



Nestlé

Good food, Good life



How is Nestlé tackling child labor risk?

Child labor is unacceptable and heartbreaking. Children deserve the chance to learn, to grow in a safe and healthy environment. We are committed to working with our suppliers and local communities to prevent and address child labor risks in our supply chain. Poverty, lack of access to education, and limited awareness about child safety are among the root causes of child labor. Our work seeks to take action on the ground, address these root causes, and help families reach a living income. Our social impact has been assessed by independent third-parties (like the Fair Labor Association). We've worked to build and refurbish 50 schools in the Ivory Coast and enhanced access to education, ultimately protecting more than 145 000 children against the risk of child labor.

Additionally, by 2025, we are committed to be able to trace all cocoa back to a specific group of farms and ensure 100% of the cocoa we use is sourced within our sustainability cocoa program. Our work isn't done. In West Africa, most child labor involves children supporting their parents on farms, so we prioritize family and community engagement as well as helping farm families reach a [living income](#). We remain dedicated to helping end child labor in the cocoa industry.



What is Nestlé doing to prevent child labor risk?

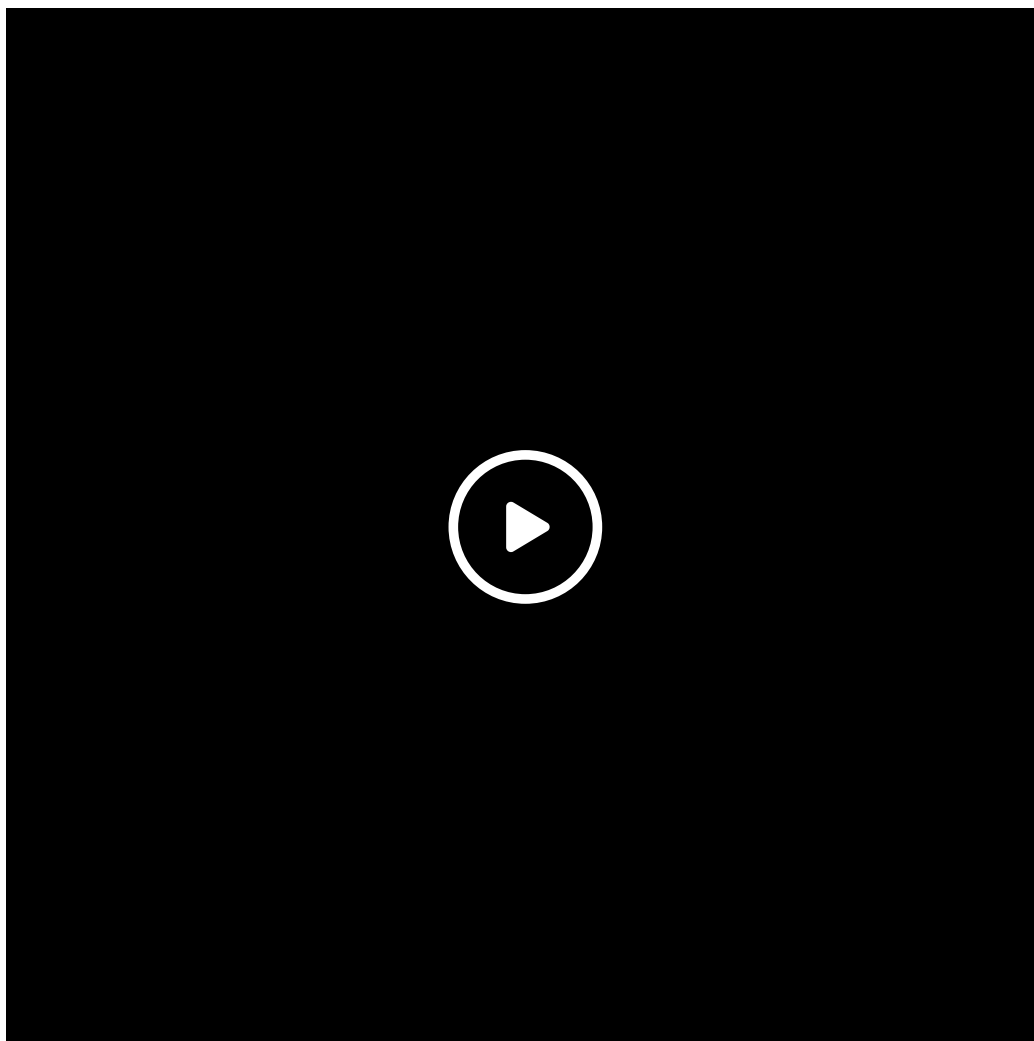
Providing access to education

Education is critical to helping a child achieve his or her potential, and data shows that in communities with good quality schooling, child labor is lower (International Cocoa Initiative).

- We offer **access to bridging classes** for kids who have been out of school and

need to catch up, as well as working directly in communities to secure **school kits and birth certificates**, which are required for children to attend school in Côte d'Ivoire.


- We have supported the **construction and renovation of more than 50 schools** in Côte d'Ivoire to date.



Impact in action


Through these measures, more than **145 000 children have been protected against the risk of child labor since 2012**. Today, we keep contact with the families of over 86 000 children to assess the risk of child labor.

Overcoming poverty by promoting a stable economy and a healthy society
Poverty is one of the root causes of child labor. We strongly believe that farmers should

earn an income that allows them and their families to live a decent life. We support farmers and farming communities to improve their income and livelihoods, helping them to reach a living income and providing training, [women's empowering programs](#) , and local savings and loans associations. We also improve living conditions for communities with basic infrastructure such as water fountains.

Additionally, in 2022 we announced a new approach to supporting farm communities by rewarding cocoa-farming families not just for the quantity and quality of their cocoa beans, but also for practices that benefit the environment and local community. Our holistic approach aims to deliver long-lasting impact by providing additional income incentives for the enrollment of children in school, while advancing regenerative agriculture practices and gender equality. The program rewards practices that increase crop productivity and help secure additional sources of income, which aim to close the gap to living income and help protect children.

Engaging families & communities

In West Africa most child labor in cocoa involves children supporting their parents on farms, so we prioritize family and community engagement. Under the *Nestlé Cocoa Plan*, we help parents understand the types of tasks that are appropriate for children. As soon as child labor risks are detected across any of the thousands of households covered by the Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System - [CLMRS \(pdf, 6Mb\)](#) , we take action, working directly with families and communities to understand the root cause and develop tailored solutions. Nestlé was the first company to implement a system to address child labor risk in its cocoa supply chain. We made our system to tackle child labor risk available across the industry, and it is now widely used by other cocoa-buying companies.

We also **help the community reduce risk** by organizing adult worker groups, to prevent children being involved in difficult activities like pruning on farms.

Impact in action

Community liaisons visit families on a regular basis to coach, measure progress, and prevent setbacks. Working with the community and the families is key: **1 600 community liaisons** from non-governmental organizations, foundations and farmers' cooperatives **help us improve child welfare**. Our remediation approach is now widely used by leading chocolate brands in our collective effort to eliminate child labor.



Did the United States Supreme Court rule on Nestlé child labor accusations?

In June 2021, the Supreme Court agreed there is no basis for this lawsuit to proceed against Nestlé. Nestlé never engaged in the egregious child labor alleged in this suit, and we remain unwavering in our dedication to combatting child labor in the cocoa industry and to our ongoing work with partners in government, [NGOs](#) and industry to tackle this global issue.

Access to education and help for households to reach a living income are crucial to combatting child labor in cocoa production. Find out more about [how we're addressing the root causes of child labor](#).



How do you trace where your cocoa comes from?

By 2025, we are committed to trace all cocoa back to specific farms and ensure 100% of the cocoa we use is sourced within our *Cocoa Plan*.

At the same time, we are remodeling our sourcing to segregate and trace all cocoa products, achieving full traceability and segregation of our cocoa products, from origins to factory, in the next five years. This will drive greater supply chain transparency and accountability, to the benefit of our company and on an industry-wide scale, while giving our consumers more visibility into the source of their ingredients.

Given the scale and complexity of the problem, we believe partnership across governments, other chocolate companies, and [NGOs](#) are essential. That is why:

- We work with national governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations as well as other companies that source cocoa from these countries.
- Independent audits by third-party organizations, such as [Rainforest Alliance](#) [↗](#) and the [Fair Labor Association](#) [↗](#), help drive continuous improvement.
- We welcome appropriate legislation, based on international standards, that obliges companies to identify human rights and environmental issues, to act on them and to report on their progress. We support a strong, consistent international framework for corporate reporting on human rights.



Read our [Tackling Child Labor report \(pdf, 4Mb\) ↗](#) and the [Fair Labor Association's report \(pdf, 12Mb\) ↗](#) to learn more.

Tackling child labor

Child labor is a global problem.

Unfortunately, in many countries, children still do some work that affects their development and too often prevents them from attending school.

Click to enlarge (pdf, 2.5Mb)

The *Nestlé Cocoa Plan*

Through the *Nestlé Cocoa Plan*, we are building a more responsible supply chain for cocoa and have committed to sourcing 100% of our cocoa through this plan by 2025. We have identified poverty, deforestation and child labor as the key issues impacting cocoa farming and we are working with farmers, communities and local and international organizations to develop and implement solutions.

[FIND OUT MORE](#) 



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- [Tackling child labor risk](#)
- [Read more about responsible cocoa sourcing](#)
- [Download the infographic: Tackling child labor \(pdf, 2.5Mb\)](#)
- [Nestlé Action Plan on Women in the Cocoa Supply Chain \(pdf, 425Kb\)↗](#)
- [Nestlé Action Plan on the Responsible Sourcing of Cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire \(pdf, 500Kb\) ↗](#)
- [Tackling Child Labor 2019 report \(pdf, 4Mb\)↗](#)

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