



International
COCOA
Initiative

Bridging classes to address child labour in cocoa-growing communities

Overview of an Implementation Guide

26.02.2026



Bridging Classes

What is it ?

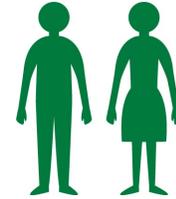
How does it work?



Bridging Classes: Overview



Accelerated education programme to **reintegrate children into the formal school**



Children 9-14 years old



Compressed curriculum delivered in an accelerated time frame



Never attended or dropped out of school



Flexible age-appropriate programmes



Standardised final assessment to determine learners' entry level into formal school → **reintegration into the formal school**

Bridging Classes: How does it work?



28 weeks (7-8 months)
November-June



Standalone education intervention or
within CLMRS



Curriculum aligned with official
primary school curriculum



Two levels of primary school
programme in one year



Coordinated by national education
authorities



Child-centred differentiated
targeted teaching

Bridging Classes

Why to set up a bridging class?



Bridging Classes: Outcomes Assessment

ICI Study of bridging Classes implemented in cocoa growing communities:



879 children (48% girls)



Bridging classes part of the CLMRS

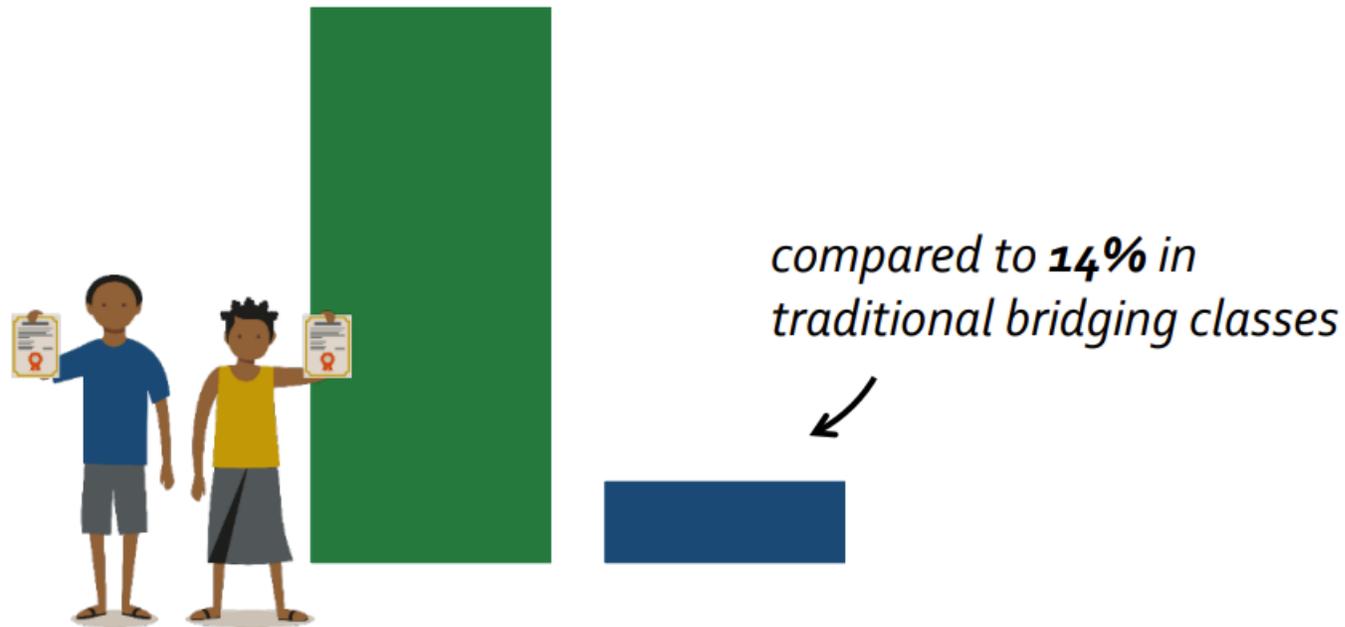


December 2020-January 2022

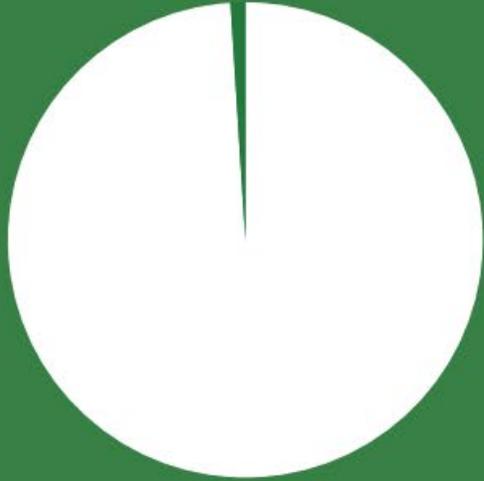


Child-centred approaches helped kids learn fast

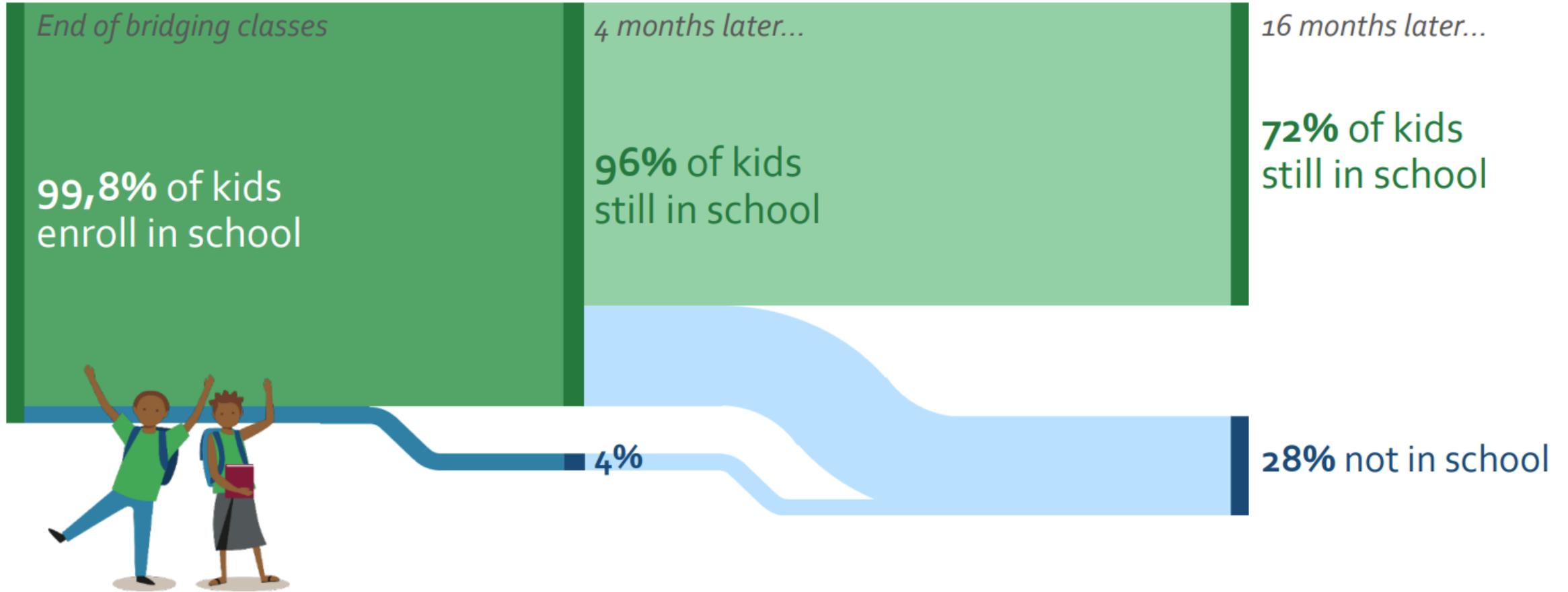
91% of kids scored average grades or above



99,8%
kids completed
the classes and
re-joined school



Once back in school, most kids stayed



Child labour fell by more than half

63% kids in
child labour
before



23% kids in child
labour *after*
bridging classes





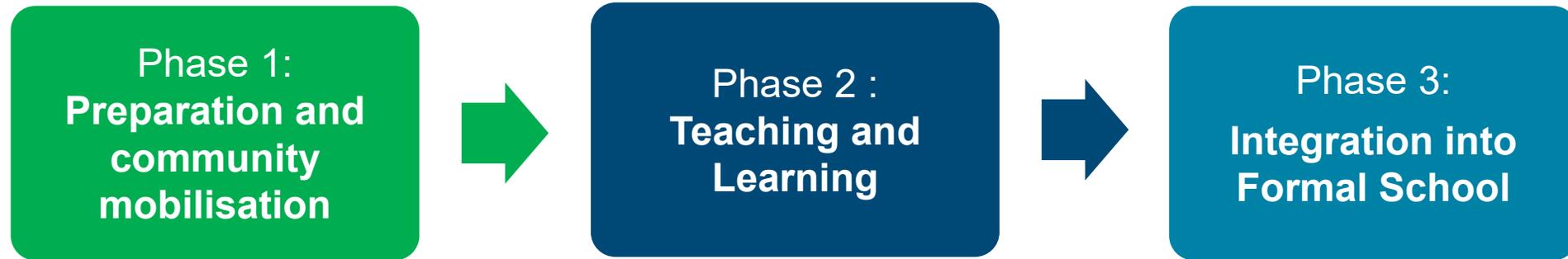
- **ICI Implementation Guide on Bridging Classes**
- Freshly published on **ICI Knowledge Hub**
- ICI Experience in setting up the Bridging Classes in **Cote d'Ivoire**
- **Collaborative Projects with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire (CLEF)**
- **CLMRS**

Bridging Classes

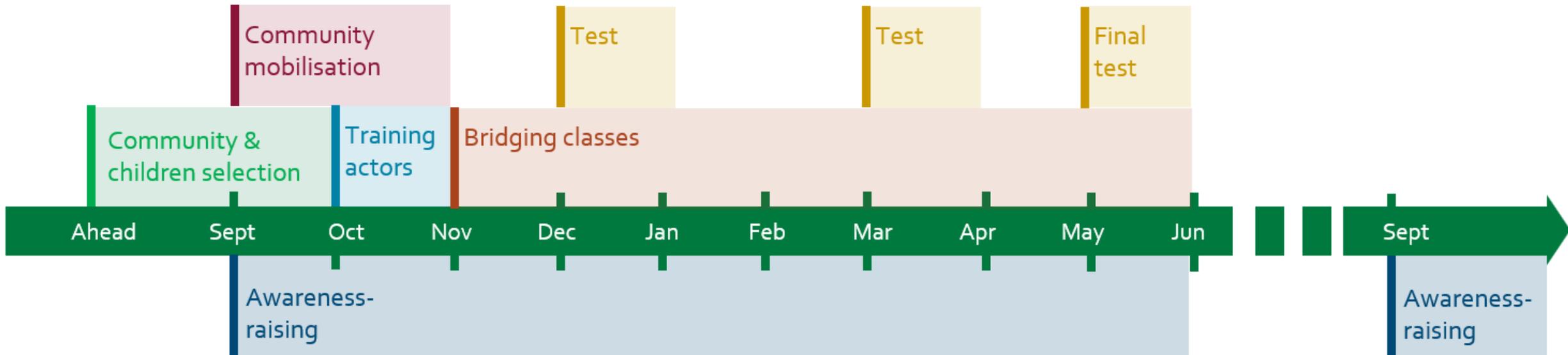
Implementation: Overview



Three-phase process



Implementation Timeline



Key Implementation Aspects



Bridging Classes

Implementation: Where to start?



Tableau des nombres à deux chiffres

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99

Community Identification



High number of out-of-school children aged 9 to 14



Prevalence of child labour in the community and the number of children at risk of child labour



Proximity of formal school: 3 km

Information might be obtained



CLMRS Database



Education authorities



Administrative records



If no nearby formal school ?
Bridging Class might be transformed into **community education center**

Children Identification



Age 9-14 (priority to younger children)



Up to 30 children per class



Priority to children in CL or at risk



Priority to girls



Priority to vulnerable children



Elder children

Difficult to ensure the effective reintegration into formal school:

- Stigmatization
- Interest into economic activities



Younger children

Prioritizing younger children:

- Maximize the intended impact
- Reduces exposure to & harm from CL

Community & Authorities



Coordination with authorities

Education authorities

- Inform
- Coordinate
- Validate



Important to involve the relevant education authorities from the beginning



Community Mobilization

- Community Buy-in
- Identifying relevant actors in the community:
 - Management Committee
 - Canteen Staff
 - Facilitators
- **Awareness-raising**

Bridging Classes

Implementation: Support



Setting up learning environment



Learning space: Identify or construct the appropriate space



Equipment for the classroom



Canteen



School kits



Nearby formal school with high enrolment



- Construct durable shelter to be integrated into the school
- Build an additional classroom
- Provide durable equipment of good quality



Canteen

- Monthly incentive allowances to canteen staff
- Kitchen equipment
- Basic food & hygiene kits + allowances for fresh food & proteins

Awareness-raising



Continuous awareness-raising to caregivers



Confirm the engagement of community and caregivers



Focus on children rights & importance of education



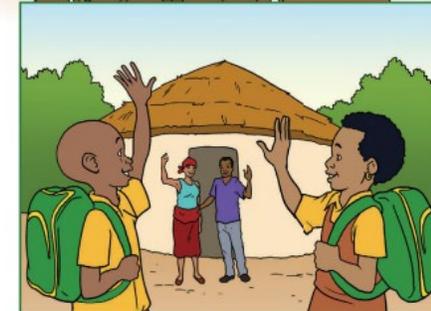
School kits: Accompanying letter



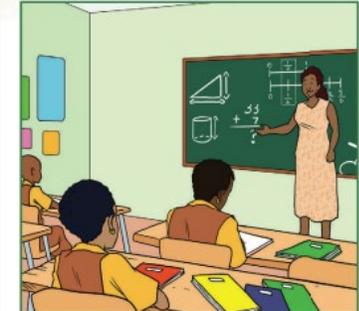
Dear parents, dear children,

Access to education is a fundamental right for every child.

This school kit is for you. It supports child protection activities and the fight against child labour. It is intended for the child who receives it and their family.



This kit will help and encourage your child to study and attend school regularly. It is offered to you free of charge to support your commitment to sending your child to school.



Education enables children to thrive and build their future. Children belong in school!

Bridging Classes

Integration into
formal school



Addressing Barriers



**Provide school kits
(+ school uniforms)**



**Facilitate access to birth
certificates**



**Strengthen school
infrastructure**



School canteens



**Close follow-up
after integration**



Tailored pathways for older learners

Offer opportunities for vocational training as a complement or alternative to formal schooling



