ICI Child Labour Proxy Risk Indicator (Scoring System)  
Ghana

The research project of the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) will identify which factors make children, households and communities vulnerable to child labor. Based on these findings, a community scoring system will be developed to measure a community’s level of protection to children’s non-engagement in child labor.

Background
Child labor in cocoa-growing areas is caused by a complex interplay of social, economic and cultural factors which span across the individual, household, community, national and international levels. The literature indicates that there are specific individual, household and community level factors which can either increase or decrease the child labor and hazardous child labor risk. Understanding the risk, would be helpful for community graduation decisions, program design, targeting of farmers and monitoring and evaluation of programs which aim to reduce child labor.

Objectives
This study tries to find out which specific individual, household and community factors make children, households and communities vulnerable to child labor in the first place and how this can be systematically measured in a cost-effective manner to verify that child labor risks reduce. Child labor incidence surveys, although useful in this regard, are often costly and complex to administer with varying prevalence rates depending on the framing of the questions and how the questions have been interpreted. Moreover, frequent interviews of households in relatively small communities can lead to fatigue and to imprecise reporting. Collecting information at the community level, on the other hand, is relatively less expensive, is already done by most organizations and companies that work on community development and can be carried out frequently without the same fatigue problems. Hence, the aim of the research is to develop a community scoring system (proxy risk indicator) to identify the community characteristics that are most associated with the incidence of child labor. This will be used for timely monitoring of the risk of child labor in cocoa growing areas, for project planning design purposes, and to track progress in strengthening child protection and reducing child labor risk.

Research Question
Which individual, household and community characteristics are the most indicative of the child labor and hazardous child labor risk and to what degree/extent?

Research Phases and Method
The development of the tool for Ghana will be conducted through the following 2 steps:

1) Primary Data Collection
Data will be collected to measure the incidence and characteristics of child labor in each of the communities selected. This is necessary as recent representative child labor incidence data at the community level is not available at present. 130 cocoa-growing communities in Ghana will be selected for the primary data collection. Data Collection will firstly be based on a short questionnaire to collect incidence data and secondly on household interviews.

2) Data Analysis and Development of the Tool
On the basis the matched data, an econometric model that links probability of children’s
involvement in child labor to individual, household and community level characteristics will be developed. The estimates will cover different dimensions of child labor so to be able to assess vulnerability in a multifaceted fashion.

**Research Outputs**
- Child Labor Report
- Child Labor Proxy Risk Indicator - Scoring System
- Final PowerPoint Presentation

**Serving the Mission of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation**
This research project provides the base for better understanding which specific individual, household and community factors make children, households and communities vulnerable to child labor. The research outcome allows timely monitoring of the risk of child labor in cocoa growing areas and can be useful for project planning design purposes, and to track progress in strengthening child protection and reducing child labor risk. It therefore contributes to a better understanding of farmers and their environment, with a specific focus on child labor.

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