Côte d’Ivoire, the world’s leading cocoa producer, experienced large growth in cocoa production from 2008/09 to 2013/14: total output rose by over half a million tons (or over 40%).

The population of children 5-17 years living in agricultural households in Côte d’Ivoire’s cocoa-growing regions grew by about 180,000 (or 5%).

The numbers of children working in cocoa production, doing child labor in cocoa production, and doing hazardous work in cocoa production grew by 59%, 48%, and 46% respectively.

Ghana produces about half as much cocoa as Côte d’Ivoire with cocoa production increasing by close one quarter of a million tones (or about 36%) between the two rounds of survey data collection.

The total number of children 5-17 years living in agricultural households in Ghana’s cocoa-growing regions rose by less than 100,000 (or under 4%).

The numbers of children working in cocoa production, doing child labor in cocoa production, and doing hazardous work in cocoa production in Ghana all fell slightly (by under 6%).

Sources: Tulane child survey 2008/09 and 2013/14, weighted and ICCO (2013/14 cocoa production is an estimate).

*Children 5-17 years living in agricultural households in the cocoa-growing areas of Côte d’Ivoire

*Children 5-17 years living in agricultural households in the cocoa-growing areas of Ghana
Major Findings:

- In the aggregate the numbers of children working in cocoa production, in child labor in cocoa production, and in hazardous work in cocoa production have increased from 2008/09 to 2013/14.
- In 2013/14 2.03 million children were found in hazardous work in cocoa production in both countries combined.
- In Côte d’Ivoire, the percentage of children in hazardous work in cocoa production increased from 22.3% to 30.9%.
- In Ghana, the percentage of children in hazardous work in cocoa production decreased from 43.1% to 39.3%.
- The percentage of children in hazardous work in cocoa exposed to multiple hazards decreased.
- The percentage of children 5-17 years attending school increased (amongst all children in agricultural households in the cocoa-growing areas and amongst children working in cocoa production).

Conclusions:

- After increases in the total number of children working in the cocoa sector in both countries combined, 1.5 million children still have to be removed from hazardous work by 2020 in order to reach the Framework of Action target.
- With production growing and increasing global demand for cocoa beans, production methods and/or child labor mitigation strategies need to change drastically to achieve major progress.
- The Harkin-Engel Protocol has provided the focus and framework for investments by all stakeholders into mitigating the problem of the WFCL in the cocoa sector.
- This framework continues to be relevant as the international cocoa/chocolate industry and the governments of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana work towards the goal of providing child labor free cocoa to a better informed and increasingly child labor conscious global market.