit Bouake.

Village meeting: A joint meeting with all the members of village development committee, the women Self Help Groups and other village members was held in Village Petit d'Bouake. This was followed by a visit to school and a Cocoa Development Centre.

Meeting with the Governor of Subre: The Governor of Subre is active in upholding the rights of the child and told us about a recent operation whereby 6 children who were trafficked from Burkina Faso were rescued.

02 February

Field visit to Village Petit Djene: A visit to village Petit Djene was organised to interact with and understand the on conditions of cocoa farmers.

Discussions and experiences shared on efforts to eliminate child labour and child trafficking for forced labour

Meeting with the National Oversight Committee for Actions to Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour

The delegation from Global March met National Oversight Committee, the senior officials from other ministries were also present during the meeting to discuss about the situation of child labour and the emerging good practices from around the world that could be emulated for successful and sustainable elimination of child labour in Côte d'Ivoire.

Triangular Paradigm of Child Labour, Illiteracy and Poverty²⁹

Triangular Paradigm, proposed by Global March establishes the inter-relationship and inter-dependence between elimination of child labour, poverty reduction and Education for All (EFA). It maintains that if poor children continue to work as child labourers, then they would always remain poor, illiterate and deprived of all opportunities for their development and growth. Child labourers grow up to become weak and hapless individuals completely trapped in the vicious circle of illiteracy, unemployment, poverty and physical ailments. In poor countries, the effects of poverty and unemployment are dramatic. In addition to preventing child labour, the education sector can provide special measures to reintegrate children withdrawn from hazardous work into school. Still policies that focus exclusively on the education system without accounting for economic environment of households and the general state of labour market will be insufficient to reduce child labour and achieve education in the long term.

This underscores the importance of addressing the root causes of child labour and poor quality and access to education in a broader poverty reduction framework.

Creating child labour free communities is aligned with the Global March's three-pronged strategy of Triangular Paradigm. It strengthens community capacity to manage risks and address the needs of vulnerable members, enhance local governments' capacity for social service provision and coordinator and create an enabling environment at the area level for combating child labour through awareness-raising, training, support for child labour laws and their enforcement, as well as empowerment of the families, children and their representatives in the local governance of the community.

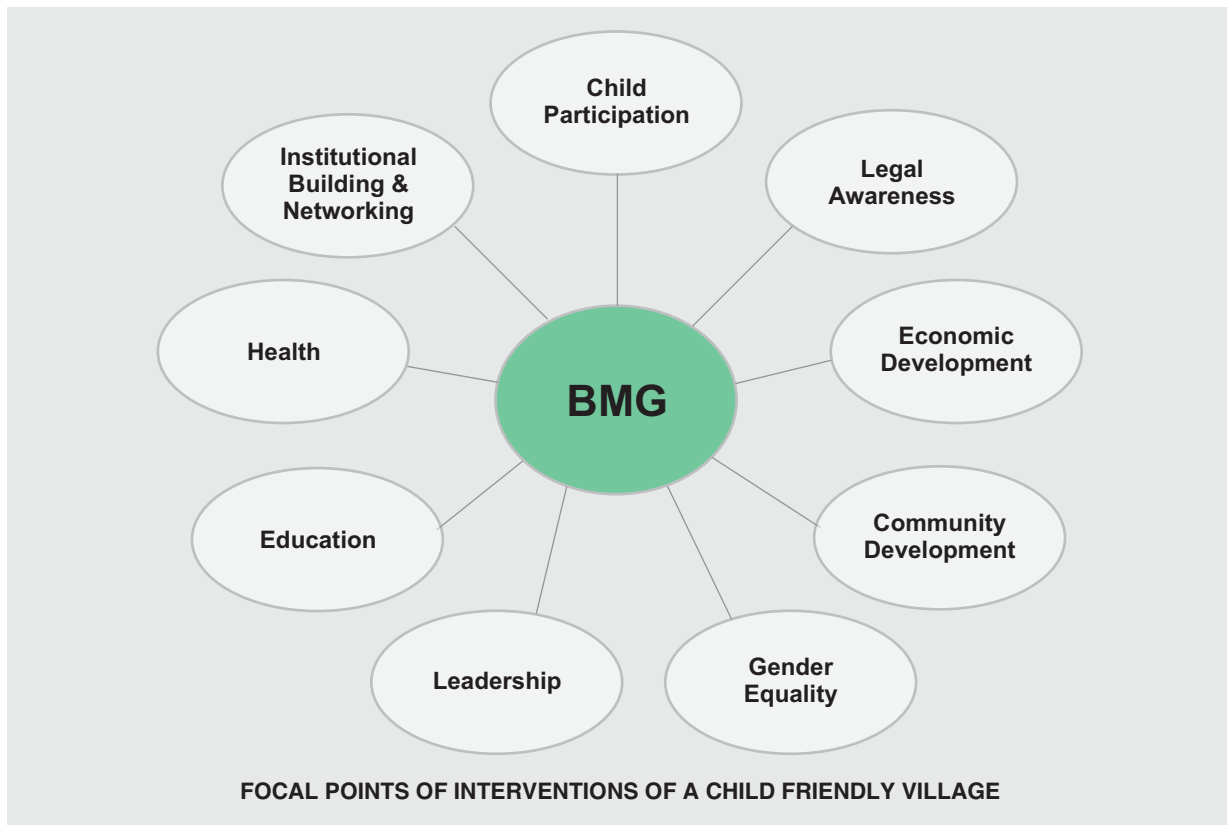
As agriculture is mainly a rural activity, rural communities or the geographic areas have the potential of becoming the hub for development process. The child friendly village in India is one such good practice model linking community development, child protection and education.

Child Friendly Village

Citing the example of *Bal Mitra Gram*, abbreviated as BMG, (Child Friendly Village); the delegation from Global March Against Child Labour explained to its stakeholders the aspects of a BMG. A BMG is a pioneering concept that was introduced and adopted in 2001 by Bachpan Bachao Andolan (abbreviated as BBA, and founded by Kailash Satyarthi in 1980) to make each village in India the custodian of child rights.

29. The Triangular Paradigm, brochure by Global March Against Child Labour

A child friendly village is a micro model of a macro vision to make a child friendly world, where every child is free from exploitation, receives education, recreation and health facilities, has a voice in decision making process and participates in the community's life in an environment of friendliness, rights and dignity. Intense consciousness raising efforts to challenge and change age-old mindsets based on many social, cultural and gender biases, sensitising and involving all stakeholders are among some of the key elements in creating a child friendly village.



This process has been able to knock the sleeping conscience of the Government by constantly taking up issues related to the development of the educational and other infrastructure at the village level. There have been radical changes in child friendly villages established by BBA and both children and adults have participated in effectively tackling long standing issues like child labour and trafficking, erroneous implementation of government policies, ensuring social justice for girls and women, increasing access to government services and other provisions, improving village's infrastructure and embedding a child centric value system in the local community. At present, 347 villages are undergoing or have undergone transformation within the child friendly village programme.

Notably, BBA Child Friendly Village model was chosen as one of the most innovative development projects under the category "Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project" by Global Development Network (GDN) in 2010. This award was given to BBA for the widespread impact of BMGs taking into consideration its innovativeness, replicability, cost effectiveness and sustainability.

As a programme, BMG is an important component in BBA's work against prevention of trafficking as well as violation of child rights in communities. Till now, BBA has implemented the child friendly village programme in

- (a) Conflict prone and mining areas like Jharkhand, Bihar
- (b) Areas of low literacy and high child labour like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- (c) In trafficking prone areas of Bihar
- (d) In environmentally sensitive and socially and economically backward areas like tribal villages in Karnataka.

Some of the key achievements of the programme are listed below:

1. In the last 3 years, 12096 children were withdrawn from labour and enrolled in schools, more than 90 per cent of these from agriculture.
2. In six instances, child marriages were stopped with the involvement of children in the last one year
3. In four states of India, availability of water has improved with repairing/construction of hand pumps and wells in 442 instances
4. A total of 3611 beneficiaries have received benefits of various social security schemes run by the government in the last three years.
5. There has been substantive work on improve school infrastructure. In 2010-11 and 2012-13, classrooms were constructed/repared in 48 schools and teachers were appointed in 34 schools.

Social Labelling initiatives

A label related to child labour on a specific product or service is provided on packaging or takes the forms of a tag to indicate to the consumer that child labour was not used in the production of the good or service. Social label is voluntary and usually backed by the credibility of an industrial association or social group and a monitoring/certification system. It aims to work through the market forces, the premise being that the end consumer will, if properly informed, reward the producer for respecting ethical standards in its work.

Social labelling has been used to good effect for carpets and footballs – sectors which have had a reputation for employing children. The GoodWeave (formerly Rugmark) social labelling initiative was shared as a contextually appropriate mechanism for the realisation of key action point 6 *Building Towards Credible Standards* of the Harkin-Engel Protocol.

GoodWeave (formerly Rugmark) Experience

GoodWeave (formerly Rugmark) was engineered by Kailash Satyarthi in mid-90s in India as a visual label for consumers to identify carpets made without the use of child labour. In early 90s, South Asia had the tainted reputation of 1,000,000 children working in carpet looms. The initiative demonstrates a credible process that monitors factories and looms, certifies carpets made without child labour and rescues/withdraws and educates “carpet kids.” This is coupled with interventions in consumer countries, it seeks to create market preference for certified carpets through use of the GoodWeave label.

Established in 1994 as one of the first independent labour monitoring programmes, GoodWeave certifies and promotes rugs with the GoodWeave label, and is an international consortium of independent bodies from a dozen carpet exporting and importing countries, which take part in a voluntary social labelling initiative to ensure that carpets have not been produced (knotted) with child labour. The GoodWeave standard has expanded its initial four principles to seven principle for the carpet exporters and importers licensed under the initiative: :

- No child labour
- No forced or bonded labour
- Freedom of association and collective bargaining are recognised
- No discrimination is practised
- Decent working conditions for adult workers (including health and safety, wages, hours)
- Negative environmental impacts of the production are identified and minimised
- Business processes are transparent and lawful

To ensure compliance, independent GoodWeave inspectors make unannounced inspections of each loom, and if children are found working, then they are removed and offered the opportunity to go to schools. And the producers lose their status with GoodWeave. To protect against counterfeit labelling, each label is numbered so its origin can be traced to the loom on which the carpet was produced.

GoodWeave also sets contractual standards for companies that import certified rugs. Importers agree to source only from GoodWeave certified exporters. Importers and exporters also help support GoodWeave and its commitment to provide rehabilitation and schooling for all rescued children. Accredited exporters

and importers pay licensing fees towards monitoring, inspections and educational programs that are part of the GoodWeave program.

GoodWeave's certification is endorsed by the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL), which leads the world in setting norms and good practices for certification. Thus GoodWeave has commendable child labour certification system with:

- Well defined no child labour standard with definitions that provide clear guidance to inspectors;
- Detailed and documented inspection and monitoring procedures that conform to international best practices and include shadow audits by third-parties;
- A supply chain system that reaches all levels of the supply chain on a random, surprise basis;
- Clear rescue and rehabilitation policies and procedures for children identified in supply chains;
- Rehabilitation programs in place to assist victims and strategy for community based rehabilitation -- a preference in all cases.

Since the inception in 1994, the number of child labourers in carpet production in South Asia has reduced to approximately 250,000, with GoodWeave inspectors directly withdrawing over 4,000 children, nearly 11,000 children have been provided with scholarships, and thousands deterred due to the rigorous supply chain monitoring and market enforcement mechanism.

Conditional Cash Transfer Schemes

Conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes typically provide a certain amount of cash to poor households on a regular basis conditional on beneficiaries fulfilling some obligation(s) aimed at human development, such as sending their children to school or participating in health, nutrition and information programmes. Pioneered by Brazil and Mexico in the mid-1990s, CCT programmes have been most prevalent in Latin America where virtually all countries now boast of some such schemes. Although aimed at human development, few cash transfer programmes include the reduction of child labour as an explicit objective.

Ghana, another major cocoa producing country has embarked on an ambitious programme – Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, or LEAP. LEAP also stands out, alongside Costa Rica's *Avancemos*, for being one of only a couple of major CCT programmes in the world that have integrated child labour concerns from the start. Currently, LEAP is operational in all 10 regions of Ghana and in 81 Districts. Over 63,000 households have been fully enrolled. LEAP originally aimed to reach 164,370 households by the end of 2012. This number will now be reached by 2015. A further target of 200,000 households has been set for 2016.³⁰

Brazil's Programa de Erradicação do Trabalho Infantil (Programme for the Eradication of Child Labour), or PETI, remains the sole example of a major CCT programme in the world whose foremost objective is to reduce child labour. Even this programme has now been mostly incorporated into the national CCT programme Bolsa Família. A brief overview of the Bolsa Família programme was provided by the Global March representatives as a potential model for adoption.

Bolsa Família

In 1995, the Bolsa Escola programme was initiated in the Distrito Federal (Brasilia) and in the Campinas Municipality along with the federal programme PETI. By 2001, cash transfer programmes with educational conditionalities were in force in more than 100 municipalities providing support to estimated 200,000 families. Under the Bolsa Escola programme, poor families, with per capita income less than R\$ 90 (US\$ 43) or half the minimum wage at that time, received R\$ 15 (US\$ 7) per month per child up to a maximum of three children, conditional on school attendance of at least 85 per cent.³¹

30. LEAP Business Case, DFID Ghana, March 2012, accessed from <http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/project.aspx?Project=201629> on 10 April 2013

31. Understanding the Brazilian success in reducing child labour: empirical evidence and policy lessons, 2011, Understanding Children Work

In 2003, the existing array of income transfer schemes were consolidated into a single programme, Bolsa Família. The Bolsa Família programme targets 'moderately poor' and 'extremely poor' families with pregnant, lactating women and/or children from up to 15 years and adolescents from 16 to 17 years, with income ceiling less R\$ 70 (US\$ 38) for extremely poor, and R\$ 140 (US\$ 75) per month for moderately poor.³² The maximum benefit value in Bolsa Família is R\$ 200 (US\$ 114) per family, which applies to families with monthly income below R\$70.00, 3 children under age 15, and 2 adolescents aged between 16 and 17.

The value of the benefits granted under the Bolsa Família Programme varies between R\$ 32 and R\$ 306 per person, depending on the household income per capita per month and on the number of children (up to 15 years) and adolescents (aged 16 and 17 years old) in the household. In order to obtain cash benefits, the family must commit itself to the fulfilment of the following health and education conditions stipulated in the programme.

A major challenge to be addressed through Bolsa Escola/Bolsa Família programmes is the elimination of child labour. The earlier child labour elimination programme - PETI was merged into the new CCT scheme in order to optimise the efficiency. According to the information collected by the Ministry of Social Development, in 2011 the government expanded the coverage of Bolsa Família to 13.3 million households nationwide.

Studies show that the Bolsa Família has had an impact on reducing poverty and inequality rates in the country. This fact is mainly explained by the progressive impact of income transfers in total income distribution. In addition, the programme has shown to have a positive effect on the school attendance of children and adolescents and in decreasing the dropout rate, which is associated with the conditional requirements of the programme. Furthermore, recent assessments of the CCT programme indicate that it has been successful in reducing the probability of child labour.

School Feeding Programmes

School feeding programmes are targeted social safety nets that provide both educational and health/nutritional benefits to the most vulnerable children thereby increasing enrollment rates, reducing absenteeism, and improving food security at the household level. Countries, primarily low and middle income countries are expanding school feeding programmes to reach the closer to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to poverty, education, gender equality and health.

Additionally, school feeding programs are increasingly being viewed as a potential safety net and as a social support measure that helps keep children in school. In response to the shocks of the global food, fuel, and financial crises, countries looked to implement school feeding as a rapidly scalable social protection mechanism, able to provide more than 10 per cent of household expenditures.³³

Côte d'Ivoire school feeding programme with the policy of '*one-school, one-canteen*', is an example of truly nationally owned programme, embedded in national education sector plans. Following the immediate aftermath of the post-electoral crisis, the Government prioritised specific activities of its education sector plan, focusing on rehabilitation and construction of school infrastructure, provision of school equipment, purchase and distribution of learning and teaching materials, the re-launch of the school feeding program, including the acquisition and distribution of micro-nutrients and de-worming tablets, which are particularly critical in post-conflict situations. The school feeding programme operated by the World Food Programme (WFP) was disrupted during the conflict leading to food shortages in many schools all over the country, including areas affected by the crisis.

32. <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.do?tid=1805> (as published on website on 05 April 2013)

33. Rethinking School Feeding: Social Safety Nets, Child Development and the Education Sector, World Food Programme and World Bank, 2009

The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme in India which covers 120 million school-going children, as well as the Food for Education programme in Bangladesh which covers 27 per cent of all primary schools in Bangladesh, as well as the various programmes in the African countries such as Kenya have demonstrated increased enrolment, retention and attendance in primary school. These examples can support the reconstruction of the Ivorian school feeding programme with renewed vigour.

Public Awareness Campaigns

Increasing awareness on child labour, trafficking, forced labour and decent work is at the core of any anti-child labour public awareness campaign. Combating child labour and trafficking requires bottom-up and activists efforts on many fronts, but the key to success is increasing public understanding about the scope of the problem and the harm it inflicts. Yet, informing the public and motivating people to act remains a challenge.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire as well as the range of actors working on child rights, have continued to undertake awareness-raising campaigns on child labour and trafficking. To reach the inaccessible and remote areas in the country, the Global March delegation suggested another successful experiment from India – the Mukti Caravan or the campaign on wheels.

Mukti Caravan – Campaign on Wheels

Mukti (Liberation) Caravan, the Campaign on Wheels³⁴, is a mobile troupe of former child/bonded labourers freed by BBA, a partner organisation of Global March in India. These activists visit villages in child labour and trafficking prone areas to create awareness of the hazard of trafficking and child labour and the laws and procedures to combat trafficking. In addition, the Caravan also organises skits and plays about the need for education, emphasising on the need for improving access to education and quality of education, to completely eradicate child labour from society.

The Caravan is run by former child/bonded labourers as they have themselves bore the pain of being a child labour. They are in fact best suited to explain to the villagers the kind of life a child labour is forced to lead and the hardships they face. The activists along with the mobile unit (caravan van equipped with campaign materials and audio-video equipments) are deployed in rural areas where they perform street plays, sing folk songs infused with social messages, distribute pamphlets, organize public meetings and organise awareness camps on the issue of exploitation of children. They also make audio-visual presentation for a greater impact on the villagers. In addition to enacting skits and plays with the objective of spreading awareness about child trafficking, *Mukti Caravan* is further involved in organising community gatherings in public places and places of transit to highlight the dangers of trafficking.

Rehabilitation and remediation of child labourers and child victims of trafficking

An important part of the effort to eliminate child labour are rehabilitation and remediation of the children forced to work. Rehabilitation could take a variety of forms – from centre-based rehabilitation to economic rehabilitation to education to skills training, etc. For children to be effectively rehabilitated they must be removed from hazardous and exploitative work, or rescued from traffickers, adequately and appropriately protected, and assisted through programmes designed to remediate the immediate harms, rehabilitate victimised children so that they can re-integrate into their communities or other appropriate protected settings, and ultimately, participate in opportunities for formal education, and also provide potential reparation mechanisms to redress the gross violation of their rights. To be sustainable, such efforts must work in tandem with broad development goals of governments themselves, and there are a wide array of organisation working to ensure that that children who are rehabilitated.

The Global March delegation shared the experiences of centre-based rehabilitation in Togo as an example for remediation of child labourers and child victims of trafficking in cocoa plantations.

34. <http://www.bba.org.in/campaigns/mcc.php> (Information published on the webpage as on 07th March 2013)

Observations, enabling factors and gaps identified by Global March

During the course of the scoping mission, the discussions with the First Lady and her office, the various government officials, civil society representatives, and the interactions with the children and the village community during the field visits, the delegation identified several enablers in the country that could give the right impetus to child labour and trafficking interventions. Along with the enablers, the gaps were also reviewed to understand ways to bridge them based on the interactions and observations. This section of the report provides the salient observations based on field visits, the enablers and the gaps that need to be bridged.

Observations

▪ Child Labour still a serious problem in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire

On the way to villages Petit Bouaké and Petit Djene in Soubré a department in Côte d'Ivoire that produces one of the best quality of cocoa and coffee, several children were seen along the highway with cocoa machetes in their hands. It was more than evident that they were headed to work in the nearby cocoa farms. The delegation also met a number of children who admitted to have been working in the cocoa fields.

Petit Djene is a small village, approximately 270 were present during the meeting, of which there were about 50 children and 25 young people. The village is composed of immigrants from Mali. There was approximately 500 kilograms/hectares of cocoa production which was declining. During the interaction with villagers, mainly women and children in Petit Djene on 2 February 2013 majority of adults and children present indicated that they were working in cocoa farms, with approximately 100 children not going to school in the village. On this



youth committee in-charge snubbed the children, but one sitting next to Kailash Satyarthi could not understand the instruction and continued with his narration of working in a cocoa farm. This twelve-year-old boy narrated that he had just returned from work in clothes that were tattered and soiled. He confessed that his work entailed a lot of hard work and was very tiring. He shared that he wanted to go to school and dreamed of becoming a village head when he grew up. The boys' parents lamented on the poor income prospects in the village and insufficient schools in the village.

In the cocoa harvest season, twice a year, there was an increase in demand for labour, especially child labour it was reported by the villagers. Children, women and men all were engaged by farmers during the harvesting, and schools often closed or had thin attendance.

A bewildering aspect was observed in the village whereby the villagers did not share their wages or incomes with the delegation.

Following in-depth discussions with the two communities at Petit Bouaké and Petit Djené, it was concluded that sub-structures that were created for community representation and participation, development, child labour monitoring and education etc (by the virtue of development committees, youth committees,

education committees, etc) were not transparent and open about the situation of child labour, and in fact, attempted to camouflage child labour for a number of reasons.

- **Traditional beliefs and practices about maturity among girls**

Côte d'Ivoire is one of the countries with the highest prevalence female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in West Africa. In Côte d'Ivoire, FGM/C is practiced among most ethnic and religious groups and within all layers of society, but prevalence is higher among Voltaïques (72.2 per cent) and Northern Mande (70.5 per cent) ethnic groups, among the Muslim population, in rural areas and among women/girls that have not had access to education³⁵. FGM/C is a human rights violation and is a violence against women and girls. National Programme Coordinator of ICI Mme. Euphrasie Aka elaborated that in Côte d'Ivoire the traditional belief is that girls attain maturity at the onset of puberty, and would be married off as well as allowed to work.



Thus, although the Labour Code sets 14 years as the minimum age of employment, young girls were sent to work at a much younger age. Further the Ivorian law prohibits children under the age of 18 years in hazardous work, which includes handling chemicals/ pesticides in the agriculture sector.

- **Poor quality of education and poor learning**

During a long interaction with the school children in village Petit Bouake, it was found that the children had extremely poor quality learning achievements. The children in Grade 7 were unable to solve basic mathematics such as simple additions (2 + 3 or 7 + 3), which is clearly of a much lower grade. This is a clear indication of poor learning outcome and skill sets.



The school that the delegation visited was in poor condition, and Mars Inc. indicated that it was contributing to the development of the school. During the visit however, the school was reportedly closed. The school had approximately 300 children in the school, and that it was running 6 classes, with 6 teachers. With a high pupil-teacher ratio (over 50:1), it was not surprising to note the abysmally low learning by the students the team interacted with. Another potential reason could be irregular attendance by the children in the classes.

However the delegation was stuck by the confidence and enthusiasm of girls in village Petit Djene. Ten years old Zabi Fatima aspires to become a teacher. Another girl Tura Vista who is eleven at the moment would like to become a nurse when she grows up.

The delegation was also informed that due to the past conflicts, the secondary school systems have also suffered along with the primary education structures. Across the country, schools bore the brunt of the internal strife impacting both access to and quality of primary education in the country.

- **Unskilled and illiterate farmers**

While the members of the Development Committee were however literate in the villages visited, majority of the women in the community reported never being to schools. Similarly, the village heads were illiterate.

35. Fact Sheet on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in Côte d'Ivoire: UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire, April 2007, www.unicef.org/wcaro/WCARO_CI_FactSheet_En_FGM.pdf accessed on 10 April 2013

This was clearly indication of vulnerability within the communities. With little or no numeracy skills, the farmers could be very susceptible to exploitation by the procurers/buyers. Unable to count the proceeds of their transactions and often are not able to correctly weigh the product while selling it, they were likely to get a poor deal. Understandably so their negotiation skills were abysmally low. It was also observed that the cocoa-production tactics that the farmers adopt are primitive.

Furthermore, barter-system was found prevalent with farmers exchanging precious cocoa beans for less expensive food grains or fruits, with middlemen accruing profits at the cost of the farmer.

- **Swelling population and low reproductive rights**

The Ivorian population has swelled to incredible proportions in last few decades, with children below 15 years accounting for more than 40 per cent of the population. Coupled with inadequate and poor educational structures and the community's deep-rooted belief of engaging children in work at an early age, child labour is a serious concern in the country. In the villages, it was noticed that the family size was quite large with some having 8 to 10 children.



With the practice of polygamy and poor reproductive rights for women, the delegation felt that awareness of basic rights had not percolated to the grassroots, despite large-scale interventions by several organisations.

45 year old cocoa plantation worker, Kouakoukwame said he had ten children and yearned for even more. He remarked that he would not mind marrying again, for the want of more children. For him like most others in the village the commonly held belief is that more the number of children more would be the number of working hands to augment family income.

- **Independent women symbolize a progressive society**

During the visit to Village Petit Bouaké a meeting with a Self Help Group (SHG) of women planning to run a poultry farm for income generation was held. The group had already been able to raise some funds and were hopeful of mobilising more in the times to come. They had set up a basic structure of the premises from where the SHG would operate. Their erstwhile venture had failed, as a result of which they planned to kick start a new business but were not clear about how to position themselves in the market or brighten the saleability prospects. The progressive outlook of the women clearly reflected in the thinking of the village. This village had better schools and the team observed that the standard of living was also better. Furthermore, the interventions by various stakeholders to address child labour have been long term.

Therefore, while the society at large believed and practiced violations such as FGM/C and women and girls had poor reproductive knowledge and rights, the presence of this oasis of womens' SHG was symbolic of the changes that were being sparked in the rural communities and the potential they held.

- **Social disconnect**

Contrary to the village Petit Bouaké, the village Petit Djene, a Malian village in 135th year of its existence, and predominantly practicing Islam, was a much poorer community. The villagers were very open and welcomed the delegation, but the team felt a deep undercurrent of dissonance between the villagers and the community workers. The community was extremely poorly versed in the traditional Islamic knowledge as well as the contemporary times. The delegation spent a long time with the community interacting with them, and trying to understand the reasons for disconnect with the community workers without much success.

Enabling factors for eliminating child labour in Côte d'Ivoire

- **Active commitment of the First Lady in the fight against child labour and trafficking:** is a clear indication of the political commitment by the country and the highest priority placed on efforts to end child labour and trafficking. The National Oversight Committee for Actions to Fight against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour oversees the Joint Ministerial Committee on the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour that is chaired by the Minister of Labour and comprises of representatives from 13 Ministries, including the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Family, Women and Children; and the Ministry of Agriculture. The First Lady presides over the National Oversight Committee. This is a significant effort by the government to foster interagency cooperation through a framework of monitoring and eliminating child labour and trafficking.
- **National Action Plan 2012-2014 of Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour:** The renewed National Action Plan was launched on 23 March 2012 that targets child trafficking, exploitation and labour and is endorsed by the First Lady, as President of the National Oversight Committee is already in place. This Plan stems from a multi-sectoral collaboration between public institutions, international and NGOs, and represents a clear response and commitment of the Ivorian Government to fight vigorously against intolerable violations of child rights in agriculture, trade, domestic work as well as other sectors.
- **Reaffirming commitment to the Harkin Engel Protocol and the Declaration of Joint Action to Support the Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol and its accompanying Framework:** Under this Declaration, Côte d'Ivoire agreed to provide appropriate resources and coordinate with key stakeholders including the US DOL and the international chocolate/cocoa industry on the efforts to reduce the worst forms of child labour in cocoa-producing areas.
- **Intergovernmental and international organisations including NGOs and donor agencies were active in Côte d'Ivoire:** The international focus on child labour and trafficking in Côte d'Ivoire as well as efforts to rebuild a country had brought many UN and international organisations into the country. This has brought fresh and innovative ideas in terms of research, advocacy and programme implementation at national level. This is also sustained by the continuing focus on child labour in cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire.
- **ILO-IPEC in action:** ILO commenced its interventions to address child labour in Côte d'Ivoire in 1999 and till 2008 its focus was largely on child trafficking. Since 2010, US DOL has been funding a new project for elimination of the worst forms of child labour from cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Awareness and empowerment of communities to differentiate between permissible and the non-negotiable and non-acceptable including awareness against the misuse of children in the agriculture sector has been an important part of the agenda for ILO-IPEC in Côte d'Ivoire.

Hundreds of local vigilance committees (LCVs), community committees for the protection of children (CCP) have been formed providing impetus to the fight against child labour in agriculture and yield conclusive results. Furthermore, the ILO-IPEC has thus supported the realisation of national studies on child labour in the countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso), thus capturing accurate data related to child labour. In Côte d'Ivoire, ILO-IPEC has advocated for ratification of ILO Conventions 138, Convention 182; adoption of National Action Plan in the fight against the worst forms of child labour; strengthening the institutional framework for the fight against child labour (like it happened in Côte d'Ivoire). IPEC actively advocates for developing the list of hazardous occupations and adoption of laws against worst forms of child labour. This activism has led Côte d'Ivoire making Central Directorates for the fight against child labour. IPEC has been instrumental in the creation of a platform for trade unions to foster the decent work agenda and activism against child labour in Côte d'Ivoire. ILO contributed in developing the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) and introduced it in the cocoa-farming sector. It now envisages introducing CLMS in other sectors as well.³⁶

36. Synthesis of presentation made by Honoré Boua Bi Semien, Senior Officer IPEC at Côte d'Ivoire at the International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture organised by Global March Against Child Labour in July 2012 and discussion with the Global March delegation in Abidjan

- **Multi-stakeholder initiatives such as International Cocoa Initiative in action:** ICI and the cocoa/chocolate industry have built connection across many villages for rolling out child labour and education programmes. At present ICI is working with 133 communities across Côte d'Ivoire. In partnership with ILO, the ICI also conducts training and sensitisation programmes of key state and non-state actors on the subject of elimination of child labour from cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire. ICI is the member of National Oversight Committee. Most of the field level interventions of ICI have been with local NGOs, but the infrastructure costs involved have been deterring high. ICI has appointed a person from within the community to monitor the field level activities, and serve as the liaison for ICI with the community.
- **Developmental Initiatives of chocolate/cocoa industry:** Most of the chocolate and cocoa industry members and retailers are engaged in multifaceted activities concerning scientific researches and experiments towards productivity enhancement, sustainability and growth prospects, community development and education through direct and indirect interventions. These developments can support technological and innovative strategies to eliminate child labour in cocoa-farming in the country.
- **Strong focus on national education sector plan and the partnership with Global Partnership for Education (GPE):** The government put reconciliation at the centre of its national programme to break the cycle of conflict of political and social instability and armed conflict. The government has shown substantial financial and political commitment to education, illustrated by the following: (i) the Presidential Emergency Recovery Plan (Plan Présidentiel d'Urgence) which includes education as a priority; (ii) reaffirmation of its commitment to the Education Sector Plan (ESP) endorsed in 2010; (iii) maintenance of sector funding; and (iv) committed technical teams of the Ministry of National Education (Ministère de l'Education Nationale, MEN) which continued to work to operationalise of the ESP during the crisis, followed by extensive discussions between the government and the donors on the design and implementation arrangements of the proposed programme.
Furthermore, Cote d'Ivoire's US\$41.4 million grant from GPE in 2011 will support the national government's commitment to rehabilitate its education system after 10 years of political instability, including efforts to build and repair classrooms, provide textbooks and launch school feeding programs. The grant will also help the construction of small 'girl-friendly' middle schools in rural areas to improve girls' enrolment in lower secondary education. This grant with the GPE accounted for 84 per cent of the external funds planned in education over the subsequent three years.³⁷

The main gaps identified

- **Lack of coordination between various agencies:** There are highly fragmented, disjointed and to some extent counterproductive approaches and interventions to address the issue of child labour in cocoa farming at Côte d'Ivoire. There is no coordination between agencies dealing with education; monitoring, development, awareness, community work, child protection etc. All agencies have separate mandates, messaging, areas of interest and priorities. It has been observed that the agencies (like education, monitoring, development, awareness building, child protection etc) involved in cocoa sector are working in isolation. However, the National Oversight Committee was formulated to address this gap, and being nascent the outcomes were yet to be seen.
- **Capacity gap:** The delegation observed a serious lack of knowledge, communication skills, capacity, clarity and vision at sub-national levels, particularly at the implementation level. This gap in capacity would pose a big obstacle in realisation of public or private projects towards child labour elimination in the country.
- **Lack of genuine commitment and adequate funding support by the cocoa and chocolate industry:** A large number of cocoa and chocolate brands have not opted to become a member of

37. Emergency Basic Education Support Project to Global Partnership for Education, 02 April 2012, The World Bank

ICI or any other multi-stakeholder initiatives. Furthermore, the absence of the back-end supply chain actors, including international producer and marketer of food and agriculture products in such initiatives indicates that the entire supply chain and the actors involved were not committed to actions towards elimination of child labour from cocoa-production in Côte d'Ivoire. Among the members with an exception of few most are non-committal about adequate financial support for smooth running of projects and programmes on ground. This adversely affects the efficacy, outcome and scalability of field activities. The situation is exacerbated by individual and specific programmes by corporations focused on mitigating immediate risks, rather than supporting collaborative and sustainable solutions to the problems.

- **Incoherent messaging by the government and civil society organisations:** From the interaction with the farmers and other people at the community it is understood that different non-governmental organisations adopt different community messaging which at times hurts the sentiments of the people. People from the community even said that the language used by some Government officials visiting them is not to convince and educate against child labour with clarity but imposing.
- **Low level of involvement of Development Committees:** From the interactions and the field visits, the delegations gleaned that the level of participation of the members of the Development Committees was abysmally low. Sense of ownership and leadership, as well as motivation that was required to drive systemic changes at the grassroots level was clearly missing. For example, during one of the meetings with the Development Committee, 36 members and office bearers were present, of which only 4 women and 5 men were literate. This meeting was held at village Petit Bouake and a best practice model under Vision for Change (V4C) model of change of Mars Inc.
- **Insufficient responsibility and accountability among cooperatives and monitoring agencies:** Farmers during the interactions with the delegation shared that certified cooperatives employed a large number of child labourer. Ironically the communities that were already certified had rampant child labour, and during the visits by external auditors the child labourers are temporarily removed by the officials of the cooperatives that procure cocoa from the concerned community/ies. This dubious practice adopted by certified cooperatives poses a big obstacle in efforts towards elimination of child labour in cocoa-production.

On deeper interaction it was found that the monitoring/auditing agencies were not transparent in their disclosures of the working conditions in the farms. With monitoring teams failing to establish rapport with the villagers and workers, and seldom did the interviewees were open and frank in front of the auditors, seriously impairing the interaction as well as presenting a distorted situation of working conditions, including trafficking, child labour and forced labour in the cocoa-farms.

- **Multiplicity of Social Certification Systems in cocoa production causing confusion:** Following the Harkin-Engel Protocol, a multitude of cocoa certification standards mushroomed, and the cooperatives and individual farms had to comply in order to pass an audit and get certified. However product certification was only as effective as the standards followed and the compliance criteria; auditing procedures and practices in place to verify compliance to the standards. Tulane University report of 2011³⁸, stated that the certification systems clearly differed in terms of standards and procedures; operational definitions of child labour, worst forms of child labour, forced adult labour; field level implementation; supervisions and audits; and remediation and developments. This multiplicity of certification standards may cause incoherence and confusion at the field level which can be counterproductive.
- **Uneven transformation from hazardous working conditions for the adolescents to decent working conditions of youth:** Côte d'Ivoire supports free public education, however does not specify compulsory age of education. The focus on primary education was centred on provision of education to children between 6 and 12 years of age. This left the children between the ages 12 and

38. "Oversight of Public and Private Initiatives to Eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Cocoa Sector in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana" published by Payson Center for International Development and Technology Transfer, Tulane University, March 2011

18 years most vulnerable to worst forms of child labour. Building a robust secondary school system and focusing on transforming hazardous working conditions for the adolescents into decent working conditions for youth would bolster the efforts to eliminate child labour in the country.

- **Lack of participation by children and youth:** The children and youth were not seen as active participants and partners in the process of elimination of child labour from cocoa production. Children themselves have the potential of catalysing change, especially on issues relating to them such as child labour, and participation and partnership with children have demonstrated successes across the world, especially in creating child friendly social development. Similarly, young people have immense potential to mobilise themselves and the community at large, as was seen in recent times during the Arab Spring, and the need to constructively channelise youth potential, skill development and leadership for elimination of child labour and supporting human capital development would reap benefits for Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Poor social and education infrastructure:** The internal strife has ravaged the country, including its infrastructure. The roads are poor and potholed where present, making drive even in a 4x4 vehicle on tar road slow. The delegation to reach the village at one time abandoned the vehicle and rode motorbikes. Poor sanitation and drainage has a detrimental effect on the community, especially during rains when it effectively cuts off the villages from the rest of the world.

Efforts towards community interventions were also affected by lack of adequate infrastructure as was found in village Petit d' Bouaké. ANADER - Le Partenaire Privilégié du Monde Rural, a community organisation had initiated activities, but were burdened by the lack of infrastructure in the village. Similarly, other organisations and institutions found it extremely difficult to reach out to villages in the interior.

Education infrastructure also bore the brunt of internal conflict, with dilapidated buildings and multiple grade classrooms, inadequate teachers, etc. In the village Petit Djene, in the nascent stages of the Mars Inc's V4C intervention there was no electricity and the school building was a lean shed providing education to 60 children.

Overall, the above gaps must be viewed with the poverty and illiteracy lens, where Côte d'Ivoire is struggling to rebuild and create political social and economic stability. Foremost, the efforts for reconstruction and stability must be supported and strengthened in the country, as they would impact the social and developmental growth, including reducing poverty and illiteracy. There is also a need for the stakeholders in the country to share the vision of the First Lady towards elimination of child labour. As inferred by the delegation, all interventions on child labour looked mechanical and did not on the surface seem to share the vision of the First Lady. To be successfully able to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, and subsequently all forms of child labour, Côte d'Ivoire and the stakeholders in the cocoa production and otherwise need alignment with the efforts of the government.



A meeting with cocoa growing community in progress



A typical hutment of a cocoa farmer in Côte d'Ivoire

Recommendations for bridging the gaps

- **Strengthening the primary as well as secondary education system, and including teachers' as partner in the growth story:** Restoring increased access, inclusion and equity towards improving quality of basic education services both primary and secondary through primary school construction, infrastructure development, rehabilitation of school services, enhanced school health and nutrition programmes, introduction of schemes for incentivising girls' education, as well as strengthening capacity to deliver basic education through the partnership with teachers would prevent child labour in vulnerable communities. Teachers and their unions have the untapped potential to partner in the country's child labour elimination strategies and there is a need to step recognise this and step up teachers recruitment and training for a relevant education system that prevents child labour and rehabilitates child labourers effectively.
- **Regular capacity building, sensitisation and orientation of stakeholders on trafficking, child labour and forced labour:** Technical skills to identify, monitor and remedy trafficking, child labour and forced labour in cocoa farming was limited among the authorities. It is recommended that the Institutional actors be regularly sensitised and trained on inspection, monitoring, prevention and rehabilitation of child labour, trafficking and forced labour. Capacity building workshops would also enhance cooperation and collaboration among different government departments and their officials for joint action on trafficking and child labour.
- **Substituting hazardous child labour with decent working for youth:** One of the main challenges in child labour is how to help employers substitute hazardous child labour with decent youth employment in agriculture as well as other sectors. Promoting youth employment in agriculture involves much more than raising health and safety standards. Stimulating rural youth employment is particularly crucial for Côte d'Ivoire's cocoa production given the large number of unemployed or underemployed rural youth, and the preference of large number of child labourers in cocoa farms.
- **Uniform messaging and communication for development:** The lack of discordant messaging and communication at the community level was identified as a gap, which can be bridged by adopting coherent and uniform communication and public awareness campaigns by the law enforcement agencies, government and non-government stakeholders at the community level. This would be more effective in translating the vision from the top to the lowest levels of governance and administration across the country. These would also support communication for development, including social message relating to violations such as female genital mutilation/cutting, reproductive and gender rights, education, trafficking, child labour, etc.
- **Effective remediation of child labour and child victims of trafficking:** The process of reintegration of child labourers or child victims of trafficking through education and into mainstream society is hinged on safe and effective rehabilitation and education of child labourers removed/rescued from cocoa plantations. While the delegation was pleased to note the government investment in the centres for victims of trafficking, it is important that such efforts need to be strengthened and supported with special shelters for child labourers – to provide specialised services and opportunities to the child labourers and child victims of trafficking for labour.
- **Strengthening socially responsive and accountable community groups:** Strong community groups, including Development Committees are at the core of child labour monitoring systems,

community mobilisation and any community-based intervention, especially in rural areas. Strong, motivated and accountable community groups not only build confidence within the community but are able to sustain positive outcomes. There is a strong need to enhance the community groups to become socially responsive and accountable through capacity building, and training.

- **Active participation of children and youth in education and community development:** The process of elimination of child labour in cocoa farming will get a tremendous boost if supported by active participation of children at large; erstwhile child labourers/ survivors of exploitation and youth receiving training for enhancing their skills and leadership qualities. The children already attending schools as peer models can support the community outreach programmes explaining the importance of education in the lives of children. The erstwhile child labourers /survivors of exploitation and the youth undergoing skill building trainings will serve as exemplary models to the community members underpinning the role of education and skill building in combating illiteracy, poverty and child labour and promoting the prospects of decent working conditions in cocoa farming which in turn will contribute to foster the cause of education and community development in Côte d'Ivoire
- **Developing robust, accountable and transparent monitoring and certification mechanism:** Working with the existing initiative and certification systems to develop a common nomenclature and stronger methodologies for labour standards inspection, monitoring, verification and certification, and overall transparent and accountable supply chains to the farm levels. It is therefore of utmost importance to have federally accredited and coherent benchmark which brings in the much need uniformity in the certification process. One such example of unified monitoring and certification system CocoAssure™ - Sustainable Social Responsibility in the Cocoa Supply Chain – A Planifesto © 2011 Clay Gordon & U. Roberto Romano (See Annexure 2) is proposed.
- **Sustaining efforts towards poverty eradication with income generation prospects for women empowerment:** Addressing the root causes of child labour and other development and human rights issues are at the core of any strategy to approach the problem. Cocoa being a prime trade commodity in Côte d'Ivoire and the country's dependence on this necessitates addressing the socio-economic dynamics behind this. With an estimate 42 per cent of the population living below poverty line and if the current trends prevail over 60 per cent would be living below poverty line in 2015, poverty eradication remains central to the issue of child labour elimination. Relevant, partnership-based farmer friendly policies would safeguard smallholder farmers from fluctuations in international commodity pricing and support long term rural and agriculture practices in the country.

Alternative income generation and skills training are co-issues to poverty eradication and have positive impact on women empowerment, and can demonstrate potential for long term social and economic stability as well.

Government and industry should also invest in modern agro-production methods that boost the productivity and profitability of cocoa for the farmers to augment farmer incomes and livelihoods.

Meeting with First Lady of Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

The delegation from Global March met Mrs. Dominique Ouattara, the First Lady of Republic of Côte d'Ivoire at the President's House. A passionate and committed humanitarian, she is a French-Ivorian businesswoman. In April 11, 2000, Ms. Ouattara received in Venice, Italy, the prize of "The Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World", that awarded 40 women selected cases throughout the world for their skills and expertise to the head businesses. Ms. Dominique founded the Children of Africa Foundation in 1989 an organisation which aims to assist distressed children in Africa not only through various charitable actions and donations, but also through sponsoring well-known and accountable charity groups.

Since November 2010, she resigned from all her activities as an entrepreneur to devote herself for the cause of children and vulnerable people in her country.

The First Lady's commitments are as follows:

- Ensure that every child has access to health and schools;
- Reduce the spread of HIV and particularly the mother/ child transmission of AIDS;
- Fight against the worst forms of child labour;
- Help women take care of themselves through micro-projects.

Recently, in July 2012, she signed an agreement with the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) in Washington D.C., USA to develop and implement educational and vocational training programs that will benefit cocoa farmers and their families in Côte d'Ivoire. The three-year agreement which is valued at US\$3.6 million will benefit more than 12,000 Ivoirians through successful WCF educational programs, such as the expansion of access to quality universal basic education, developing human resources through vocational training for youth and women and mobilising communities, district assemblies, the cocoa industry and others to work together to address development challenges in cocoa communities. The First Lady believes the place for children is in schools, and that working in partnership with the WCF, will insure a brighter future for her country's children by allowing them to take their places on school benches instead of on cocoa farms.

Discussion during this meeting revolved around comprehensive strategies that could be effective in eliminating child labour and curbing trafficking in Côte d'Ivoire. This included social awareness and mass mobilisation to raise awareness on trafficking and child labour; development with integrated approach to ensure protection of the rights of the children and economic rehabilitation of the marginalised and vulnerable population; discussion on best practices and replicable models for elimination of child labour in Côte d'Ivoire.

The proposal by Global March would complement the work being done by the First Lady's Office for elimination of child labour from cocoa farming; building sustainable communities and fostering a coherent approach to all the stakeholders engaged in the fight against child labour in cocoa growing underpinning the strategies defined in National Action Plan on Child Labour and Trafficking. In particular Global March could strengthen and enhance the capacity of the key stakeholders through sharing of experiences, knowledge and skills.

The First Lady acceded to the proposition made by Global March and iterated that her office will closely coordinate with Global March in future to devise and implement strategies to successfully address the child labour in cocoa farming at Côte d'Ivoire.

Global March and its partners could help smallholder farmers to improve safety and health conditions on their farms, and substituting hazardous child labour with decent employment for youth. In tackling hazardous child labour in this manner, the child, who is above the minimum legal age of employment that the farmer currently employs ceases to be a “child labourer” and becomes classed as a “young worker”.

To eliminate child labour means ensuring labour rights and good working conditions for all workers – self employed and waged, young and adult. Fully and sustainably eliminating child labour means, for example, fully securing the rights of workers to organise and collectively bargain in free, independent trade unions, and of farmers to form their own independent organisations; creating decent employment and ensuring fair wages and work for adult workers, promoting gender equality, raising safety and health standards and so on. Global March and its partners would support and advocate the wider application of core labour rights and standards as fundamental human rights.

Suggested interventions

- a. Global March proposes a national level multi-stakeholder consultation to align the partners with the National Action Plan 2012-2014 of fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labour, as a consultative platform to deliberate and develop on lessons and experiences. This consultation will be organised in close association with the Government, ILO and First Lady's office. The President or First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire could inaugurate the consultation.
- b. Ten communities will be rendered child friendly through the Bal Mitra Gram (BMG) model, with the Bachpan Bachao Andolan as a knowledge partner (partner organisation of Global March). Such models will be replicable and adaptable in nature.

Global March's proposal for sustainable action

- a. Global March could work as lead agency on ground and collaborate with ILO or ICI or industry or government on multi-stakeholder consultation and creation of replicable models where there is no child labour with all children attending and retained in school, supporting child participation and community dialogue in 10 communities over the next 2-3 years.
- b. Global March being neutral and credible agency could successfully organise a national or bi-national (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) multi-stakeholder consultation to work out concrete and time-bound measures for coordination and harmonising interventions to eliminate child labour from Côte d'Ivoire.
- c. ILO, ICI and/or industry can be potential fiscal agency for the collaboration, while Global March and its partners in Côte d'Ivoire would be responsible for strategic planning, programmatic intervention and implementation. Global March would involve all stakeholders including government, ICI and industry in experience and knowledge sharing, through a consultative process.

While Côte d'Ivoire has made significantly positive strides in addressing worst forms of child labour under the framework of Harkin Engel Protocol and the First Lady's Initiative, more serious, concerted and coordinated efforts are still required to see the tangible results. Undoubtedly a positive environment has been created to implement more strategic and time bound action but due to varied reasons and the very many actors that are involved in the whole process the approach has become somewhat theoretical, complicated and confusing. Simple and effective measures are required for driving sustainable changes towards addressing the issue of child labour. There is no dearth of good practices for curbing the menace of child labour to a considerable extent in various parts of the world. Hence there remains of scope for identifying, examining and implementing the learnings from those experiences at the domestic level.

As far as Global March is concerned the experiences of its vast membership base, with credible standing among the various stakeholders and a wide outreach with major international organisations and stakeholders could offer a range of technical and capacity skills and support the Ivorian Government and society in ending child labour in cocoa production.

Annexure 1

Scoping Mission schedule

Wed 30 Jan

Kailash Satyarthi and Cleophas Mally arrive in Cote d'Ivoire

Introductory session in evening with Jeff Morgan, Mars Inc

Thu 31 Jan

Meetings in Abidjan

9:00 Meeting with ICI at their offices. Discuss ICI program activities in region

11:00 Office of Premiere Dame. Meeting with Oversight Committee and Mme Yao

12:30 Private meeting with Premiere Dame

3:00 PM International Labour Organisation in Cote d'Ivoire

Dinner meeting with ICRAF staff. Christophe Kouame and Georges Bredou

Fri 1 Feb

Leave hotel for Flight to San Pedro

Tour Soubre area

Visited village of Petit Bouake in afternoon

Stay in Soubre

Sat 2 Feb

Finish Visit to Soubre in AM

Visited village of Petit Djene in morning

Drive to Abidjan in afternoon

Sun 3 Feb

Jeff and Georges Bredou meeting during Sunday with Kailash and Cleophas

Reviewed findings during trip and considered future activities

Meeting adjourned and Kailash travelled to airport

Cleophas left on following day, 4 February

Annexure 2

Sustainable Social Responsibility in the Cocoa Supply Chain – A Planifesto ©2011 Clay Gordon & U. Roberto Romano.

Introducing CocoAssure™

**Sustainability is an ongoing process, a mindset ... a journey.
Progress should be recognized and rewarded.**

The mission of CocoAssure™ is to create and implement an improved, cost-efficient, system for verifying ethical, sustainable, and traceable supply chains in cocoa — from the farmer to the consumer.

CocoAssure's goal is to address actual and perceived deficiencies in existing certification programs in cocoa that fall under the generic terms “fair trade” and “organic” including:

- Inflexible, global “one-size-fits-all” social and economic contracts (cultural insensitivity).
- An inability to work with small groups of farmers because of high fixed costs.
- A lack of transparency regarding the flow of monies, including the fees charged for certification, and “the cost of doing business” (corporate overhead) and, especially, the actual value returned to farmers.
- A failure to properly account for post-harvest processing production costs—both economic and environmental.
- The imposition of Western European systems of paperwork, accountability, and other values on cultures that neither value them nor understand their importance.
- A misunderstanding of the word sustainable (organic ≠ sustainable and “Fair trade” ≠ sustainable)

Though the general public increasingly asks for socially responsible products, it is not aware that the cost of securing and maintaining certifications is often borne by a third party (e.g., an NGO, a country's foreign aid program such as USAID, or the government of the country of origin itself). This creates a market that is artificial, as the costs of the system are never fully accounted for. Furthermore, there is no incentive to decrease the cost of the certifying process. In short, the consumer may actually not be getting what it is paying for: a way to engage in a socially and ecologically responsible way with the world (sustainable social responsibility).

The **CocoAssure™** model is specifically designed to:

- Create a dynamic system that balances equity, economy, and ecology, where all the parties are guaranteed benefits they value.
 - Meet the requirements of chocolate manufacturers and cocoa merchants who have already established, or are interested in establishing, “direct trade” relationships with cacao farmers/co-ops.
 - Implement and monitor low-cost, transparent, independently audited, sustainable supply chains in cocoa from the farm to the consumer.
 - Establish a trusted brand that farmers, retailers, and consumers can rely on.
- Operating Principles**

CocoAssure™ must create recognizable value that consumers will pay for *directly*. It must operate as a business to deliver long-term value to all.

Rather than creating a one-size-fits-all global social “contract” with a fixed “reward” for “compliance,” **CocoAssure™** will work on a country-by-country basis with in-country partners who possess deep knowledge of the local cocoa culture *and economy* to identify the relevant factors that will lead to success within a *glocalized* (global+local=glocal) framework.

Relationships must be Equitable. All principles and practices implemented in the **CocoAssure™** model of sustainable, socially responsible development must apply to *all* the actors in the supply chain. “Fair” must be perceived to be “fair” *to everyone involved*.

Sustainability is a Primary Goal. **CocoAssure** recognizes three interdependent elements of sustainability: environmental, economic, and social. At its simplest, this means that the cacao trees—and their supporting and dependent ecosystems—will be maintained efficiently and productively so that future generations can continue to enjoy chocolate; it means that farmers can earn sufficient income from working their cacao farms such that someone will want to continue farming cacao in future generations; and it means that the communities in which the farmers live will thrive and continue to exist through succeeding generations. Finally, **CocoAssure™** itself must be sustainable in order to contribute to this process.

Principles and practices must be culturally relevant. **CocoAssure's™** recognizes that the cultural incentives to work, and barriers to organize labour, are different from country to country and can even vary within different sectors of the economy in the same country. This is the basis for **CocoAssure's™** *glocalized* approach; a global framework that is flexible so that it can be adapted to local conditions.

Openness and Transparency leads to Trust. The public puts a great deal of trust in ethical/social certifications and it is a breach of that trust that the finances of many existing certification organizations are as opaque as they are. **CocoAssure** will reciprocate all of the requirements for openness in reporting demanded of all other actors in its certified supply chains. **CocoAssure** will adopt open-book reporting of its finances. **CocoAssure** will work to put all relevant information on-line so that it can easily be accessed by anyone who is interested.

Diversity leads to innovation. In cocoa and chocolate, there are many small manufacturers who want to develop independently verified relationships with cocoa farmers. Market forces, however, are literally forcing these companies to buy into the considerably more expensive “fair” trade and organic certifications even though those certifications deliver less value to the farmer than the manufacturer can demonstrably deliver on their own. **CocoAssure's™** goal is to provide a complementary verification model for companies who wish to have verified direct trade supply chains without the overhead and cost of institutionalized “fair” trade.

Reduce costs to increase reach. **CocoAssure™** will embrace connected technologies and crowd sourcing techniques to reduce the cost of its operations and to increase its reach and ability to work with smaller-size groups than can be cost-effectively served by existing systems. **CocoAssure™** will work on both sides of the digital divide, developing appropriate technologies that satisfy farmers' needs, as well.





“ Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is an acceptable practice because of a country's economic circumstances. Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is acceptable because of cultural tradition. And gone is the argument that abusive child labor is a necessary evil on the road to economic development. ”

- **Senator Tom Harkin, USA**



“ Efforts to combat child labour are failing in the face of inertia, indifference and an indefensible willingness on the part of too many governments, international agencies, and aid donors to turn a blind eye. ”

- **Gordon Brown**, *Special Envoy on Education for UN Secretary General*



GLOBAL MARCH

Against Child Labour
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