



International  
**COCOA**  
Initiative

# How stimulating adult labour can help tackle child labour

Learnings from an innovative cash transfer pilot in Cote d'Ivoire

April 2024





One-off unconditional cash transfer of CFA 50,000 (Approx EUR 76)



Incentive to hire labour:  
If a household spent (part of) the cash to hire a Community Service Group, ICI paid a subsidy to double the amount



**Community Service Groups** are made up of trained and equipped adults from the community who provide agricultural labour services at an affordable rate. This offers an alternative to child labour and serves as an additional income source for group members.

# Pilot project



15 communities in  
Cote d'Ivoire



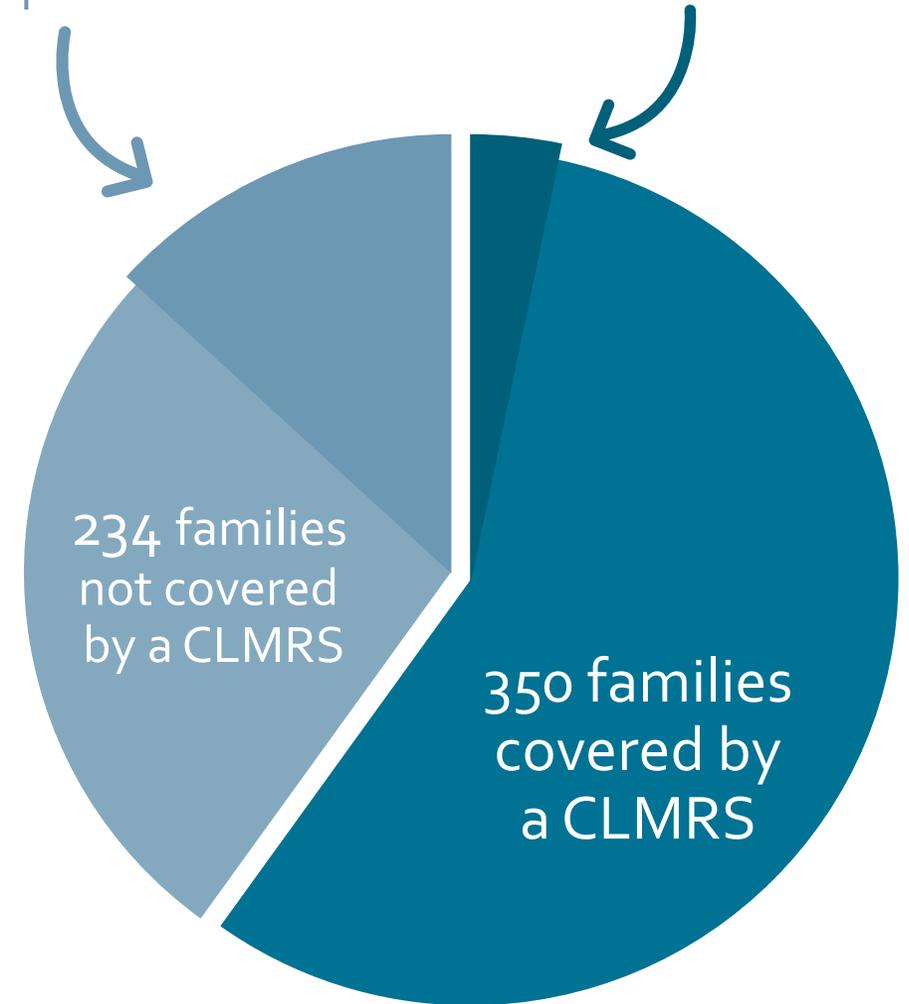
584 cocoa farming  
families



March – May 2022

33% women  
recipients

5.5% women  
recipients



**Research question – Is this approach feasible and suitable for integration into existing systems to prevent and address child labour?**

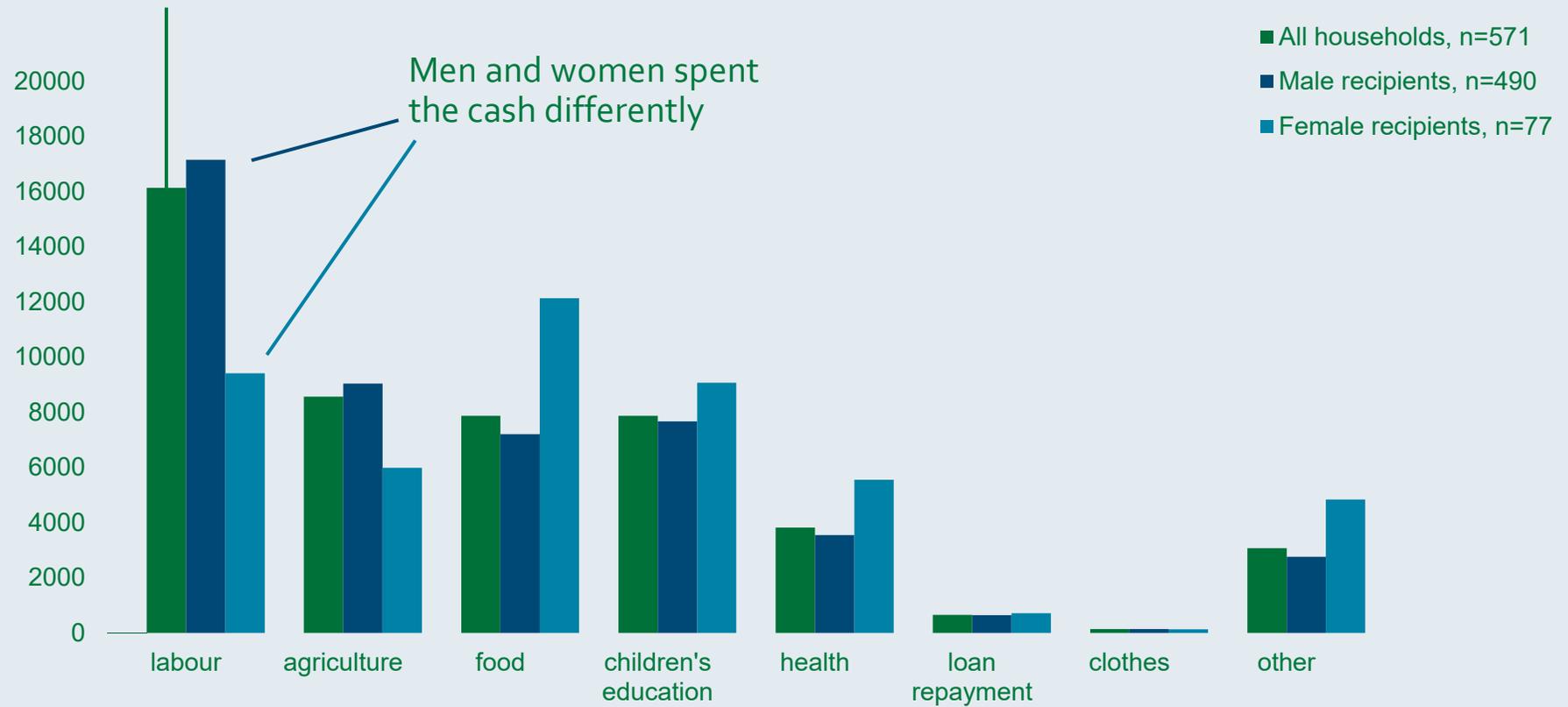


# Key findings: Spending patterns



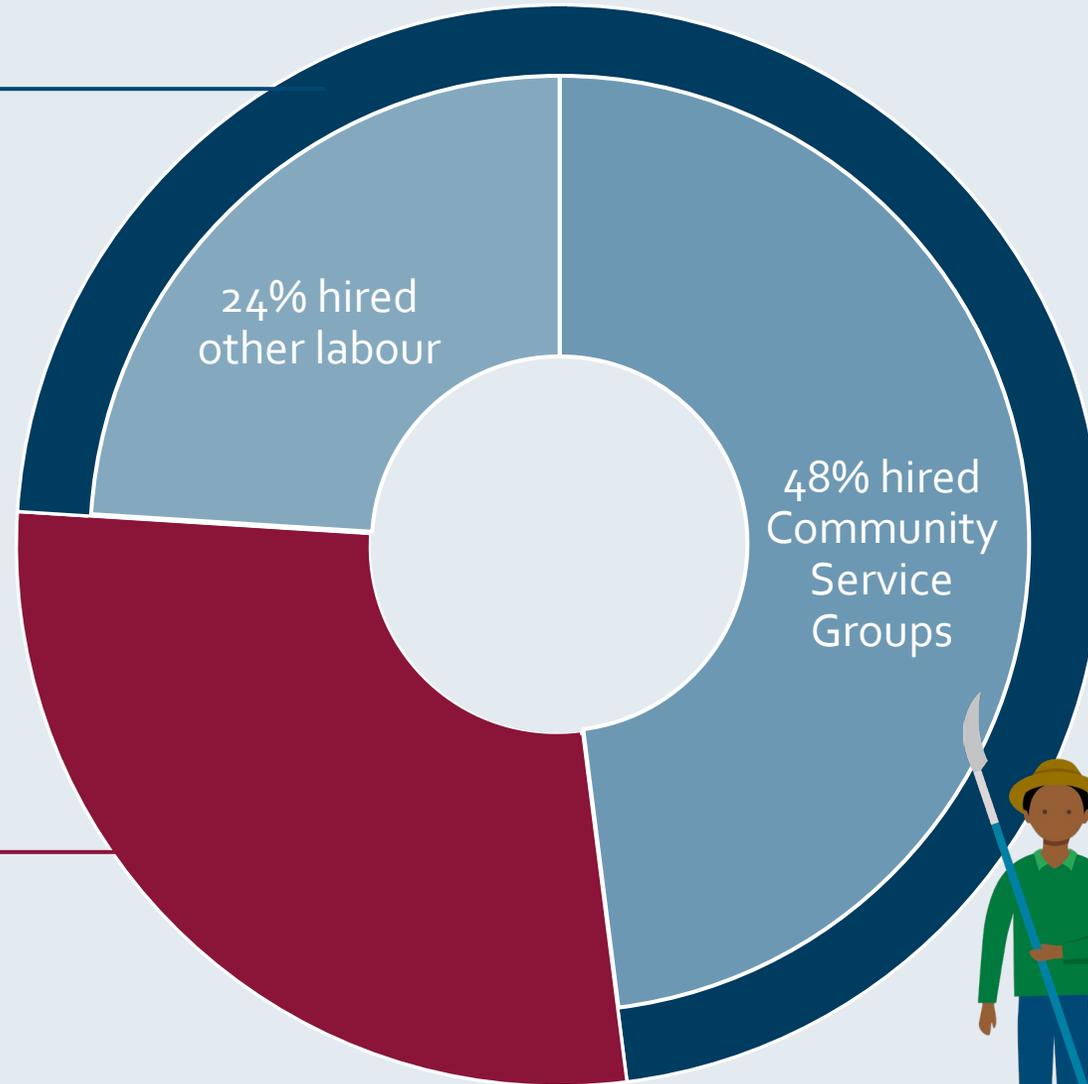
# Amount of cash spent on average per household

Households spent most on hiring adult labour



72%

of all cash recipients hired  
some form of adult labour



28%

of all cash recipients  
didn't hire adult labour





## Reasons for not hiring Community Service Groups:



Groups could not  
meet demand



Farmers and fields  
were too remote

Most popular services:



Clearing fields



Spraying pesticides



Pruning



# Key findings: Benefits for the Community Service Groups



# Boosted demand and revived Community Service Groups

- ✓ Refresher training and equipment
- ✓ Increased demand
- ✓ Reliable payments

- Increased, secured, and sustained revenues
- Professionalisation and growth of existing groups
- New groups



# Increased, secured, and sustained revenues



On average across Groups, 3-month revenue went from CFA 72'000 before the project to CFA 617'133 during the intervention



More reliable and timely revenue flows thanks to the subsidy received at the end of each month from ICI



Community Service Groups' revenues were on average approx. 8% higher after the project than during the project

# Professionalisation and growth of groups



6 Community Service Groups attracted new members



New Community Service Groups emerged in 5 communities



7 Community Service Groups decided to lower their rates to accommodate clients' budgets

# Increased child protection

- Decreased engagement in child labour
- Additional funds to pay for their education, health and food

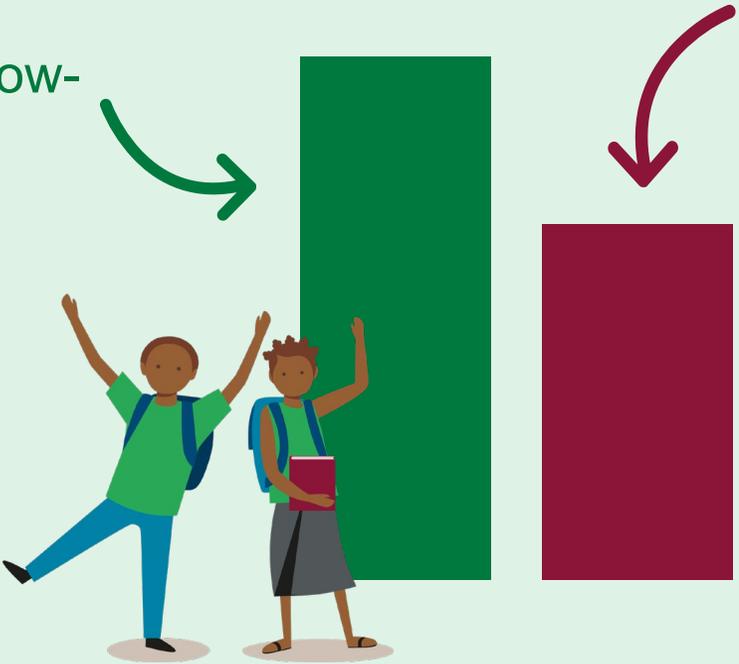


# Decreased engagement in child labour

## CLMRS Data

**66%** of children in cash-recipient families have stopped child labour according to first follow-up visit

Compared to **42%** of children in the same communities benefitting from other remediation have stopped child labour according to first follow-up visit





## Strengthened cohesion within the community

*"This project has made our young people more responsible and created mutual aid between them."*

# Challenges

In some communities, the project raised envy and resentment amongst community members who were not selected to receive a cash transfer.





# Main takeaways

- The cash transfer and labour subsidy strengthened farmers' livelihoods and improved access to adult labour.
- Male and female recipients spent cash differently.
- Cash transfers have great leverage for reducing children's engagement in agricultural work.
- The labour subsidy and the training helped strengthen and revive Community Service Groups and encouraged the creation of new Groups.

# Recommendations

- Encourage inclusive decision-making within households
- Support adult labour groups to meet the high demand and deliver quality services
- Communicate openly and transparently about the selection process
- Upscale this approach and include it in systems to prevent and address child labour



# Thank you

Read the report: Innovative strategies to stimulate adult labour and tackle child labour

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