

# CLMRS Core Criteria for Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems

09 September 2025

Audit guidance and definitions



International  
**COCOA**  
Initiative

## Introduction

Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) are child-centred support systems. They identify children in, or at risk of, child labour, provide ongoing support (directly and through referral) to improve their situation and follow children's progress over time. CLMRS aim to prevent and reduce child labour, mitigate its harmful effects, and ultimately prevent it from being passed down into the next generation. CLMRS work to prevent and remediate child labour. When resourced adequately, CLMRS include interventions which strengthen the protective environment around children and tackle the root causes of child labour, as well as providing support to *make right* harm already caused by child labour.

Child labour monitoring systems were first developed in the 1990s by the International Labour Organisation. Today, the approach is used in many parts of the world by governments, civil society organisations and businesses. CLMRS are a means of operationalising the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which require companies to “know” (identify), “act” (provide support) and “show” (gather data and report on progress) in relation to human rights impacts linked to their supply chains.

Today, many cocoa and chocolate companies are using CLMRS as part of their efforts to tackle child labour in supply chains in West Africa, as part of their efforts to conduct Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD). CLMRS are also used in other parts of Africa, Latin America and Asia. Increasingly, national child labour monitoring systems, such as SOSTECI in Côte d'Ivoire and GCLMS in Ghana, are acting as umbrella structures to collect data and oversee systems implemented by private sector and civil society actors. Integration of these systems is essential to support coordinated efforts by all stakeholders, reduce duplication, and facilitate effective referrals.

## What are the Core Criteria for CLMRS?

The Core Criteria for CLMRS set out minimum standards for CLMRS design and implementation, definitions and indicators. The scope of these core criteria covers any system in the cocoa sector that carries the name “CLMRS”.

## Why do we need Core Criteria?

The CLMRS Core criteria were developed to help address several **challenges**:

- A wide range of approaches are described as “CLMRS”, but the set-up, intensity of activities, cost of implementation, and outcomes for children can vary significantly.
- Existing guidance on CLMRS in the cocoa sector – the [2021 Benchmarking study](#) – contains some gaps, which need further clarification.
- Brands and suppliers sometimes have conflicting guidance about CLMRS set-up and targets, leading to inefficiencies.
- Third party audits of CLMRS coverage and performance for disclosure purposes are becoming increasingly common, but auditors struggle to provide consistent assessments of limited assurance due to a lack of clear guidance and definitions.

These *CLMRS Core Criteria* provide a starting point for addressing these challenges by setting out minimum standards for CLMRS design and implementation, definitions and indicators.

## Aims of the CLMRS Core Criteria:

- Improve alignment between different stakeholders involved with CLMRS
- Guide effective CLMRS set-up and implementation
- Support efficient audit processes
- Drive improved system performance, leading to better outcomes for children.

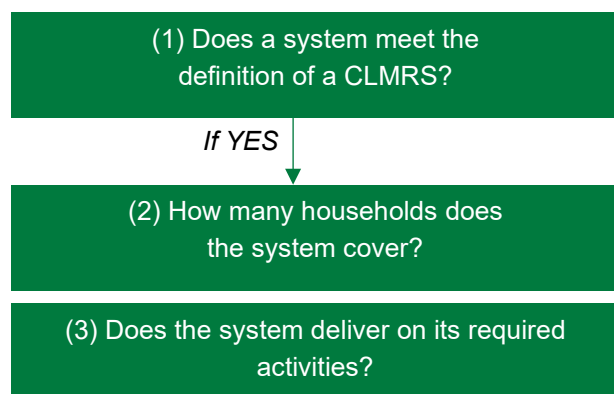
## How to use this document

This document is **for CLMRS implementers** and **other actors** involved in designing, implementing and monitoring CLMRS, and **for auditors** requested to provide assurance of a CLMRS, its coverage and performance.

The CLMRS Core Criteria allow **CLMRS implementers** (including cooperatives, civil society organisations and companies) to determine whether their CLMRS meets minimum standards, complies with sector definitions and reports on a standard set of indicators. CLMRS implementers are expected to monitor these indicators over time, track performance, and set targets for continuous improvement.

The CLMRS Core Criteria allow **other actors** involved with CLMRS (including governments overseeing system implementation, and any actors working with implementers) to hold CLMRS implementers to account in relation to minimum standards and progress.

The CLMRS Core Criteria allow **auditors** to determine:



## Minimum consistency checks

To answer the three key questions above, we propose the following minimum procedures to be performed prior to reporting.

### Verification of reporting boundaries

- Verification of the membership of households or children visited against the list of cooperative member households
- Verification of the reporting period considered (e.g. 24 months)

### Analytical checks (on each Key Performance Indicator listed in section [D. Summary of indicators](#))

- Year on Year analytics for each metric and inquiry on variances above a defined threshold (e.g., a threshold of a 20% variance relative to previous reporting period could be used)
- Inquire on abnormal values reported (e.g. zeros, significant variances from median value where applicable (e.g. above 20% variance))

**Consistency checks (on underlying CLMRS data)**

- Reviewing data for duplicates in children/household IDs
- Reviewing accuracy of data calculation
- Check that timing of reported data (e.g., visits, support activities etc.) is aligned with the timeline of CLMRS procedures as defined in the “Overview of the CLMRS required activities and timeframes”, as well as indicator definitions (e.g., reporting period)

**Reporting and disclosure**

All indicators listed in Section [D. Summary of indicators](#) shall be subject to the above minimum consistency checks and reported to ICI as part of its annual member reporting exercise. The selection of indicators to be externally disclosed remains at the discretion of respective organizations.

To harmonize external public disclosure within the sector, ICI recommends reporting the below indicators as a minimum:

- **# of households covered by a CLMRS** in the past 24 months (2.2a)
- **% of targeted households covered by a CLMRS** in the past 24 months (2.3)
- **% children covered that received any form of support**, including household-level awareness-raising, within the past 24 months (3.1)

**CLMRS Core Criteria should be read alongside practical guidance on CLMRS implementation**

This document provides an overview of the minimum required elements of a CLMRS but does *not* constitute comprehensive guidance on all elements of CLMRS design, set-up and implementation. Implementers should also refer to practical guidance, such as ICI’s [CLMRS Manual](#), as well as evidence on system effectiveness and efficiency.<sup>1</sup>

The CLMRS Core Criteria set out essential activities, timeframes and indicators, while complementary guidance provides more detail on *how* to implement these activities effectively.

**Periodic review**

CLMRS Core Criteria will be subject to periodic review by a sub-group designated by the ICI board. In the spirit of continuous improvement, any updates will support improved system performance and ambition, taking into account new evidence on system impact and an evolving legislative context. The first periodic review will take place no later than 2030.

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<sup>1</sup> See for example, ICI (2021) [Effectiveness Review of Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems in the West African Cocoa Sector](#).

## What's in this document?

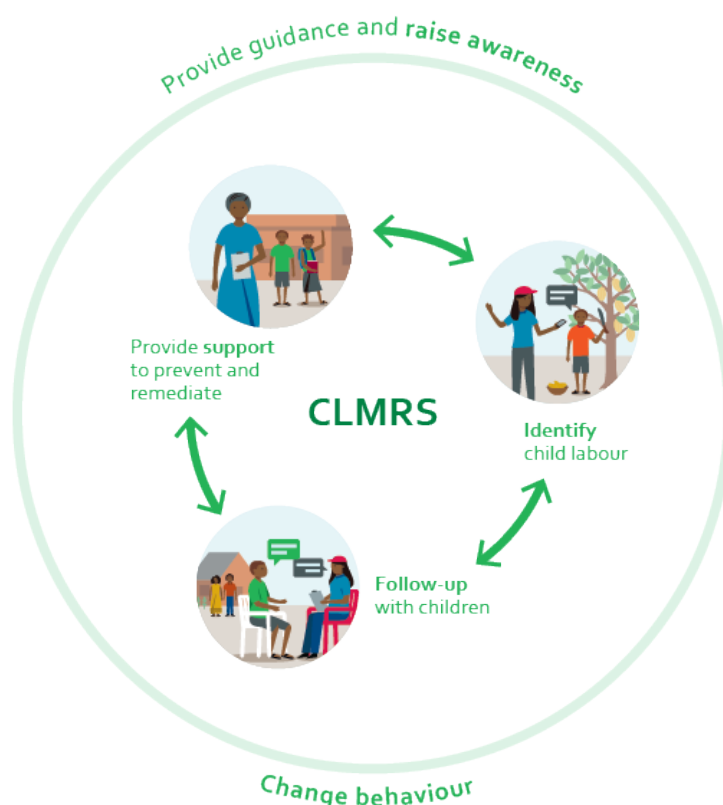
This document consists of five sections:

- A. **Operational definition of CLMRS**, setting out how to determine if a system meets the definition of a CLMRS.
- B. **CLMRS Coverage**, a key metric to understand the number of households and children reached by a CLMRS and in scope to receive further support and visits, as needed.
- C. **Core activities**, the essential activities a CLMRS needs to be able to carry out, as well as indicators, rationale and means of verification for each.
- D. **Summary of indicators**, providing an overview of each required indicator for reporting and guidance on calculation.
- E. **Definitions** of all key terms in this document, with accompanying explanations.

## A. Operational definition of CLMRS

### Operational definition of CLMRS

*CLMRS identify children in, or at risk of, child labour, provide ongoing guidance and support to improve children's situation and follow children's progress over time. Throughout the process, CLMRS personnel support caregivers to change behaviour to better protect their children.*



*To be considered a "CLMRS" according to these core criteria, a CLMRS needs to conduct, perform on, and monitor all three required activities, enabled by two mandatory elements (CLMRS Personnel and CLMRS Database) as defined below.*

#### Required activities:

1. **Provide support and raise awareness** to prevent and remediate child labour at child, household and community level.
2. **Identify children in child labour** through regular and repeated monitoring visits, using standardized data collection tools.
3. **Follow-up with children** identified in child labour to monitor their progress, while working with caregivers to find satisfactory alternatives.

Each of the required activities of a CLMRS are intended to contribute to guiding and supporting families through the process of behaviour change. They are part of a cyclical and iterative process.

The three required activities are enabled by **two mandatory elements**:

- **CLMRS Personnel** (also known as CLMRS officers, community facilitators, agents or monitors), who work to support caregivers to change behaviour to better protect their children. CLMRS Personnel are individuals trained and equipped to carry out the three required activities above, on behalf of the CLMRS Implementer.
- **CLMRS Database**, in which data on all required activities and results is stored, linked to unique identifiers for each child and household.

The Core Criteria for CLMRS set out minimum standards in relation to the three required activities of a CLMRS and their relationship to the two mandatory elements, CLMRS Personnel and CLMRS Database. The data needed to demonstrate these required core activities is collected by CLMRS Personnel and stored in the CLMRS Database. References are made to the CLMRS Database within each of the three required activities. The Core Criteria for CLMRS do not provide separate audit criteria in relation to CLMRS Personnel, however, further non-mandatory guidance on the recommended selection, training and resourcing of CLMRS Personnel is provided in ICI's CLMRS Manual.<sup>2</sup> The CLMRS Manual can be considered additional guidance aimed mainly at CLMRS implementers and not binding requirements for a CLMRS to be used by auditors.

## How to know if a system can be considered a CLMRS?

*A Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System must implement **all three required activities, enabled by the two mandatory elements (CLMRS Personnel and CLMRS Database)** to be considered a CLMRS.*

To meet the operational definition of a CLMRS – *a system to identify children in, or at risk of, child labour, provide ongoing guidance and support to improve children's situation and follow children's progress over time. Throughout the process, CLMRS personnel support caregivers to change behaviour to better protect their children* – the system must be able to report a number greater than zero for all the following indicators:

1.1	# children covered that received any form of <b>support, including household-level awareness-raising</b> , in the past 24 months
1.2	# targeted households that received <b>in-person monitoring visits</b> by CLMRS personnel in the past 24 months
1.3	# children in targeted households that received <b>in-person monitoring visits</b> by CLMRS personnel in the past 24 months
1.4	# children covered identified in child labour that received <b>at least two follow-up visits</b> in the past 24 months

<sup>2</sup> ICI, [CLMRS Manual 2025](#)

## B. CLMRS Coverage

Once a system meets the operational definition of a CLMRS, the number of households and children reached by the system can be assessed through the criterion of Coverage.

At a given point in time, coverage describes the households and children who are considered in scope to receive services from the CLMRS, either because they have received an in-person monitoring visit (and remain included for further support and follow-up as needed) or have been assessed as “low risk” by a predictive risk model in the past 12 months (so no further action is required). Households or children no longer in scope (for example, if a child has turned 18 or a household has moved away) are excluded from coverage.

### Core criterion: Coverage

A household can be considered ‘covered’ by a CLMRS if, in the past 24 months, the household received an in-person monitoring visit from CLMRS Personnel, including a discussion with caregivers and an interview with all children aged 5-17 who were present at the time of the visit to understand if children are in child labour or not (this could be a “monitoring visit” or a “follow-up visit”). In cases where a predictive model meeting core criteria is used to assess households’ risk of child labour,<sup>3</sup> any households designated as “low risk” by the predictive model in the past 12 months may also be counted as covered.<sup>4</sup>

le. # Households Covered = Households Monitored + Households not visited but identified as “low-risk” by a risk model.

A child can be considered ‘covered’ by a CLMRS if interviewed during an in-person monitoring visit or follow-up visit in the past 24 months. In cases where a predictive model meeting core criteria is used to assess households’ risk of child labour, any children living in households assessed as “low risk” in the past 12 months may also be counted as covered.

le. # Children Covered = Children Monitored + Children in Households not visited but identified as “low-risk” by a risk model.

All visits performed by CLMRS personnel and their results must be digitally recorded in the CLMRS database, where this information should be used to plan additional support and follow-up visits.

If a household has been visited in the past 24 months but as of the date of reporting is *no longer* scheduled to receive future visits or support (e.g. because the household has moved away or is no longer a member of a targeted cooperative or community), it can no longer be considered ‘covered’ at that point in time.

A child can no longer be considered ‘covered’ if living in a household that is no longer covered, or if the child has moved away permanently (relocated) or turned 18.

### Indicators:

2.1a	# targeted households that received <b>in-person monitoring visits</b> by CLMRS personnel in the past 24 months
2.1b	# targeted households assessed as “low risk” by a predictive risk model meeting core criteria, in the past 12 months, but <i>not</i> visited (only applicable if a predictive risk model is used)
2.1c	# children that received <b>in-person monitoring visits</b> by CLMRS personnel in the past 24 months

<sup>3</sup> See core criteria on Risk Models, below.

<sup>4</sup> Since all households designated as “at-risk” should subsequently receive an in-person visits, they are counted above.



2.1d	# children living in targeted households assessed as “low risk” by a predictive risk model meeting core criteria, in the past 12 months, but <i>not</i> visited (only applicable if a predictive risk model is used)
2.2a	<b># of households covered by a CLMRS</b> in the past 24 months ( <i>The sum of 2.1a and 2.1b</i> )
2.2b	<b># children covered by a CLMRS</b> in the past 24 months ( <i>The sum 2.1c and 2.1d</i> )
2.3	<b>% targeted households covered by a CLMRS</b> ( <i>Numerator = 2.2a; Denominator = the total number of households targeted for CLMRS coverage at the end of the 24-month period</i> )
2.4	<b>% direct supply chain targeted by a CLMRS</b> ( <i>Numerator = the total number of households in the direct supply chain targeted for CLMRS coverage at the end of the 24 months period; Denominator = the total number of households in a company’s direct supply chain at the end of the 24-month period.</i> )

### Rationale:

The sooner children start working and the longer children are exposed to child labour, the greater potential for harm.<sup>5</sup> It is therefore key to assess the situation and provide guidance as early as possible, to prevent harm and help improve children’s situation. Focusing on the past 24 months ensures that visits by CLMRS personnel take place on a regular basis, while accepting that these are labour and resource-intensive, meaning it can be challenging to assess the situation of every household more regularly.

### Means of verification:

CLMRS database extract of all children and households covered, including:

- the most recent monitoring visit conducted
- *if applicable*, the results of risk assessment using a predictive model

<sup>5</sup> ICI (2023) [What makes child labour harmful and what does it mean for the cocoa sector?](#)

## Risk Models

**NB. It is not mandatory to use risk models to predict child labour as part of a CLMRS. It is important to note that the effective use of predictive risk models requires additional resources and technical expertise.**

### What is a risk model for predicting child labour?

*A risk model is a statistical approach aimed at predicting an outcome (e.g. child labour) for a given unit of observation (e.g. a household) from a set of predictors.*

*The first step of risk model development involves “calibrating” the model, by applying statistical methods (such as logistic regression, multilevel regression, latent class model, etc.) to a data set containing information about the outcome and the predictors, for a population similar to the target population. For example, statistical analysis of reliable national data on child labour prevalence can be used to identify which combination of indicators can be used to predict child labour (the predictors) and to recognize in which households child labour is most likely to occur.*

*The second step consists of feeding the model with data about the target population, using the same predictors, to obtain a predicted outcome for each household. If the predicted outcome is a binary indicator (e.g. does a household use child labour or not?), the prediction can be interpreted as a “risk”, or likelihood, that the incident will occur.*

In the context of CLMRS implementation, Risk Models are a means of using existing data on a list of households to predict the likelihood of child labour within those same households. Where reliable household-level data is available, including both the number of children in each household and other predictors necessary to run the risk model, a Risk Model can be used to predict which households are “at-risk” and should be prioritized for in-person monitoring visits, household-level awareness-raising and other forms of support.

Analysis and testing of different approaches has shown that it is possible to use a variety of methods and indicators to create an effective risk model to predict child labour.<sup>6</sup> While ICI’s CLMRS Manual provides general guidance on the use of risk models in the context of a CLMRS, please refer to [Risk models for predicting child labour](#) for more detailed guidance on the design and implementation of risk model approaches, including practical examples.

If predictive Risk Models are used to help pre-select “at-risk” households to receive in-person monitoring visits, they must meet certain minimum requirements, as set out below. These requirements ensure a certain level of rigour in the design and implementation of the model, to limit the likelihood that households are falsely flagged as “low-risk” and therefore excluded from monitoring visits and other forms of support from the CLMRS.

#### *Minimum requirements for Risk Models*

- Household-level data must be available for all the households on which the model was run.
- Household-level data used to run the model must have been collected within the past 3 years. Older household-level data cannot be considered.
- Household data must include information on the number of children in the household.
- The predictive risk model must be run annually.
- The statistical method of risk calculation (e.g. logistic regression, multilevel regression, latent class model, etc.) must be documented.

<sup>6</sup> See [Risk models for predicting child labour](#).

- The model's performance (i.e. its ability to correctly predict which households do and don't use child labour) must be documented and demonstrate that the chance that the model correctly predicts child labour (e.g. Value of ROC curve) is greater than a random prediction.
- The model must predict risk at household level, not community level.
- The percentage of households designated as "at-risk" (i.e. the percentage of households above the cut-off point) must be *higher* than the known percentage of households with at least one case of child labour, based on reliable prevalence survey data covering the target geographic area(s). Previously collected CLMRS data must not be used to determine the cut-off.  
*For example, if a recent child labour prevalence survey was conducted in the same district, this could be used to decide on the cut-off threshold. Otherwise, good quality national prevalence data, such as the NORC study for Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana,<sup>7</sup> should be used.*
- All households with missing data on one or more predictors must automatically be considered "at risk".

All households designated as "at-risk" by a predictive risk model must subsequently receive in-person monitoring visits within 24 months following assessment. Only after the in-person monitoring visit can an "at-risk" household be considered covered. In contrast, "low risk" households may be counted as covered, if assessed in the past 12 months, without the need for an in-person monitoring visit.

The results of risk assessments conducted using predictive risk models, including the list of households flagged as "at-risk" and "low risk", must be recorded in the CLMRS database.

### Indicators:

3.6	# targeted households assessed using a predictive risk model meeting core criteria in the past 12 months
3.7	% targeted households designated as "at-risk" by the predictive risk model in the past 12 months
3.8	% targeted households designated as "at-risk" by the predictive risk model that received a monitoring visit from CLMRS Personnel in the past 24 months

### Rationale:

The minimum requirements for risk models focus on common characteristics of effective risk models. They include safeguards on the unit of assessment, cut-off point, treatment of missing data and timing, to minimize the likelihood that vulnerable households and children are falsely considered as "low-risk".

While data about the targeted households can be up to three years old (i.e. collected within the past three years), the model must be re-run every year, since the risk of child labour increases as children get older.

<sup>7</sup> NORC (2020) [Assessing Progress in Reducing Child Labor in Cocoa Production in Cocoa Growing Areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana](#)

## C. Required activities

A system must conduct all the following activities to meet the operational definition of a CLMRS<sup>8</sup>:

### Required activity 1: Provide Support and raise awareness

*Support includes the delivery of assistance, goods, or services, including household-level awareness-raising, to **prevent, mitigate and remediate** child labour. Support can be provided directly to children and households, as well as to communities.*

*Support can be **preventative**, as well as to **remediate** harm already caused by child labour or exposure to another situation of risk (e.g. the child is out-of-school, does not have a birth certificate, is a victim of abuse or neglect). Appropriate support should be provided as soon as possible, starting with household-level awareness-raising, within one month of a child's identification in child labour, complemented by material support, within six months of the child's identification in child labour.*

#### **Core criterion: Provide Support**

*For a child to be considered as “having received support”, the assistance, good, or service must have been provided, either directly to the child, to their caregivers or to the community.*

*At each level, there must be a plausible link to the child. For example:*

*Child-level support = the child received a school uniform, a birth certificate.*

*Household-level support = the child's household received awareness-raising, a cash transfer.*

*Community-level support = the child's school was renovated.*

Support can take many forms, both immaterial (e.g. household-level awareness-raising) and material (e.g. a school uniform). The assistance, goods, or services provided should be part of a strategy to improve the situation of children, households and communities.<sup>9</sup>

The receipt of support does *not* mean that a child in child labour has been “remediated”, rather it is part of a process to *make right* and protect the child from future harm.

A child can only be recorded in the CLMRS database as “having received support” once support has been provided. A CLMRS may refer cases to others, such as government social workers, for specialist support. Following a referral, a child must have received support from another structure, in order to be considered as “having received support”.

While community-level awareness-raising can be a valuable means of sharing messages about the dangers and child labour, community-level awareness-raising must be excluded from the types of support counted in indicators 3.1 and 3.2 below.

All forms of support provided, together with the date, must be recorded in the CLMRS database.

<sup>8</sup> See: [Operational definition of CLMRS](#)

<sup>9</sup> While there is no definitive list of support activities, some common activities include:

- *at child-level:* birth certificate, school kit, school uniform, counselling, private tutoring, scholarship
- *at household-level:* cash transfers, adult literacy classes, membership of a Village Savings and Loans Association, support to pay school fees, family registration for health insurance, labour vouchers
- *at community level:* construction/rehabilitation of school infrastructure, bridging classes, construction/rehabilitation of boreholes and other community infrastructure, Village Savings and Loans Associations, adult labour groups, gender training.

**Indicators:**

3.1	<b>% children covered that received any form of support</b> , including household-level awareness-raising, within the past 24 months
3.2	<b>% children identified in child labour</b> within the past 24 months <b>that received any form of support</b> , including household-level awareness-raising, <b>within 6 months of their identification</b> .

**Rationale:**

The sooner children start working and the longer children are exposed to child labour, the greater the potential for harm.<sup>10</sup> It is therefore key to provide support as early as possible, to prevent harm and help improve children's situation. Preventative support can be planned from day one, based on existing analysis of the situation, needs and risks.

The first indicator captures a system's ability to provide support, which can help prevent and mitigate child labour, as well as to remediate cases identified. The second indicator captures whether timely action is being taken to provide support to children identified in child labour. Awareness-raising is one of the most effective means of addressing and preventing child labour<sup>11</sup> and is mentioned specifically in all indicators. By helping adults and children to understand the risks to children and the difference between permitted light work and child labour (work that is harmful to the child), awareness-raising helps incentivize and support caregivers to better protect children and find alternatives.

While awareness-raising can be provided immediately upon a child's identification in child labour, or shortly after, other types of support at individual, household or community level – for example renovating a school – can help facilitate behaviour change but may require more time to provide.

**Means of verification:**

CLMRS database extract of all children covered, including data on support received, by type, and the date provided; and the date the child was identified in child labour.

<sup>10</sup> ICI (2023) [What makes child labour harmful and what does it mean for the cocoa sector?](#)

<sup>11</sup> ICI analysis, forthcoming.

## Required activity 2: Monitor and identify children in child labour

*Monitoring is an active process of identifying child labour, so that additional support can be provided to all children and households who need it.*

*Regular, in-person visits by CLMRS Personnel are a means of raising awareness, monitoring the situation, and providing ongoing guidance and support to households.*

### Core criterion: Monitoring and identification

*For a household to be considered as monitored, the household must have received an in-person visit by CLMRS Personnel in the past 24 months, including an interview with all children present, aged between 5 and 17, to determine if they have engaged in child labour.*

*Identification of a child in child labour is one possible outcome of a monitoring visit.*

*A child must have been interviewed during a monitoring visit to be considered as monitored.*

Monitoring must be done systematically, at least once every two years. This means that CLMRS Personnel must visit a targeted household to understand children's situation and needs at least once every 24 months, unless the household has been classified as "low risk" by a predictive risk model meeting minimum requirements within the past 12 months. Once a monitoring visit has taken place, the household can be considered as covered. Once a child has been interviewed during a monitoring visit, the child can be considered as covered. If no risk model is used, the number of households *monitored* is the same as the number of households *covered*.

CLMRS Personnel must record information collected during monitoring visits using standardized data-collection tools (e.g., questionnaires) that facilitate the identification of child labour. See ICI's [CLMRS Manual](#) for example tools.

All monitoring visits conducted and their outcomes, including interview data that determines whether the child is in child labour, must be recorded in the CLMRS database. This information should be used to plan additional support and follow-up visits.

### Indicators:

3.3 % children covered identified in child labour in the past 24 months

### Rationale:

The longer children are exposed to child labour and the earlier they start working, the greater potential for harm.<sup>12</sup> These facts underline the importance of early identification and support, hence the minimum requirement that all at-risk households receive at least one in-person monitoring visit, every 24 months.

### Means of verification:

CLMRS database extract of all children and households covered (ie. All households that received at least one monitoring visit *and* any households not visited but classified as low-risk using a predictive risk model), including all data collected during the most recent monitoring visit to each household. This must include records for all children interviewed during the visit and whether each child was identified in child labour.

<sup>12</sup> ICI (2023) [What makes child labour harmful and what does it mean for the cocoa sector?](#)

## Required activity 3: Follow-up with children in child labour

*Follow-up is the ongoing regular monitoring of children identified in child labour, through in-person visits by CLMRS Personnel, to understand their current situation and work status and to track any changes.*

### Core criterion: Follow-up

*To be considered 'followed-up', CLMRS Personnel must have conducted an in-person visit, including an interview with the child to check on their progress and monitor their work status.*

Follow-up visits must be done systematically to monitor the progress of children identified in child labour and in other situations of risk. CLMRS Personnel must conduct follow-up visits at intervals of 3 to 6 months, following a child's identification in child labour. Follow-up visits must continue until the child is no longer in child labour and has no need for further support. To be considered "no longer in child labour" a child must have reported not engaging in child labour during two consecutive follow-up visits. After this, the child must re-enter the normal monitoring cycle (at least one monitoring visit every 24

months, unless assessed as in a low risk household). Just as for Monitoring visits, during Follow-up visits, CLMRS Personnel must record information using standardized data-collection tools that support the identification of child labour.

All follow-up visits conducted and their outcomes, including interview data that determines whether the child is in child labour, must be recorded in the CLMRS database. This information should be used to plan additional support and future visits by CLMRS Personnel, as well as to assess changes to children's situation over time.

### Indicators:

3.4	<b>% children covered identified in child labour</b> in the past 24 months <b>that received at least two follow-up visits</b> , the first within 3-6 months of their identification, and the second 3-6 months later
3.5	<b>% children covered previously identified as in child labour that received at least two follow-up visits</b> in the past 12 months, each visit spaced between 3-6 months apart, <b>that were not in child labour at their last two consecutive visits</b>

The timing of the first and second visits defined in the indicators 3.4 and 3.5 are strict requirements and ensure that these indicators measure a system's ability to follow-up on cases of children identified in child labour within the specified timeframes. In case the required timing of the first visit (i.e. within 3-6 months after the identification) or the second visit (i.e. within 3-6 months after the first visit) is not fulfilled, the respective child cannot be counted towards the indicators 3.4 or 3.5. A further visit respecting the timing requirements would need to be conducted for the child to be counted towards indicator 3.5.

### Rationale:

It takes time to address root causes and for behaviour to change. Regular and repeated visits by CLMRS Personnel help support this process of change. In addition, children who initially stop engaging in child labour may restart again. After two follow-up visits with no child labour, children are significantly less likely to restart child labour than after only one visit.<sup>13</sup>

### Means of verification:

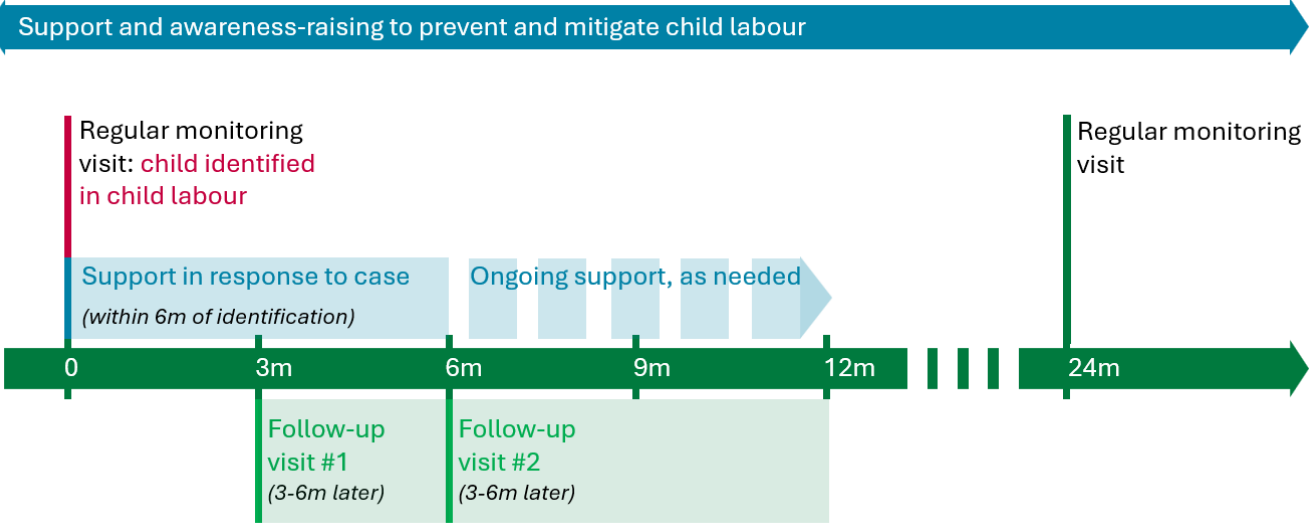
CLMRS database extract of all children identified in child labour, including data on follow-up visits conducted.

<sup>13</sup> ICI (2021) *Effectiveness review of child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems*





Overview of the CLMRS required activities and timeframes



## D. Summary of indicators

Many of the indicators below cover the past 24 months. To ensure harmonization of reporting and disclosure across the sector, we recommend that the 24-month period used for reporting is aligned with the cocoa year (i.e. October to September), however we acknowledge if a company must report in accordance with other standards that require alignment to the financial year, this is permissible.

When data for the past 24 months is not available, for example because the system was set up less than 24 months ago, estimation and extrapolation is not required. Only available months should be reported on as part of the indicator calculation and disclosure.

### Set 1: Does a system meet the definition of a CLMRS?

Indicator	
1.1	# children covered that received any form of support, including household-level awareness-raising, in the past 24 months
1.2	# targeted households that received in-person monitoring visits by CLMRS personnel in the past 24 months
1.3	# children in targeted households interviewed during in-person monitoring visits by CLMRS personnel in the past 24 months
1.4	# children covered identified in child labour that received at least two follow-up visits in the past 24 months

### Set 2: CLMRS coverage

Indicator	
2.1a	# targeted households that received in-person monitoring visits by CLMRS personnel in the past 24 months ( <i>same as 1.2</i> )
2.1b	# targeted households assessed as “low risk” by a predictive risk model meeting core criteria, in the past 12 months, but <i>not</i> visited (only applicable if a predictive risk model is used)
2.1c	# children that received in-person monitoring visits by CLMRS personnel in the past 24 months ( <i>same as 1.3</i> )
2.1d	# children in targeted households assessed as “low risk” by a predictive risk model meeting core criteria, in the past 12 months, but <i>not</i> visited (only applicable if a predictive risk model is used)
2.2a	# of households covered by a CLMRS in the past 24 months ( <i>the sum of 2.1a and 2.1b</i> )
2.2b	# children covered by a CLMRS in the past 24 months ( <i>the sum of 2.1c and 2.1d</i> )
2.3	% targeted households covered by a CLMRS ( <i>Numerator = 2.2a; Denominator = the total number of households targeted for CLMRS coverage at the end of the 24-month period</i> )
2.4	% direct supply chain targeted by a CLMRS ( <i>Numerator = the total number of households in the direct supply chain targeted for CLMRS coverage at the end of the 24-month period; Denominator = the total number of households in a company’s direct supply chain at the end of the 24-month period</i> )

## Set 3: Performance of required activities

Indicator		Required activity
3.1	% children covered that received any form of support, including household-level awareness-raising, within the past 24 months <i>(Numerator = 1.1; Denominator = 2.2b)</i>	Support and awareness raising
3.2	% children covered identified in child labour in the past 24 months that received any form of support, including household-level awareness-raising, within 6 months of their identification <i>(Numerator = # children covered identified in child labour in the past 24 months that received any form of support, including household-level awareness-raising, within 6 months of their identification; Denominator = # children covered identified in child labour within the past 24 months)</i>	Support and awareness raising
3.3	% children covered previously identified in child labour in the past 24 months <i>(Numerator = # children covered previously identified in child labour within the past 24 months; Denominator = 2.2b)</i>	Monitoring and identification
3.4	% children covered previously identified in child labour in the past 24 months that received at least two follow-up visits, the first within 3-6 months of their identification, and the second 3-6 months later. <i>(Numerator = # children covered previously identified in child labour in the past 24 months that received at least two follow-up visits, the first within 3-6 months of their identification, and the second 3-6 months later; Denominator = # children covered previously identified in child labour in the past 24 months)</i>	Follow-up
3.5	% children covered that received at least two follow-up visits within the past 12 months, each visit spaced between 3-6 months apart, that were not in child labour at their last two consecutive visits <i>(Numerator = # children not in child labour at their last two consecutive follow-up visits, each spaced between 3-6 months apart, within the past 3-12 months; Denominator = # children that received at least two follow-up visits, each spaced between 3-6 months apart, within the past 12 months)</i>	Follow-up
3.6	# targeted households assessed using a predictive risk model meeting minimum requirements for risk models in past 12 months	Risk models <i>(if applicable)</i>
3.7	% targeted households designated as “at-risk” by the predictive risk model in the past 12 months <i>(Numerator = # targeted households designated as “at-risk” by the predictive risk model meeting minimum requirements for risk models in the past 12 months; Denominator = 3.6)</i>	Risk models <i>(if applicable)</i>
3.8	% targeted households designated as “at-risk” by the predictive risk model that received a monitoring visit from CLMRS Personnel in the past 24 months <i>(Numerator = # targeted households designated as “at-risk” by the predictive risk model that received a monitoring visit from CLMRS Personnel in past 24 months; Denominator = # households designated as “at-risk” by the predictive risk model)</i>	Risk models <i>(if applicable)</i>

## E. Definitions

Further information on the defined terms and guidance on their operationalization in the context of a CLMRS can be found in the CLMRS Manual.<sup>14</sup>

**Awareness Raising:** Information shared by trained CLMRS Personnel with adults and children about child labour and its risks, using awareness-raising materials (e.g. flash cards, posters, cartoons). See: [Required activity 1: Provide Support and raise awareness.](#)

**Household Level Awareness-Raising** is a two-way discussion between trained CLMRS Personnel and members of a specific household (including at least one adult) about child labour and its risks, tailored to the specific situation and needs of that household.

**Community-Level Awareness-Raising**, involves sharing information with multiple individuals about child labour and its risks, usually held in a public space, cooperative or school. Community-level awareness-raising can be a helpful tool to spread messages and motivation in relation to preventing and addressing child labour, but cannot be counted as support in the context of core activity 1.

**At-Risk:** In countries where a CLMRS is being implemented, all households are considered At-Risk of child labour, unless a predictive Risk Model has been used to distinguish a sub-set of households as At-Risk. See: [Risk Models.](#)

**Benchmarking Study:** The [Benchmarking Study: Overview and Definition of Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation Systems](#) (April 2021) prepared by ICI for the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa.

**Case (of Child Labour):** A child identified in a situation of Child Labour is considered “a case”, until the child is considered No Longer in Child Labour (i.e. after two follow-up visits with no child labour reported) and has no need for further support. See: [Required activity 3: Follow-up with children in child labour.](#)

**Child:** A child is any person under the age of 18. In the context of a CLMRS monitoring visits, interviews with children are limited to children aged 5 and 17.

**Child Labour:** Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development, as further described in and prohibited by [ILO Convention No. 138](#) (Minimum Age Convention, 1973) and [ILO Convention No. 182](#) (Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999). Not all work by children is child labour. This depends on the child's age; the types and hours of work performed; the conditions under which the work is performed; and the laws of the country in which the child is living.

**CLMRS Personnel:** Individuals who perform CLMRS activities (providing support and raising awareness, monitoring and identification of children in child labour, following up with children). Personnel may be agents, employees, independent contractors or other service provider performing CLMRS activities for, and on behalf a System Implementer. For more information on CLMRS Personnel please refer to ICI's CLMRS Manual.

**Coverage:** Coverage refers to households and children reached by the CLMRS and in scope to receive services at a specific point in time. Covered households are a subset of all targeted households and include those who received Monitoring Visits in the past 24 months (and remain included for further support and follow-up as needed) and those assessed as “low risk” by a predictive model in the past 12 months (for whom no further action is required). Households or children no longer in scope (for example, if a child has turned 18 or a

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<sup>14</sup> ICI, [CLMRS Manual](#)

household has moved away) must be excluded from the total coverage reported at that point in time. See: [CLMRS Coverage](#).

**Database:** CLMRS gather data as part of their activities to monitor and identify child labour, provide support, raise awareness, and follow-up with children. Data collected feeds into a central database, which is used to plan future visits and support, based on the needs and situation of children, households and communities, as well as to monitor and report on progress and results. For more information on CLMRS database, please refer to ICI's CLMRS Manual.

**Data Collection Tools:** Standardised questions and indicators used to gather and record data collected during interviews with children and adults, commonly administered using a smartphone or tablet.

**Direct supply chain:** For cocoa to be categorized as “sourced through a direct supply chain”, there shall be a relatively stable partnership and collaboration, in which the individual cocoa farmers/farming households are known (registered). This partnership and collaboration between the cocoa sourcing company and cocoa farming households may be conducted through cooperatives, farmer organisations and/or other intermediaries embedded within the direct supply chain. For a household to be considered as “in the direct supply chain”, the company must have a record of the farmer's name and quantity of cocoa purchased.

**Equipped:** CLMRS Personnel are equipped with materials and tools necessary to perform their duties. This includes awareness-raising materials (e.g. flash cards, posters); Data Collection Tools (commonly on a smartphone/tablet); and the means of accessing the households they monitor (e.g. fuel subsidy, motorbike).

**Follow-Up or Follow-Up Visit:** An in-person visit to a child Identified as performing Child Labour, for the purpose of monitoring any changes to the child's situation and assessing whether additional Support and guidance is required. See: [Required activity 3: Follow-up with children in child labour](#).

**Household:** a group of (related or unrelated) people habitually sharing the same dwelling. The household of a registered farmer includes all individuals habitually sharing the same dwelling with the farmer.

**Identification:** The determination that child has performed Child Labour in the past 12 months, based on declaration by the child, or because the child is seen, doing work that meets the definition of Child Labour. See: [Required activity 2: Monitor and identify children in child labour](#).

**Low risk:** When a predictive Risk Model is used to predict the likelihood of child labour, it separates households into two categories: “At-Risk” and “Low risk”. Low risk households can be considered Covered, even if they have not received an in-person monitoring visit in the past 24 months. See: [Risk Models](#).

**Monitoring Visit:** An in-person visit by CLMRS Personnel to a household to determine whether a child has performed Child Labour within the prior twelve (12) months. See: [Required activity 2: Monitor and identify children in child labour](#).

**Monitored Child:** A child who has been interviewed at least once during the previous 24 months, as part of a Monitoring Visit or Follow-up Visit. See: [Required activity 2: Monitor and identify children in child labour](#).

**Monitored Household:** A Household that has received a Monitoring Visit at least once during the previous 24 months. See: [Required activity 2: Monitor and identify children in child labour](#).

**No Longer in Child Labour:** A child is considered no longer in child labour if the child reported not doing work meeting the definition of child labour during two consecutive Follow-Up Visits, between 3 and 6 months apart. See: [Required activity 3: Follow-up with children in child labour](#).

**Risk Model:** A documented, scientific and transparent statistical model used to predict the likelihood of Child Labour in a household through a systematic analysis of reliable data about the household. See: [Risk Models](#).

**Support:** The delivery of assistance, goods, or services, including household-level awareness-raising, to prevent or mitigate the risk of child labour, or remediate a case of child labour. Support aims to improve the situation of children, families, and communities and can be delivered at individual level (e.g. a birth certificate), household level (e.g. a cash transfer to the household); or community level (e.g. renovation of the community school). See: [Required activity 1: Provide Support and raise awareness](#).

**System Implementer:** The entity responsible for putting in place the CLMRS and its activities. For industry-implemented CLMRS, this is most commonly the Supplier.

**Targeted Household:** A household that the implementer intends to cover with a CLMRS, for example all households in a cooperative or all households in a group of communities. This includes all Covered households, as well as any households that do not yet meet the definition of Covered, for example because they have not yet received an in-person monitoring visit or been assessed as low-risk by a household-level predictive risk model. The number of Targeted Households may be updated over the course of a year. For example, if a company starts sourcing from a new cooperative and intends to implement a CLMRS, new households should be added to the list of Targeted Households, alternatively, if a company stops sourcing from a cooperative, households should be removed from the list. Updates to the list of Targeted Households can be made at any time convenient to the implementer, for example following a change in sourcing, or at end of the cocoa season. For more information on coverage strategies, please refer to the ICI CLMRS Manual.

**Trained:** CLMRS Personnel are provided with training enabling them to conduct their duties, prior to starting work. Training content should include, at a minimum: child safeguarding, child-friendly interview technique, child labour, forced labour, awareness-raising, and use of the data collection tools they administer. CLMRS Personnel should also receive annual refresher training.