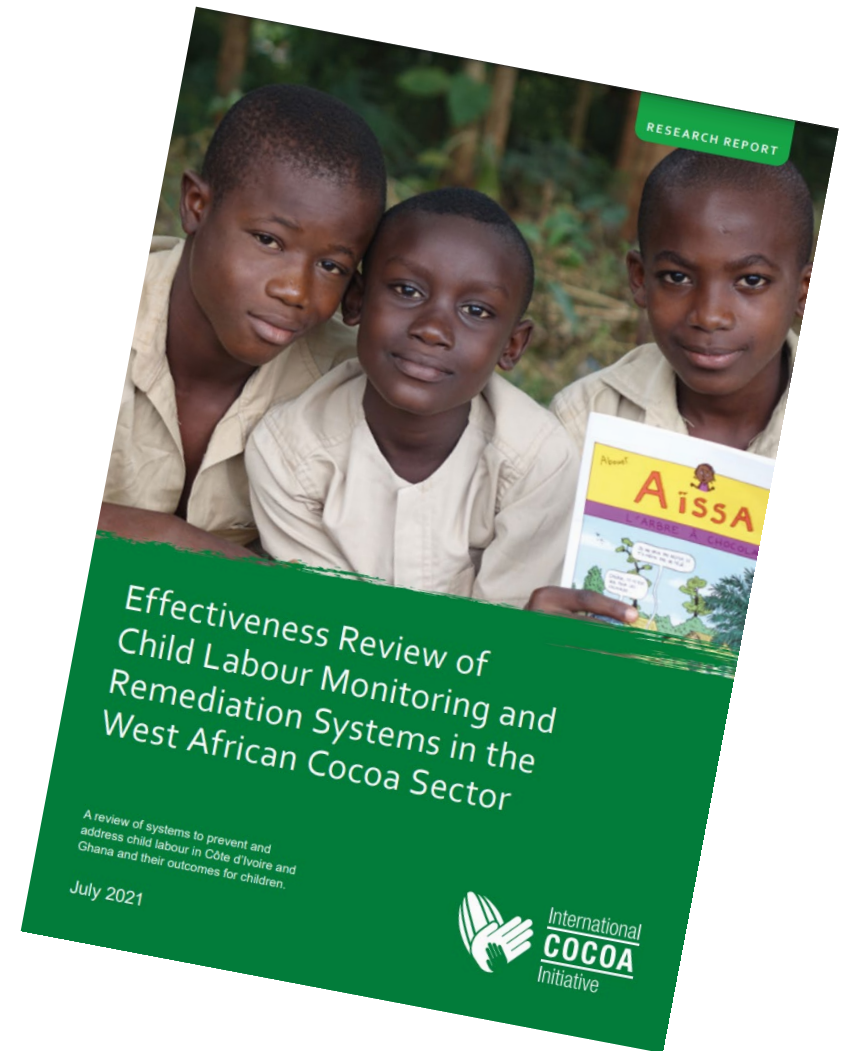International
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Effectiveness Review of CLMRS in the West African Cocoa Sector
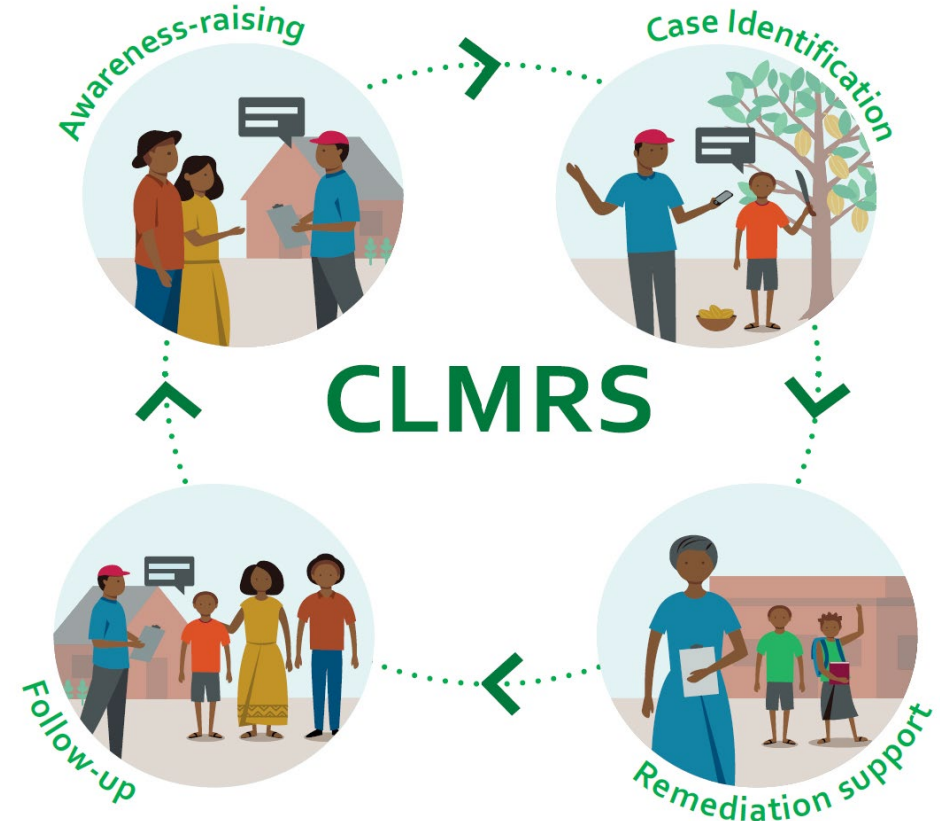
Summary of key findings from phase 2 (2019-21)

RESEARCH REPORT

Effectiveness Review of Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems in the West African Cocoa Sector

A review of systems to prevent and address child labour in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and their outcomes for children.

July 2021

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What is a CLMRS?

Operational definition of CLMRS adopted for this review, in line with the ILO definition, UN Guiding Principles, and based on the CLMRS Benchmarking study:

1. **Training and awareness-raising**
2. **Identification** of child labour cases
3. **Provision of support** (prevention and remediation)
4. **Follow-up** of children over time

Objectives and scope

Overall aim: find ways of improving efficiency & cost-effectiveness, to inform ongoing efforts to scale up systems.

The study answered two questions:

How does the design and set-up of these systems affect their ability to **identify cases of child labour?**

How effective are these systems at **protecting children from hazardous work** and improving their school participation?

Data available for analysis

Key information about the CLMRS

- System set-up & implementing partners
- Coverage of farmers
- Modalities of data collection and remediation
- **Available for 13 CLMRS**

Selected data from monitoring visits

- demographic information
- whether child is in (hazardous) CL
- whether child benefitted from remediation
- **Available from 12 CLMRS**
  (7 ICI-managed and 2 ICI-supported)

For ICI-implemented CLMRS, more detailed information available to understand how outcomes are related to **characteristics of monitoring agents and circumstances of the visit.**

Data on **follow-up visits** is only available from CLMRS at more advanced stages of implementation.
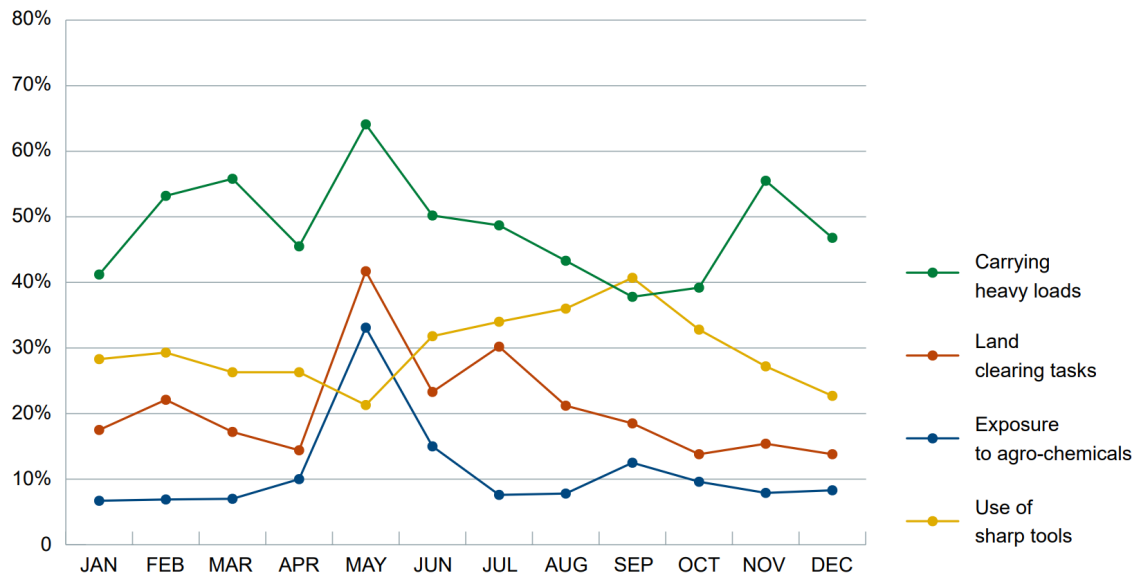
Findings and Recommendations

Training and awareness-raising

Training and awareness-raising

What we learn from the data

The prevalence of different hazardous tasks varies throughout the year:

What we recommend

- ✓ Schedule awareness-raising campaigns to coincide with peak seasons for specific hazardous tasks in order to help to **increase perceived relevance** and **prevent awareness-raising fatigue**
  - agro-chemicals: May–June
  - land-clearing tasks: May–July
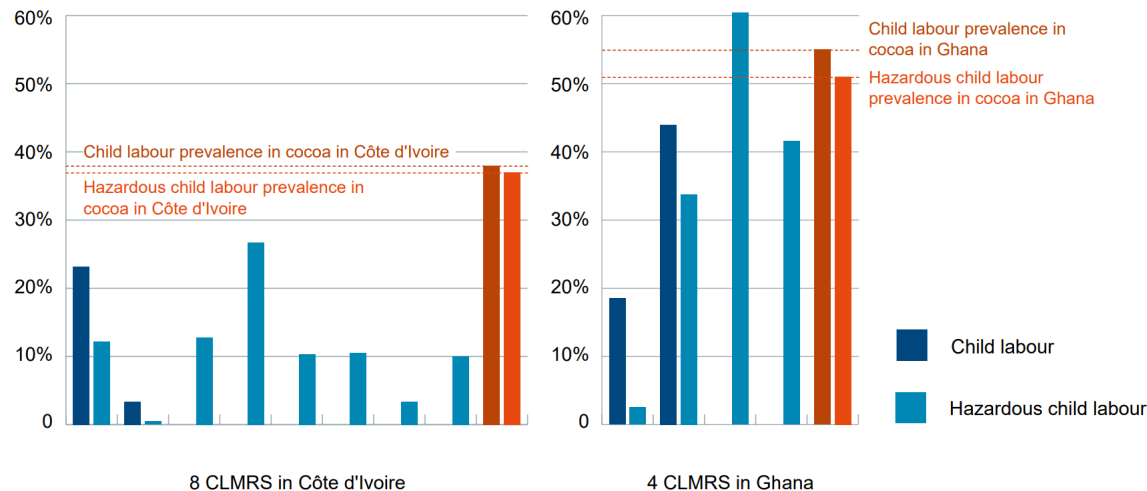 - use of sharp tools: July–September

Identifying cases of child labour

Identifying cases of child labour

What we learn from the data

Most monitoring systems are **not** likely to capture all cases among monitored households:
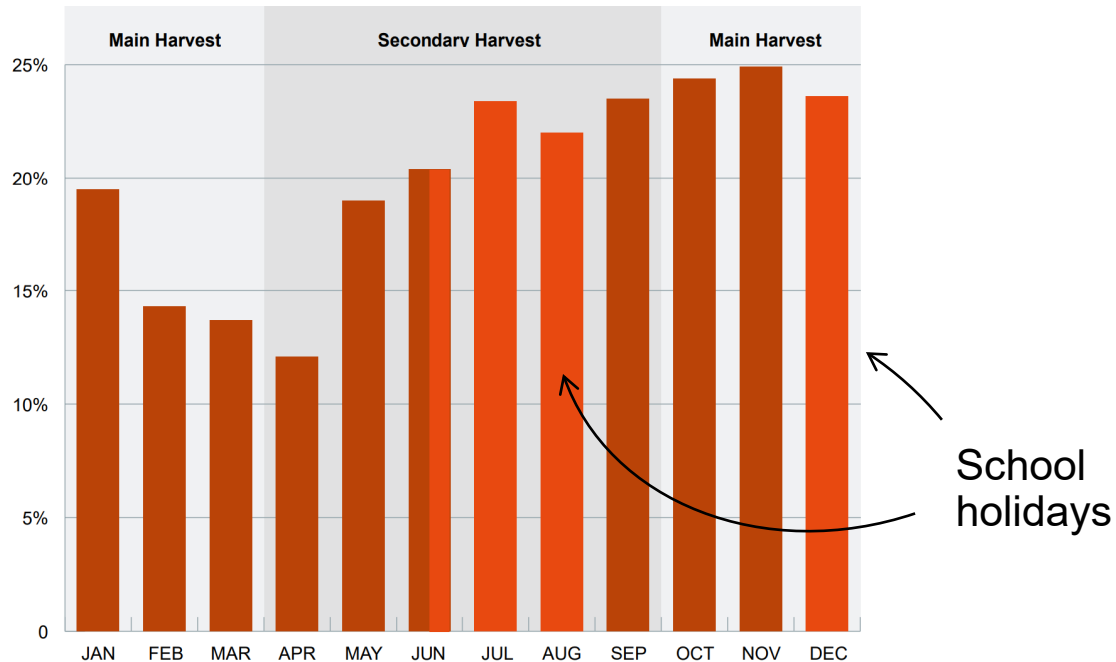

What we recommend

✓ To increase the likelihood of identifying cases of child labour, so cases can receive support, continued efforts are needed to revise and improve:

- protocols for monitoring visits
- data collection tools
- messaging around the objectives of monitoring
- training and support for monitoring agents

Identifying cases of child labour

What we learn from the data

Child labour identification rates are higher during certain periods of the year:
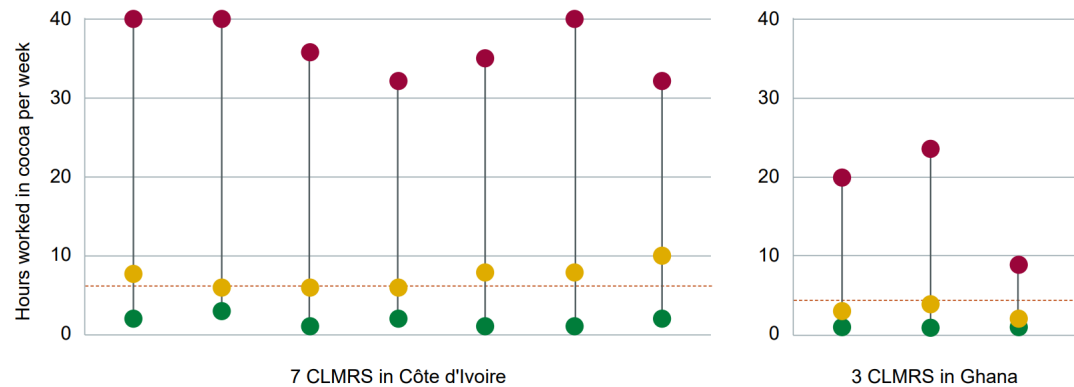

School holidays

What we recommend

✓ To increase the likelihood of identifying cases of child labour, so cases can receive support,

- **Intensify monitoring visits when the likelihood of child labour is higher:** peak harvest season and school holidays
- Inform monitoring agents and CLMRS managers about seasonal patterns, to allow them to **adjust activity planning**

Identifying cases of child labour

What we learn from the data

The number of hours worked per week, as reported by working children, varies significantly between systems:

7 CLMRS in Côte d'Ivoire

3 CLMRS in Ghana

■ Maximum hours reported   ■ Minimum hours reported   ■ Median values

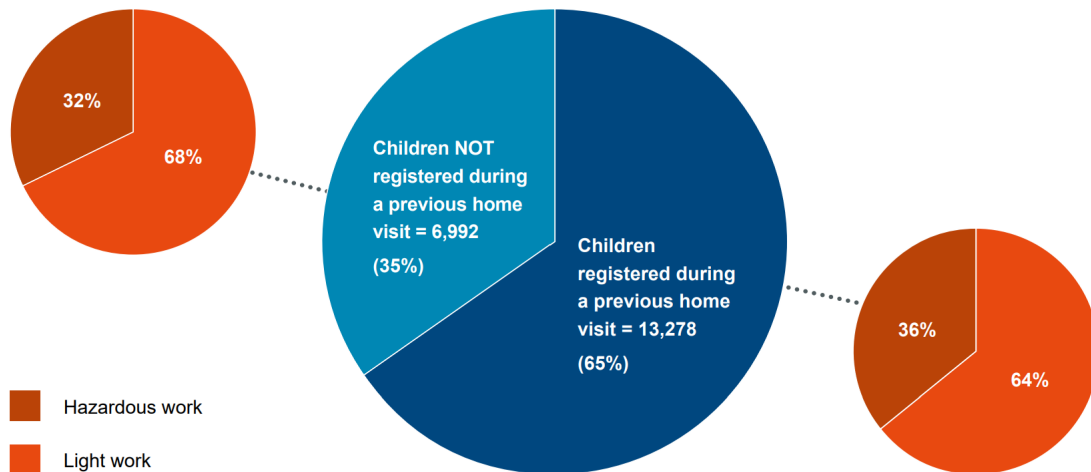---- Median values for cocoa growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire / Ghana (NORC, 2020)

What we recommend

✓ To improve accuracy of data collected:
- follow best practice guidance on survey techniques with children
- use short recall periods (max. 1 week)
- schedule sufficient time in each interview to go through questions about all the tasks children engage in
- use a simplified question module to estimate work intensity for children below 10 years

Identifying cases of child labour

What we learn from the data

Farm visits frequently lead to the identification of children who were absent / not mentioned during home visit.

32%

68%

Children NOT registered during a previous home visit = 6,992 (35%)

Children registered during a previous home visit = 13,278 (65%)

36%

64%

■ Hazardous work

■ Light work

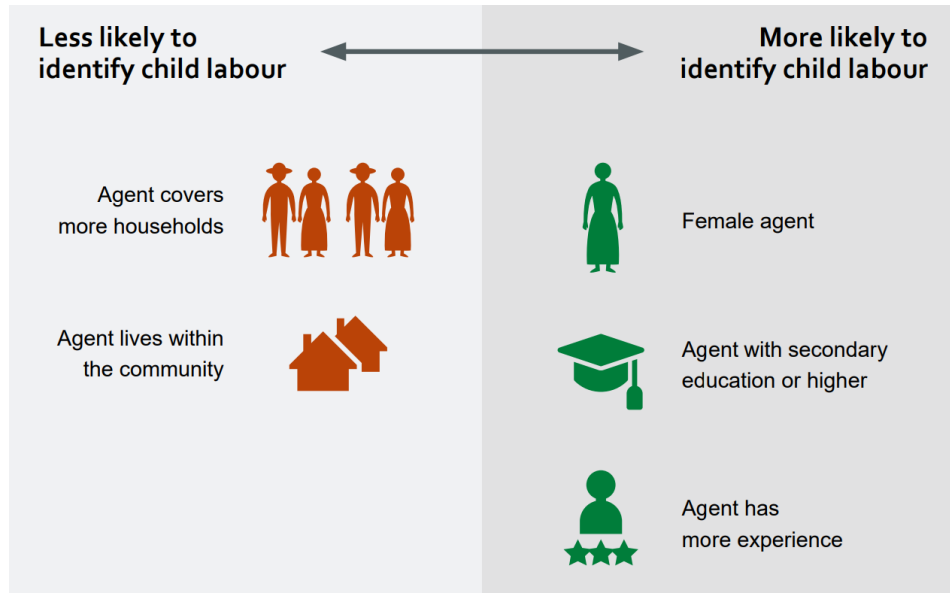**Total number of children seen working on the farm = 20,270**

What we recommend

✓ To increase the likelihood that all cases of child labour are identified and can be addressed, use a combination of household **and** farm visits

✓ Farm visits help ensure that children **not** living in farmer's household do not fall through the cracks.

Identifying cases of child labour

What we learn from the data

When visits are conducted by local monitors, some agent characteristics have a higher likelihood of identifying cases of child labour:

Less likely to identify child labour ← → More likely to identify child labour

Agent covers more households

Agent lives within the community

Female agent

Agent with secondary education or higher
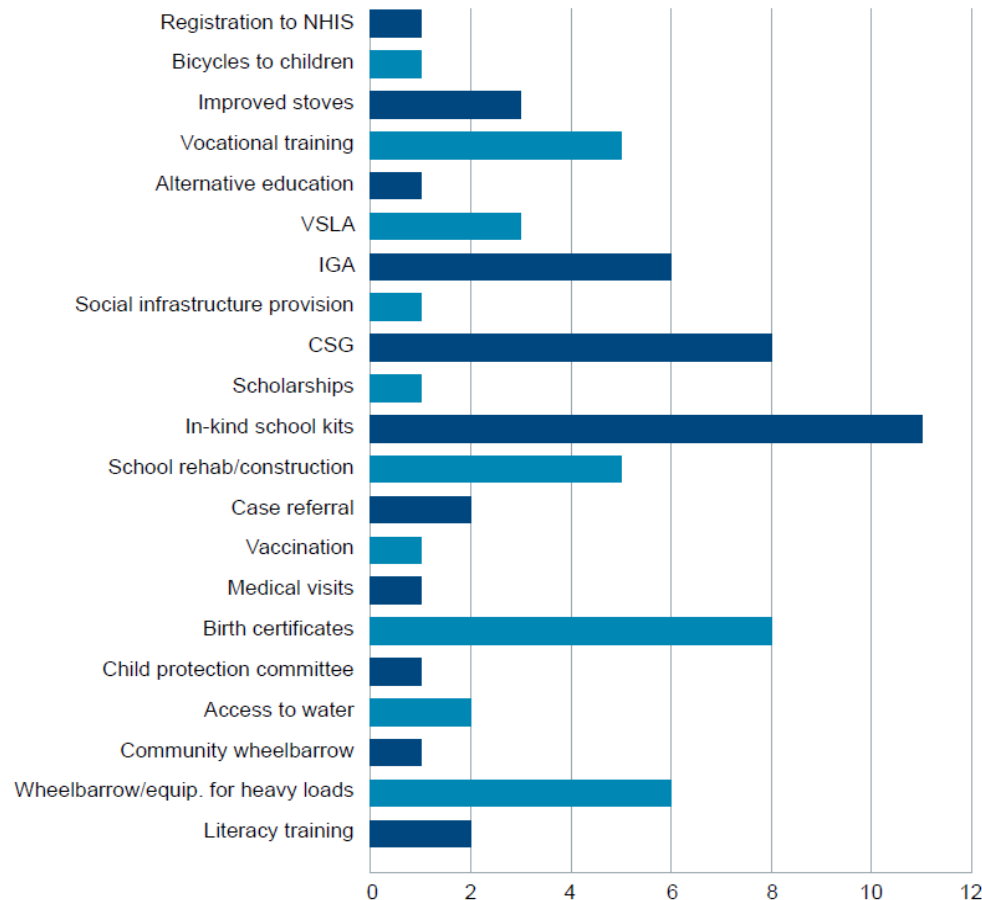
Agent has more experience

What we recommend

✓ To increase the likelihood that all cases of child labour are identified and can be addressed, when hiring local agents:

- set secondary school as a minimum level of **education**
- recruit and retain more **female** agents
- incentivise **experienced** agents to stay on the job
- adjust the number of farmers covered by each agent
- support agent **mobility** to reach households outside of their own community

13

Provision of support (prevention & remediation)

Provision of support

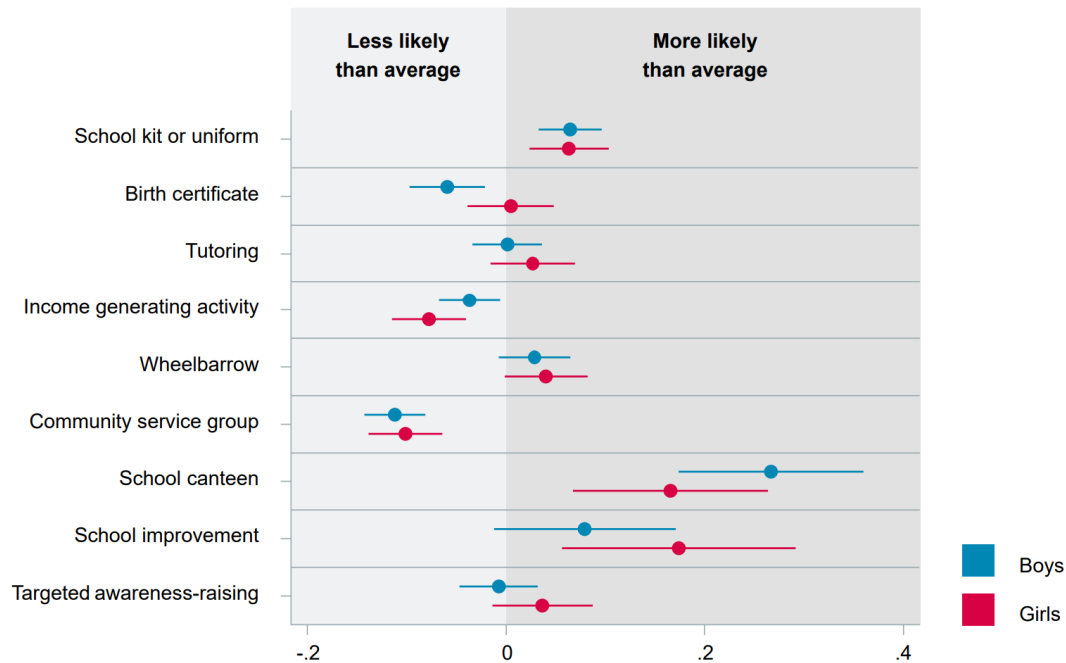## What we learn from the data

What we recommend

- ✓ On the whole, support (prevention and remediation) provided through CLMRS **is** effective at stopping children working.
  But follow-up data on the outcomes for children who received each different type of intervention is limited. Implementers should
  - ✓ Record which child received which type of remediation support;
  - ✓ Conduct follow-up visits with children to understand the impact of different types of remediation

Provision of support

What we learn from the data

Different types of remediation support show different outcomes for different children:

What we recommend

- More solid evidence is needed to inform cost/benefit analysis, and better understand what type of support works best for which child

NB: As support is allocated based on each child's specific needs and situation, these results are purely descriptive.
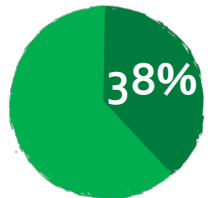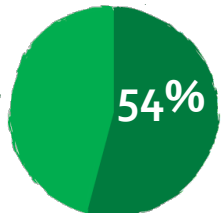
16

Following up with children
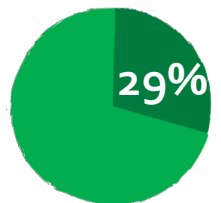
Following up with children

What we learn from the data

Children's engagement with hazardous work fluctuates over time:

38% reported not doing hazardous work at their first **follow-up visit**

54% reported not doing hazardous work at the **most recent follow-up visit**

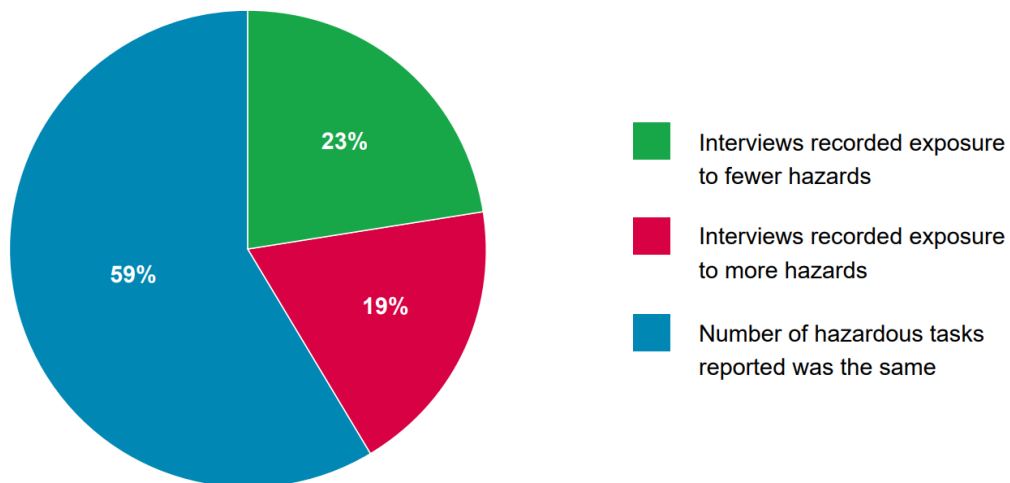**29%** reported not doing hazardous work at **two consecutive follow-up visits**

What we recommend

✓ Multiple follow-up visits are needed to understand if a child has stopped working

✓ To determine the effectiveness of a CLMRS at reducing children's exposure to hazardous work, use standardised, precisely defined indicators

✓ After a child has received support, verify through **at least two follow-up visits**, with a min 3-months interval, that a child has stopped hazardous work

Following up with children

What we learn from the data

Children who continue to do hazardous work experience a slight reduction in number of hazards, but on average no reduction in how often nor for how long they work:

- 23% — Interviews recorded exposure to fewer hazards
- 19% — Interviews recorded exposure to more hazards
- 59% — Number of hazardous tasks reported was the same

What we recommend

✓ Track the evolution of the severity of child labour among children who continue working

✓ Severity can be measured in terms of the number of different types of hazards or in terms of working time

Next steps

Next steps

- This report has focussed on those questions that could be answered with quantitative analysis of the data available, and based on experience gathered to date.

- Priority topics to be investigated as more data become available and through qualitative assessments under the next phase of this workstream :

  - How effective are CLMRS and different types of support at **preventing** child labour?

  - How can CLMRS be made more **sustainable** in the longer term? E.g. increasing ownership, improving collaboration with local and national authorities, effectively referring cases to government services)?

  - How to make various **components and modalities of implementation** more effective (e.g. type and work arrangement of monitoring agents, modalities of data collection, increasing the share of female agents)

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