

WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE TACKLING CHILD LABOR

Child labor is work that is damaging to a child's body or mind, because it is performed at too early an age or under dangerous conditions or because it keeps a child out of education, harming their long term prospects.

The eradication of child labor in agriculture is an important step in UTZ mission to achieve a world where sustainable farming is the norm.

**NO CHILD
LABOR** on
UTZ certified
farms.



Producer groups are responsible for **preventing, identifying & addressing** child labor.



Child labor is prohibited in **all areas** of the farm, including the household.

Regular child labor **risk assessments** carried out.



THE PROBLEM

The International Labor Organization estimates that 168 million children worldwide are engaged in child labor, more than half of them are engaged in hazardous work. The majority (59% or 98 million) are working in the agricultural sector.

A 2015 study by Tulane University* estimated that in 2013/14 there were 1.2 million child laborers in cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire, the world's largest cocoa producer.

Child labor exposes children to several health hazards including the inhalation of smoke or hazardous chemicals and the use of dangerous tools. Physical labor such as carrying heavy loads can have an impact on their long term health and growth, and child labor often means children are unable to attend school either completely or partially.

It is estimated that cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana typically live below the international poverty line, and many do not have the resources to send their children to school. In addition in some communities schools are not available locally, preventing children from having the opportunity to attend, or the quality may be very poor.



WHAT DOES THE UTZ CODE SAY?

Children aged 0 – 12: cannot work for the group or group members (including their parents), including light work.

Children aged 13 -14: cannot work for the group or group members (including their parents) except for light work, provided that the work is not harmful to their health and development, does not interfere with their schooling or training, is supervised by an adult, and does not exceed 14 hours a week. In cases where national law has set the light work limit at 12-13 years, these ages apply.

Children aged 15 - 18 years: cannot carry out work for the group or group members (including their parents) that is hazardous or that could harm their physical, mental, or moral wellbeing. They must not carry heavy loads, or work in dangerous locations, in unhealthy situations, at night, or with dangerous substances or equipment. They should not be exposed to any form of abuse and there must be no trafficked, bonded or forced labor. This applies even in countries where the national law sets the minimum work age at 14 years.

- Children below the age of 15 are not employed whether as permanent, seasonal or casual workers. Persons of less than 18 years old do not conduct heavy or hazardous work or any work that that could jeopardize their physical, mental or moral wellbeing.
- On small scale/family run farms, children are allowed to help their families, but ONLY under the following circumstances:
 - The work does not interfere with schooling.
 - The work is not physically demanding / strenuous or hazardous.
 - The child is always accompanied by an adult relative.
- No forced, bonded or trafficked labor is allowed in any shape or form.
- All certificate holders must make a risk assessment and action plan on labor and other possibly hazardous issues.
- A community liaison person is appointed who must document all cases of child labor or children at risk and the remediation actions undertaken.
- Awareness raising activities on child labor and other important issues is required among farmers, workers and their families.

DEFINITIONS

CHILD LABOR is work that is damaging to a child's body or mind, because it is performed at too early an age or under dangerous conditions or because it keeps a child out of education, harming their long term prospects.

HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOR is work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed or injured or becoming sick. Examples include carrying heavy loads, spraying pesticides and using dangerous tools. Hazardous work is prohibited until the age of 18.

CHILD TRAFFICKING refers to the recruitment and use of children for the purpose of exploitation. Trafficked children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation because they are often a long distance from home and may not be able to return home when they want.

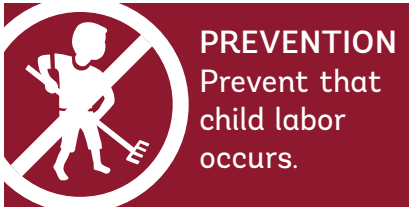
FAMILY FARMING Children living on small scale family farms can participate in farming activities that consist of light, age-appropriate duties that give them an opportunity to develop skills, provided that the activities are not harmful to their health and development, do not interfere with schooling and leisure time, and are supervised by an adult.

TAKING ACTION

UTZ is dedicated to the full eradication of child labor and invests in measures to prevent, detect, remediate and ultimately eradicate child labor on all UTZ certified farms.

To fully eradicate child labor, a powerful coalition of all relevant stakeholders is needed. UTZ depends on these networks, including local communities and governments, to take an active role, while at the same time constantly assessing and, if necessary, fine-tuning our own policies and working methods.

HOW WE WORK



The UTZ Code of Conduct includes explicit requirements based on ILO conventions that prohibit child labor. The two main ILO conventions on child labor are ILO convention 138 on Minimum Age and ILO convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labor.

All UTZ certified groups are audited to this code. In addition to the code, UTZ works with an extensive network of partners, including organizations specialized in child labor issues, to provide training and awareness raising to farmers and their communities.

UTZ trains master trainers on the correct implementation of the UTZ requirements and provides awareness raising materials about child labor in general and specifically on hazards and worst forms of child labor.



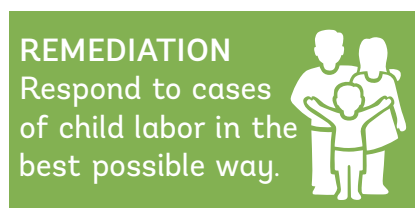
Groups must use risk assessment checklists to identify whether there is a likelihood of children being used in the labor force – these include considering issues such as:

- Accessibility of schools in the community.
- Income levels of families.
- Availability of (adult) labor.
- Reports of trafficking.

If the risk assessment shows a risk of child labor, the group must appoint community liaison officers. Their role is to identify the risks of children ending up in work, both directly in the cocoa fields but also in the home.

By being based in the community these child liaison officers are able to be present all year round and to work with the farmers and communities to take steps to prevent, identify and remediate in the community.

If children are identified by the liaison officer as involved in labor or at risk of child labor, it is the group's responsibility to act. The child should be taken out of the situation and a remediation plan should be designed and implemented with the liaison officer in collaboration with child protection experts.



Remediation could include targeted interventions such as providing the child with a copy of their birth certificate, school uniforms or books so they can go to school; or community wide interventions such as supporting the community to request improvements in local school provision, or organization of training of youth older than 18 to perform activities that are hazardous for children, such as spraying.

These steps towards eradicating child labor are owned by the community meaning they can be sustainable for the future.

IN PRACTICE

In Côte d'Ivoire we are working with the international organization International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) to build knowledge and skills to tackle child labor at the community level.

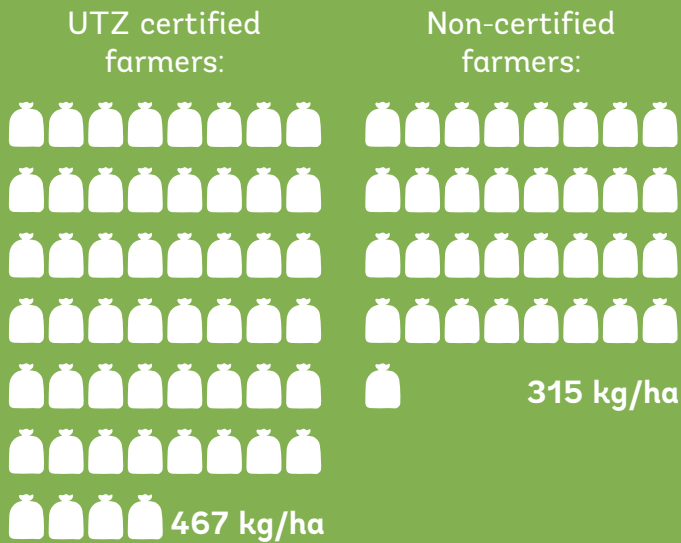
But as the issues that contribute to child labor can also be caused by structural issues in the country such as lack of access to education and issues within the supply chain such as low prices, we also work with the Ivorian government on their Public Private Partnership Platform (PPPP). This platform brings together the government and some of the major cocoa buyers alongside NGOs who are looking to tackle amongst other issues the elimination of child labor.

CREATING IMPACT

Improving farmers' incomes contributes to tackling child labor. In Côte d'Ivoire a 2014 study found that UTZ farmers had higher yields and lower production costs than non-UTZ farmers which helped them increase their income.

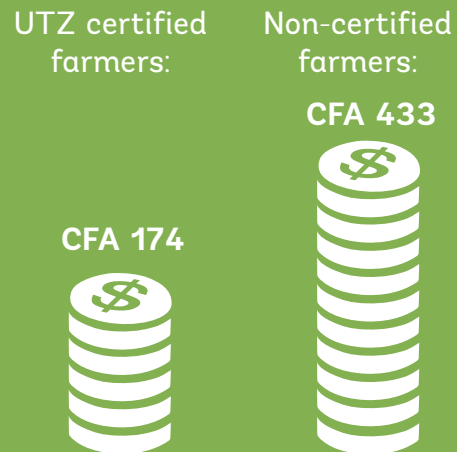
HIGHER YIELDS

UTZ certified farmers have higher yields per ha. than non-certified farmers.



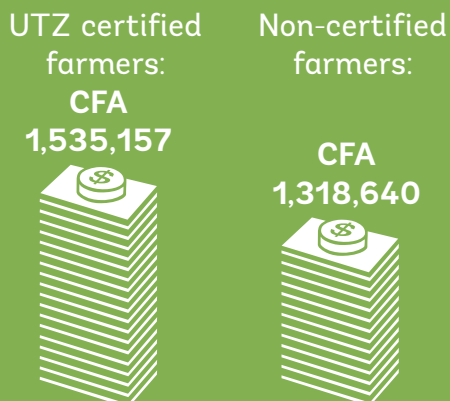
LOWER PRODUCTION COSTS

UTZ certified farmers have lower production costs per kg of cocoa than non-certified farmers.



HIGHER NET INCOME

UTZ certified farmers have a higher net income (cocoa, main farm) than non-certified farmers.



"Attending the Farmer Field School training has helped me to increase my yields, and my children are able to attend school because of the premium"

Fofana Danon