

Comparative analysis of child labour decrees in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

Key concepts and definitions

Light Work

Not all work done by children is classified as child labour targeted for elimination. Children's or adolescents' participation in economic work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with / prejudice their schooling or their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes is generally regarded as positive.

This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays for a few hours and under adult supervision. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and the welfare of their families. It provides them with skills and experience, and prepares them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

Child Labour

The term "child labour" is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially and/or morally harmful to children. It interferes with their schooling by:

- depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
- obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
- requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Worst Forms of Child labour (WFCL)

"Worst forms of child labour" covers four major categories:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (hazardous work).

"[...] Research efforts revealed that although some unconditional WFCL such as child trafficking and *Trokosi* exist [in Ghana], the predominant form of the WFCL is hazardous child labour."¹

¹ Hazardous Child Labour Activity Framework for Ghana [HAF], 2016

	Ghana HAF (2016)	CIV Decree N°2017-016 and 017 MEPS/CAB (2017)	Cameroon Decree N°17 (27 May 1969)																																																																																				
Minimum age																																																																																							
Socializing light work under adult guidance	5-12 years	13-15 years	-																																																																																				
Light work (but cannot be employed)	13-14 years	13-15 years	-																																																																																				
Normal/non-hazardous work (can be employed)	15-17 years	16-17 years (apprenticeship possible from 14 years)	14-17 years (apprenticeship possible from 16 years)																																																																																				
Hazardous activities	> 18 years	> 18 years (hazardous activities can be undertaken by children aged 16-17 under the condition that i) "their health, safety, and morals are guaranteed" and ii) that they have received a specific and adequate training or vocational training in relation to the activity)																																																																																					
Working hours for light work																																																																																							
for children aged - # hours per day - # hours per week	13-14 years - 2 hours/day - 14 hours/week	13-15 years - 2 hours/day on school day (4 hours/day on non-school day) - 10 hours/week during school term (14 hours/week during school holidays)	14-15 years - 8 hours/day with at least 1 break of min. 1 hour (in industry – not specified in cocoa)																																																																																				
for children aged - # hours per day - # hours per week	15-17 years - 8 hours/day - 42 hours/week	16-17 years - 8 hours/day - 40 hours/week	16-17 years - 8 hours/day - 48 hours/week																																																																																				
Night work																																																																																							
	Prohibited between 6 PM and 6 AM	Prohibited between 7 PM and 7 AM	Prohibited between 8 PM and 6 AM																																																																																				
Carrying Weight																																																																																							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum 30% body weight for walking distances up to two miles (3km) - up to 50% of body weight for short distances (i.e. less than 1km) 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="3">Types of loads (vehicle included)</th> <th colspan="4">Cote d'Ivoire</th> <th colspan="4">Cameroon</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Boys</th> <th colspan="2">Girls</th> <th colspan="2">Boys</th> <th colspan="2">Girls</th> </tr> <tr> <th>14-15 years</th> <th>16-17 years</th> <th>14-15 years</th> <th>16-17 years</th> <th>14-15 years</th> <th>16-17 years</th> <th>14-15 years</th> <th>16-17 years</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Carrying of heavy loads</td> <td>15 kg</td> <td>20 kg</td> <td>8 kg</td> <td>10 kg</td> <td>10 kg</td> <td>20 kg</td> <td>5 kg</td> <td>10 kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trsprt by railway cart</td> <td colspan="2">500 kg</td> <td colspan="2">300 kg</td> <td>200 kg</td> <td>400 kg</td> <td>100 kg</td> <td>200 kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trsprt by wheelbarrow</td> <td colspan="2">40 kg</td> <td colspan="2">30 kg</td> <td>25 kg</td> <td>40 kg</td> <td colspan="2">Prohibited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trsprt by a vehicle with 3 or 4 wheels</td> <td colspan="2">60 kg</td> <td colspan="2">35 kg</td> <td>50 kg</td> <td>60 kg</td> <td>35 kg</td> <td>50 kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trsprt by handcart</td> <td colspan="2">130 kg</td> <td colspan="2">Prohibited</td> <td>80 kg</td> <td>100 kg</td> <td colspan="2">Prohibited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trsprt by a tricycle-carrier</td> <td>50 kg</td> <td>75 kg</td> <td colspan="2">Prohibited</td> <td>50 kg</td> <td>75 kg</td> <td colspan="2">Prohibited</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>								Types of loads (vehicle included)	Cote d'Ivoire				Cameroon				Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		14-15 years	16-17 years	Carrying of heavy loads	15 kg	20 kg	8 kg	10 kg	10 kg	20 kg	5 kg	10 kg	Trsprt by railway cart	500 kg		300 kg		200 kg	400 kg	100 kg	200 kg	Trsprt by wheelbarrow	40 kg		30 kg		25 kg	40 kg	Prohibited		Trsprt by a vehicle with 3 or 4 wheels	60 kg		35 kg		50 kg	60 kg	35 kg	50 kg	Trsprt by handcart	130 kg		Prohibited		80 kg	100 kg	Prohibited		Trsprt by a tricycle-carrier	50 kg	75 kg	Prohibited		50 kg	75 kg	Prohibited							
	Types of loads (vehicle included)	Cote d'Ivoire				Cameroon																																																																																	
		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls																																																																															
		14-15 years	16-17 years	14-15 years	16-17 years	14-15 years	16-17 years	14-15 years	16-17 years																																																																														
	Carrying of heavy loads	15 kg	20 kg	8 kg	10 kg	10 kg	20 kg	5 kg	10 kg																																																																														
	Trsprt by railway cart	500 kg		300 kg		200 kg	400 kg	100 kg	200 kg																																																																														
	Trsprt by wheelbarrow	40 kg		30 kg		25 kg	40 kg	Prohibited																																																																															
	Trsprt by a vehicle with 3 or 4 wheels	60 kg		35 kg		50 kg	60 kg	35 kg	50 kg																																																																														
Trsprt by handcart	130 kg		Prohibited		80 kg	100 kg	Prohibited																																																																																
Trsprt by a tricycle-carrier	50 kg	75 kg	Prohibited		50 kg	75 kg	Prohibited																																																																																

Hazardous Activities in Cocoa			
List of Activities	Ghana HAF (2016)	CIV Decree N°2017-016 and 017 MEPS/CAB (2017)	CMR Decree N°17 (27 May 1969)
Clearing of forest and felling of trees	X	X	
Removing tree stumps	X	X	
Digging holes		X	
Bush burning	X	X	
Manipulation of agrochemicals (sale, transportation, handling and application)	X	X	X
Being present or working in the vicinity of farm during spraying of agrochemicals or re-entering a sprayed farm within less than 12 hours	X		
Using machetes/long cutlass for weeding or pruning	X	X	
Climbing trees higher than 2.5 metres to cut mistletoe or harvest or prune with sharp cutlass or implements	X		
Working with motorized farm machinery	X	X	X
Harvesting overhead cocoa pods with sharp tools	X	X	
Breaking cocoa pods with sharp breaking knives	X	X	
Working without adequate basic foot and body protective clothing	X		
Carrying heavy loads beyond permissible carrying weight	X	X	X
Child working alone on the farm in isolation	X		
Charcoal production		X	
Game hunting with a weapon		X	
Working long hours	X	X	X
Night work	X	X	X