



European
Commission

Guilt free chocolate?

Ending **Child Labour**
in the Cocoa production
in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

Monday 8 March 2021
15.00 - 16.30 CET

Interactive
virtual
conference



This conference will present the results of a study on child labour in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana on the root causes, the main gaps, and the identification of potentially highly impactful solutions. This interaction with a range of stakeholders who have contributed to the analysis will enrich the debate on how to ensure sustainable cocoa value chains, from the field to the consumer. Participant discussions will help identify the key recommended options for the European Commission.

PROGRAMME

- 15.00 - 15.10** ● **Introduction:** *Cécile Billaux*, Head of Unit, INTPA E2 Micro-economic Analysis, Investment Climate, Private Sector, Trade and Employment, Directorate-General International Partnerships, European Commission
Video *What did you dream of becoming when you were a child?*
- 15.10 -15.30** ● **Presentation of the study findings, 1st part:** contexts, root causes, challenges and gaps. *Mei Zegers* and *Godwin Ayenor*
- 15.30 - 15.50** ● **Presentation of the study findings, 2nd part:** impact analysis of best practices and pathways forward. *Mei Zegers* and *Godwin Ayenor*
- 15.50 - 16.20** ● **Discussion:** open views, comments, questions and answers
- 16.20 - 16.30** ● **Conclusions**

BACKGROUND

In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana about 1.56 million children are engaged in child labour in cocoa production. This figure reveals the increasing trend of African children in child labour, particularly in agriculture.

The root causes of child labour are complex and multifaceted. While household poverty is the main and acknowledged cause, it is important to analyse the determinants that trap farmers in poverty, together with other drivers and gaps contributing to the use of child labour.

A decent and fair farm gate price of cocoa would certainly help reduce child labour; however, on its own, this solution is not sufficient to obtain a sustainable and high level impact. Other measures are necessary to ensure the best interest and well-being of the child.

An integrated and systemic response to address the complexity of challenges is required in a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial approach. More coordinated action would strengthen the central and local government's capacities to develop and deliver on policies that work. Increased public and private partnerships that align with existing and future impactful initiatives including at local level is needed. Well-structured coordination and feedback mechanisms, from decentralised through national to international levels, are key to achieving real results.

Strengthening the quality of research, data and monitoring tools would inform policy makers and help raise the awareness of potential actors and sustain them.

At an institutional level, supporting the implementation of policies and services would complement the complex task of reducing child labour in cocoa production. These include free and accessible quality schools, improved child protection and social assistance mechanisms. Also necessary are improved infrastructure, women and youth empowerment,

adequate training for increased access to decent and safe jobs for adults, due diligence and mainstreamed actions.

The ongoing debates launched under the [EU Sustainable Cocoa Initiative](#) and the consultation of the proposed [EU legislation on Sustainable Corporate Governance](#) put in place a solid platform for the EU's continued work to support the end of child labour and promote the sustainable production of cocoa, with a progressive reduction of deforestation.

This study is the result of the valuable contribution of a large number of individuals and institutions. The consultations undertaken during this research have helped analyse the causes, identify the gaps, and proposes pathways and relevant solutions to end child labour. The conference will shed light on the analysis of the results, exchange views and explore recommendations for the European Commission, partners and other actors, for the benefit of children and those whose lives are directly affected.

On International Women's Day the conference will highlight the empowerment of women and girls recognised as being fundamental to the eradication of child labour in the cocoa and other sectors.

The report will be distributed after the conference.

The conference will be moderated by Mark McGinty, communications expert

REGISTRATION

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Views and comments can be submitted to INTPA-INCLUSIVE-DEVELOPMENT-NEWS@ec.europa.eu