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*Cabinet du Premier Ministre*  
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*Système de suivi du travail des enfants  
dans le cadre de La certification  
du processus de production du cacao.*  
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*Le Comité de Pilotage*

**Executive summary:**

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**Côte d'Ivoire issues Initial Pilot Survey Report**  
**on labor in the cocoa sector**

**CONTEXT**

Child labor in general, and particularly in cocoa farming, has raised particular and continuous attention for the past several years.

Cote d'Ivoire, the world's leading producer of cocoa is therefore developing significant efforts since 2001 to bring a sustainable and multi-faceted approach to this issue.

The Harkin-Engel Protocol, agreed in September 2001, is the dedicated frame of action to deal with the worst forms of child labor in cocoa production.

According to a subsequent agreement based on the protocol, a process of certification must be implemented in a region producing at least 50 % of the cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire by July 2008. The certification process is a cycle of continuous improvement of living conditions and labor practices in the cocoa sector. The cycle includes four steps:

- Diagnostic survey (data collection)
- Publication of survey results (public reporting)
- Implementation of actions for social protection (remediation)
- Independent verification (verification)

**PRESENTATION OF THE SURVEY**

The pilot survey was conducted in the districts of Agnibilékrou (East), Soubré (Southwest) and Tiassalé (South). In these three (3) cocoa producing districts, the pilot survey involved visits to 120 households in six villages. 120 heads of household, 184 children (aged 5-17) and 76 adults, involved in cocoa production were interviewed. The survey was conducted between April 25<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup> 2007.

Given the fact that this survey was a pilot, two of its key objectives were to test the methodology and tools. In this respect, due to the limited geographical cover of the pilot, the results cannot be extrapolated and pertain only to the surveyed areas.

The survey was conducted by enumerators (surveyors) appointed by ICK Consulting, a private consulting specialist for interventions in the rural sector. Previously, ICK consulting had appointed enumerators for the Child Labor Monitoring System (CLMS) pilot project of Oumé (Center west) in 2005.

For this pilot survey, the enumerators were successively trained by an international consultant, then by the team of the certification project. During this training the enumerators strengthened their knowledge of the worst forms of child labor, survey techniques, questionnaire administration and general survey methodology.

The analysis of the survey data was accomplished by a multi disciplinary team of experts, comprising a statistician demographer, a sociologist and an agricultural economist.

## **MAIN RESULTS OF THE SURVEY**

- Surveyed household has an average size of 10 persons, 7 of which are children. 98% of the interviewed heads of household are owners of their land. The average size of cocoa fields in this survey is 7.5 hectares. Among these respondents, 86% of the heads of household have less than 10 hectares. Of that number, nearly one-third have less than 4 hectares.
- 97% of the surveyed children are related directly or indirectly to the head of household (71% are the children of the head of household). 3% of the children are not related to any person within the household;
- As far as school is concerned, 71% of the heads of households have never been to school.
- Surveyed children breakdown in three distinct categories with respect to school:
  - Children currently at school (54%). Among them 98% would like to continue going to school;
  - Children who have never been to school (34%);
  - Children having been to school but abandoned it (11%). Among them, 43% reported they have left school because they did not do well, 19% because they did not like school and 14% because the school was too far away. 5% reported they have left school due to work that they perform.
- In addition to reasons given by the children, the analysis of available scholastic facilities informs us that:

- There is only one or sometimes two primary schools for each of the surveyed villages, including all hamlets which are attached to them;
  - There are no Community Centers of Education in the surveyed villages;
  - There is no secondary school close to surveyed villages (the shortest distance up to the available secondary school being 12 km). This information supports the finding that children in the age category [14-17] have the highest rate of school abandonment.
- Apart from cocoa farming, the surveyed children perform other household activities (95% work food crop production, 90% in domestic work, 67% in caretaking of livestock);
  - With regard to hazardous work<sup>1</sup>, 87% of the surveyed children are involved in at least one hazardous activity. The survey data shows that children are most commonly involved in:
    - Carrying of heavy loads (84%), burning brush (18%), application of chemical fertilizer (14%) and the spraying of pesticides (5%)
    - In terms of frequency, the involvement of children in the above hazardous activities is not a regular occurrence (except for the carrying of heavy loads).
    - The hazardous activities were found to take place during one or two periods of the three periods of the cocoa season (peak season, mid-crop and off-season).
  - The relationship of the children involved in hazardous activities to the head of household shows that whatever the hazardous work, these children typically have a family tie to the head of household (85%), and are currently at school. This finding leads to a point-of-view that the involvement of children in hazardous activities is an effect of the social reproduction model which characterizes the learning culture of traditional societies within Côte d'Ivoire;
  - Almost the half (47%) of the children involved in hazardous activities are currently at school, and a low proportion of children attending school (7%) avoid hazardous work. This data shows that, schooling does not necessarily prevent children from involvement in hazardous work.
  - Body pain (73%), severe headache (58%) and irritations (eye 41%, skin 44%) are the maladies most experienced by the children. This is in line with data showing the predominance of the carrying of heavy loads and, in a lesser measure the spreading of chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides). The analysis of the frequency of maladies shows that, except for body pains (66% "sometimes" and 11% "regularly") and for splitting headache (61% "sometimes" and 4% "regularly"), and in a lesser measure for the skin

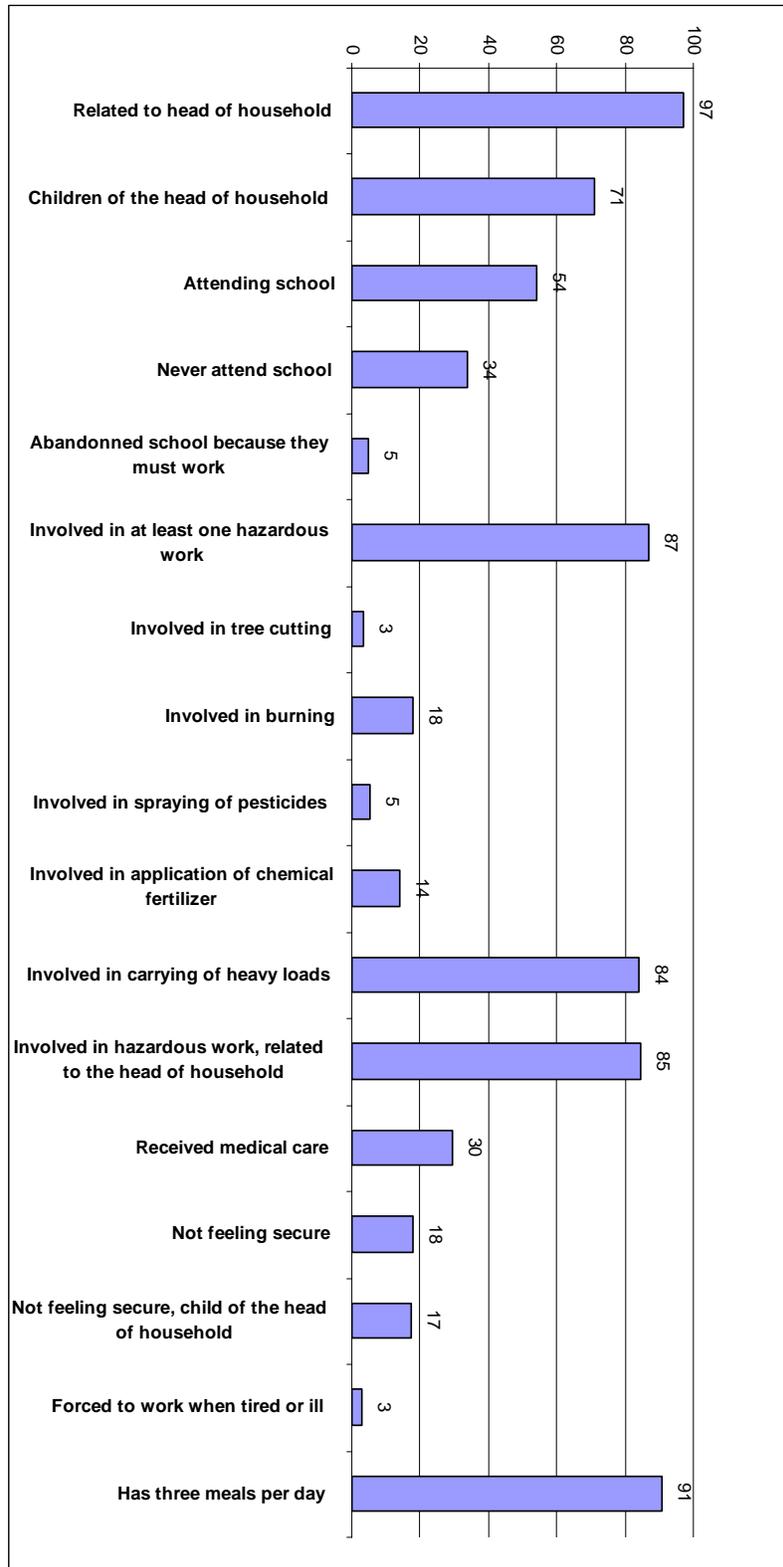
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<sup>1</sup>Defined in Côte d'Ivoire by Ministerial Regulation No. 2250 on 14 March 2005 (Ministry of Labor) as an enforcement of ILO Convention 182.

irritations (46% "sometimes" and 6% "regularly"), the discomforts are not reported on a regular basis.

- Despite the maladies experienced due to hazardous works, the majority of the interviewed children do not receive medical care (64%). All the children who receive medical care receive it with support of their parents. .
- 3% of the children involved in hazardous works say they have to work even if they are ill or tired.
- Mathematical modeling of the involvement of the children in hazardous work in this pilot survey shows that:
  - Determinants of this involvement are age, sex and the cohabitation (with the parents) index. Older, female children, living with their parents tend to be more involved in hazardous activities.
  - Children do not constitute a significant labor force for the productivity of the cocoa field.

**PROFILE OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN COCOA FARMING (% CHILDREN)**



**Recommendations**, as a response to survey results, consist of two main streams of action:

Urgent actions in surveyed cocoa producing districts:

- Sensitization of the head of households for the immediate prevention of the involvement of children in hazardous works;
- Sensitization of the head of households to send children, and especially girls to school;
- Promotion and training of free mutual support groups and paid farming work service groups;

Medium term actions:

- Creation of Community Centers of Education, accompanied with income generating activities to support their functioning; creation of literacy centers, and creation of vocational training centers for children not attending school;
- Organization of mobile health campaigns consisting of consultations and primary healthcare for households;
- Rehabilitation or equipping of existing scholastic facilities, building of supplementary scholastic facilities;
- Rehabilitation or equipping of existing health facilities, building of supplementary health facilities;
- Rehabilitation of existing hydraulic facilities, building of supplementary hydraulic facilities;
- Rehabilitation of country roads.