

VALRHONA

DECLARATION ON COMBATING CHILD LABOR 2021

Child labor is a major problem facing the entire cocoa and chocolate sector. It is our belief that action must be collective if it is to have the greatest possible impact, which is why we have joined the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI). This foundation dedicated to protecting children in cocoa-growing communities works to secure a better future for children and their families.

The International Cocoa Initiative Foundation has trialed several solutions for tackling and preventing child labor. These trials have indicated that **community development** is effective and that it empowers communities to both implement locally managed child protection systems and lead all kinds of activities that favor development more widely (such as female entrepreneurship schemes and income diversification).

At Valrhona, we use this evidence to structure the action we undertake and improve our impact, because we too believe in empowering cocoa-producing communities to lead their own development. By forging direct relationships with communities, we have been able to create strong, trusting links with our partners in 15 countries. As a result:

- 100% of our cocoa can be traced back to the farmers
- 98% of our cocoa is purchased through a long-term partnership (at least 3 years)

Of all our 15 partner countries, it is in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana that the situation is most critical in terms of mapping human rights risks. We have therefore chosen West Africa to illustrate how our work on the ground is furthering the fight against child labor. Our action focuses on two key areas :

1. Training & Raising Awareness

Training and awareness-raising are often an important first step in the fight against child labor, and the schemes we have put in place have undoubtedly helped to open people's eyes to the issue.

In Ivory Coast, in 2017 we funded a training center in Daloa. Our ambition was to increase the participation rate by 55% by ensuring that it is as quick and easy as possible for producers and key people in communities to access training. Below is a summary of the impact social training has had over the last two years:

Good Social Practices - Module 1	Session	Target participants	Actual participants	Participation rate
Tackling the worst forms of child labor, employment and contract rights, decent treatment of workers, women's rights and maternity provision, hygiene and family planning	janv-18	1203	1046	87%
	sept-18	1382	1256	91%
	janv-19	2179	1893	87%
	sept-19	2179	1833	84%
	sept-19	2179	1874	86%
Good Social Practices - Module 2	Session	Target participants	Actual participants	Participation rate
HIV-AIDS and malaria awareness, community relations, combating discrimination and promoting trade union freedoms, occupational health and safety	juil-18	1382	1268	92%
	juil-19	2179	1797	82%

(Due to the 2020 pandemic, which is also affecting our partners in producer countries, training data for 2020 are still being collected.)

Alongside these training courses, our partner cooperative has formed **Committees for Combating Child Labor**. These committees are composed of:

- 1 or 2 Member(s) of the Board of Directors
- 1 Fairtrade Certification Manager
- 2 or 4 young leaders aged between 18 and 25

- 1 child protection policy officer

These members are proficient in child protection policy and procedures; child labor and child protection aspects of the Fairtrade Standard; and the Community Monitoring and Remediation System for Children and Young People.

Young leaders aged 18 to 25 make up a vital link within the monitoring system. In communities, young leaders are in close contact with producers, people and cooperatives. They raise awareness about the consequences of child labor, and they identify child workers and families which are at risk.

2. Access to quality education

There are many reasons why children might not be able to go to school. A lack of school infrastructure in or near their community is one of them. Access to quality education, new school canteens and washroom facilities **help to increase the enrolment rate**, and studies have shown that child labor is less widespread in communities where quality education is available.

In 2015, together with our partners and the authorities, we embarked on a wide-reaching program to improve access to education. Local communities set out which schools should be prioritized for building or renovation based on existing infrastructure, its condition and how heavily used it is.

	No. of infrastructures	No. of classes	No. of students taught	Location	Education level	Ancillary equipment	Accompanying projects		
							Project type	Project progress	Completion deadline
GHANA									
Completed	1	6	421	Wassa Nkran	Primary school	Washrooms/well			
Completed	1	3	148	Pleso	Kindergarten	Washrooms/well			
Completed	1	6	318	Pleso	Primary school (renovation)				
Completed	1	6	197	Atwereboanda	Middle school	Washrooms/well/IT suite			
Completed	1	6	324	Atwereboanda	Primary school (renovation)				
Underway	1	6	270	Bosomtwe	Primary school	Washrooms/well/IT suite			2021
CÔTE D'IVOIRE									
Completed	1	3	149	Petit Bouaké	Primary school	Washrooms	Canteen	Underway	2021
Underway	1	3	213	Konedougou	Primary school	Washrooms			
Underway	1	3	236	Guinglozia	Primary school	Washrooms			

By the end of 2020, six schools had been rebuilt or renovated, three new schools were being finalized and **nearly 2,300 children would very shortly be provided with access to quality education**.

We are aware of the seriousness of the situation and know that we have a long way to go. But we are confident in our ability to move the needle thanks to concerted efforts by all players in the cocoa and chocolate sector.

Together, we will be stronger.

Clémentine Alzial
CEO at Valrhona

