*Stop child labour in cocoa-sourcing communities in Haut-Sassandra region*

SUMMARY OF BASELINE STUDY RESULTS

IMPLEMENTATION GROUP 1 (32 communities)

1. **Introduction**

1.1 **Purpose and Objectives**

The study has been conducted in the districts of Zoukougbeu and Daloa in the 32 selected communities that are part of the first group of project implementation. The primary purpose of the study was to establish the baseline situation of the project indicators among communities and targeted households in order to identify the needs, to confirm/adjust the project interventions, and to compare the situation at the end of the project.

The baseline focused on two levels of analysis: community and households/individuals. At community level the study aimed at identifying status, needs, and presence/quality of the services available to the community, based on a set of indicators that will be measured at the end of the project evaluating the impact that the activities will have had on the development of the target communities. We have called it "graduation" approach, where communities showing progresses will receive a sort of "score" of graduation/improvement. At household/individual level the study aimed at understanding the situation of the families in terms of level of education, child labour presence/risk, and economic status, to identify the most vulnerable and measure at set of indicators at the end of the programme to establish the impact of the project in reducing the child labour risks.

The study specific objectives were:

- Conduct an assessment of the target communities of the first group of project implementation (32 communities) to identify the situation and the needs in terms of presence and quality of services, particularly related to child protection (institutional and not);
- Identify the most vulnerable households in relation to the risk of child labor, this group will be the main target of the project;
- Measure key indicators among the selected vulnerable households;
- Assess the status of the community in relation to the awareness-raising activities that will be conducted during project.

1.2 **Methodology and tools**

The study used a combination of *quantitative and qualitative methods*:

- **Vulnerability assessment**: surveys at the household level to select the 900 most vulnerable families from a sampling frame of 1,575 households pre-identified by the stakeholders (local authorities and communities' leaders). The families were selected according to vulnerability criteria;
- **Community profiling**: to identify community needs and access to key services, the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) Foundation "Protective Cocoa Community Framework" (PCCF) Questionnaire was administered and Focus Group Discussion were organised with 480 key informants such as Community leaders, secretary to the chief, president of youth, president of women, the secondary civil status agent, heads of community CPEs, associative group of farmers;
- **Child protection mechanisms assessment**: the Quality of Services questionnaire was used to assess quality standards of the 6 functional Social Centres in the project area;

- **Household survey**: the selected 900 target vulnerable families were interviewed to measure the project indicators and assess their status and level of knowledge and awareness on various topics;
- **Child Labor survey:** a questionnaire was used to interview a sample of adolescents and children of the vulnerable families and the broad community to measure the incidence and characteristics of child labour in the community and identify children to be included into the child protection system;
- **Focus Group Discussions**: 40 FGDs were conducted in the 10 largest communities (4 each: women, men, girls, boys) with a total of 554 participants selected among the target families. The FGD gathered qualitative information on gender issues and gaps, women empowerment, needs of farmers, child labor key issues.

## 2. Community assessment results

### 2.1 Demographic and economic status

**Population**

The study estimated a total population of more than 64,600 individuals in the 32 communities (59% women and 41% men). Children population is estimated at 36,114 representing 56% of the population of which 13,154 children aged 0 to 5 (20%); 8,250 from 6 to 11 years old (13%) and 14,710 from 12 to 17 years old (23%).

| Sex | Adults | 0 – 5 years | 6 – 11 years | 12 – 17 years | Total | Proportion by sex |
|------|--------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|
| Female | 17265 | 7549 | 4588 | 8521 | 37923 | 58,70% |
| Male | 11222 | 5605 | 3662 | 6189 | 26678 | 41,30% |
| Total | 28487 | 13154 | 8250 | 14710 | 64601 | 100,00% |
| % | 44,10% | 20,36% | 12,77% | 22,77% | 100,00% | |
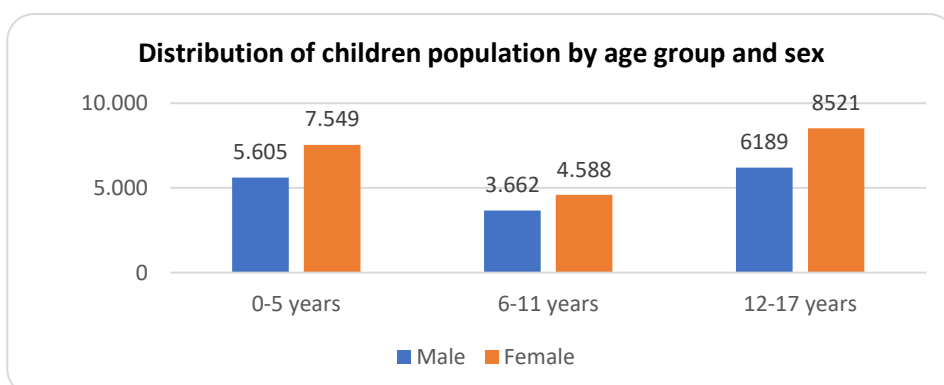


**Children education**

There are an estimated 8,645 children enrolled in school at all levels. Overall there is a good enrolment rate in primary schools but low in secondary school, very low and inexistent for kindergarten and technical school.

| Sex | Kindergarten | Primary school | Secondary school | Professional technical school | Total |
|------|--------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Girls | 43 | 2822 | 1122 | 0 | 3987 |
| Boys | 45 | 3346 | 1267 | 0 | 4658 |
| Total | 88 | 6168 | 2389 | 0 | **8645** |

According to what reported by the teachers and collected from the school registers, the attendance rate of children enrolled in primary s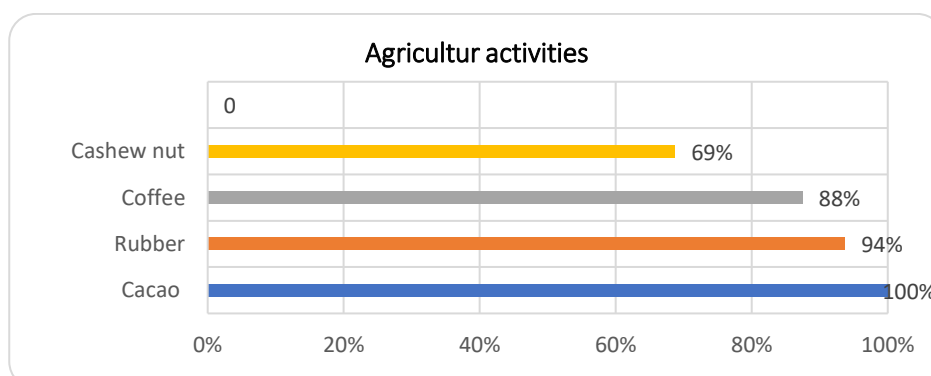chool is relatively high within the communities, with an overall attendance rate of 96% and an overall dropout rate of 2.26%, slightly higher among girls (2.73%). These data, however, are based on the communities where schools are present and do not take into account the children who were never enrolled in school, that are captured by the information collected at household level.

Differences among certain communities can be seen in the graph below.

**Attendance rate among communities with primary schools**

| Community | Rate |
|---|---|
| Community Average | 96 |
| Zebra | 95 |
| Zah | 95 |
| Zaguedia | 96 |
| Yaokro | 98 |
| Woroyiri | 98 |
| Sapia Konankro | 97 |
| Niouboua | 95 |
| N'Guessankro | 95 |
| Kpangbassou | 98 |
| Kouamebakro | 94 |
| Koinzra | 99 |
| Gregbeu | 98 |
| Gamina | 97 |
| Dynamokro | 95 |
| Djekonankro | 100 |
| Chantier | 93 |
| Blaisekro | 95 |
| Assiekro | 90 |
| Amanikro | 100 |
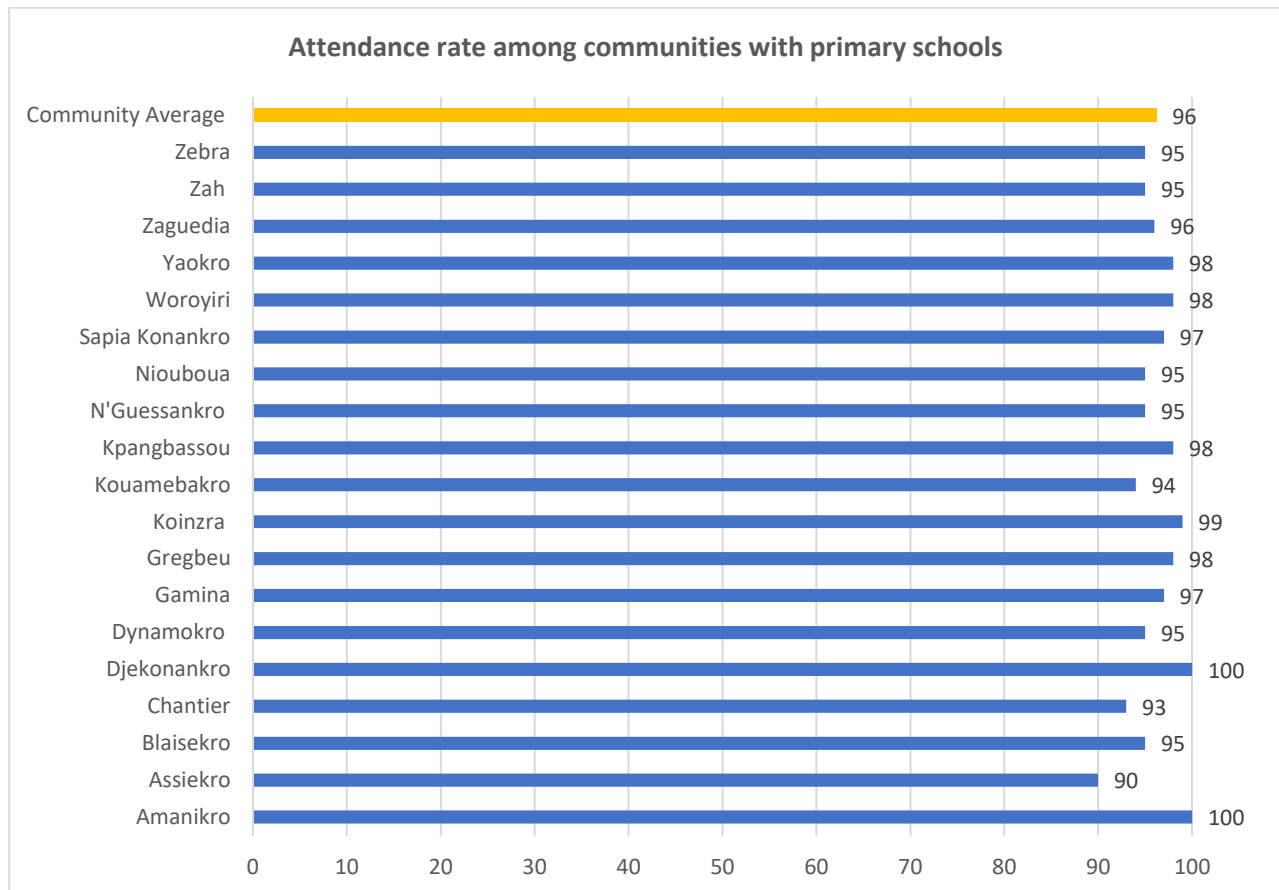
**Economic activities**

Various agricultural activities are practiced in the communities (including cocoa, coffee, rubber, palm oil, fruits, cashew nuts, coconut, sugar cane and pineapple), but cocoa-growing is confirmed being the main economic activity (100% of the communities) followed by cultivation of rubber (94%), coffee (88%), and cashew nut (69%).

**Agricultur activities**

| Activity | Percent |
|---|---|
| | 0 |
| Cashew nut | 69% |
| Coffee | 88% |
| Rubber | 94% |
| Cacao | 100% |

Chicken farming is the most practiced breeding activity in the 32 communities (100%) followed by goat farming (90%) and sheep farming (81%).
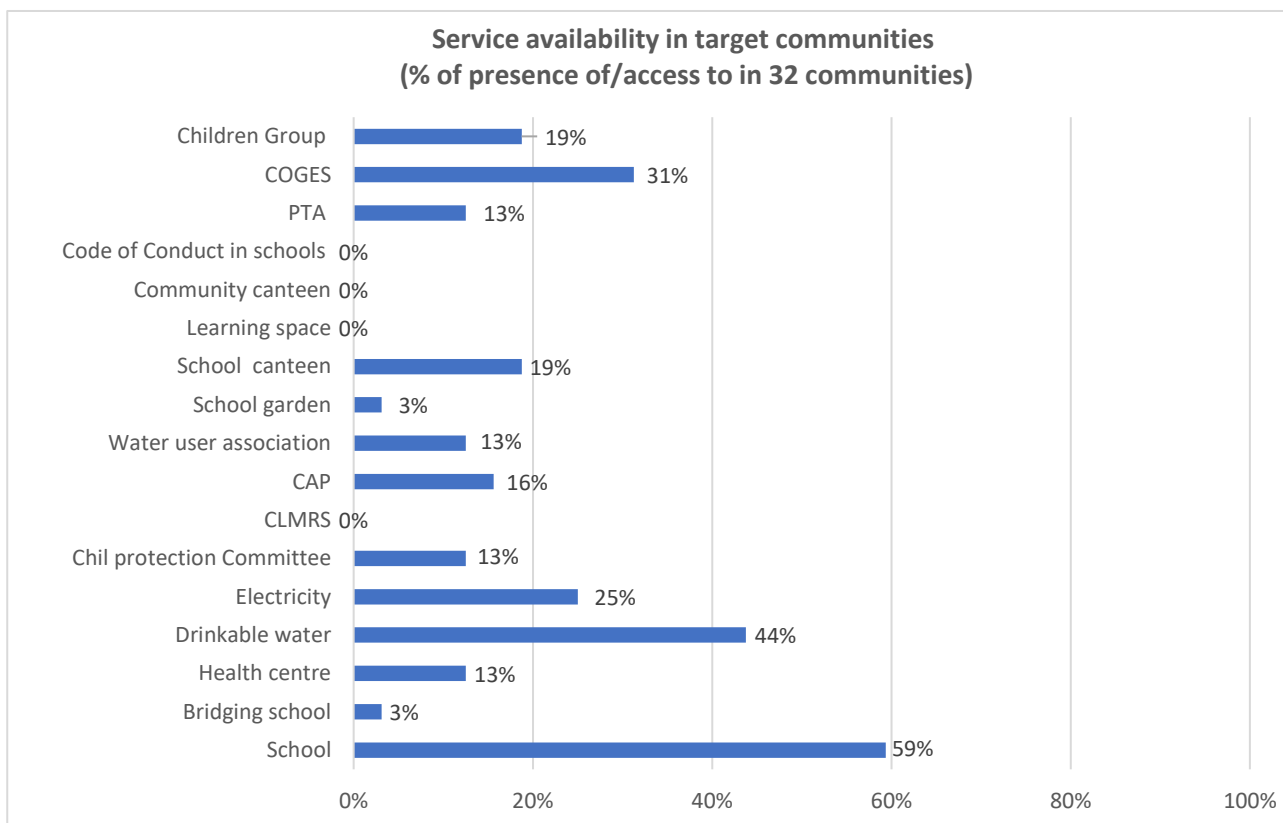
Other income generation activities include the transformation of cassava, practiced in 90% of the communities, the manufacture of charcoal (47%), sewing (47%) and hairdressing (44%).

**Farming**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sheep | 81,3% |
| Goat | 90,6% |
| Chicken | 100,0% |

0,0%  20,0%  40,0%  60,0%  80,0%  100,0%

**Other economic activities**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hairdressing | 44% |
| Sewing | 47% |
| Manufacture of charcoal | 47% |
| Transformation of cassava | 91% |

0%  20%  40%  60%  80%  100%
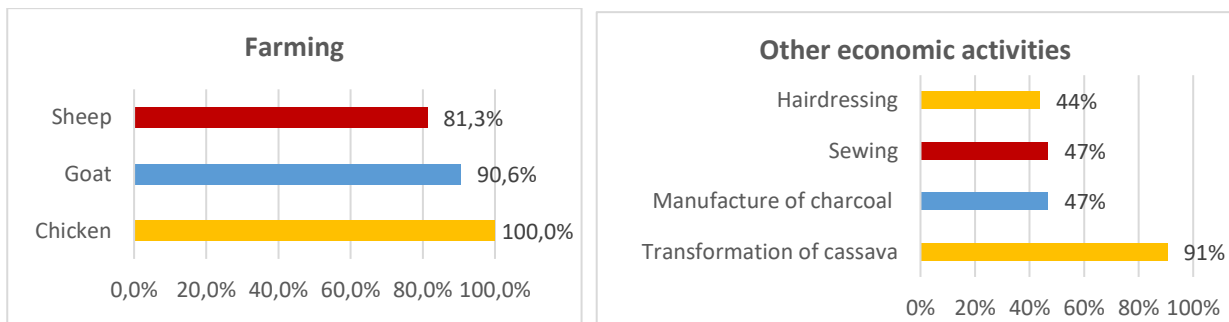
### 2.2 Community status

Overall, access to basic social services by these communities is limited, particularly to primary health services (only 12% of communities), electricity (25%), and drinking water (47%). Primary schools are present in only 19 communities, and several of them are not up to quality standards and do not offer all classes of primary level.

In terms of presence of community groups, Associations of Parents of Students and Teachers (APE) were found in four communities, School Management Committees (COGES) in ten, and Children's clubs in six. Four Child Protection Committees were recorded in the communities; however, they are not functional and the members are not trained to identify, refer, and ensure services to the cases identified, and in fact no cases have been identified or managed by them directly.

**Service availability in target communities**
**(% of presence of/access to in 32 communities)**

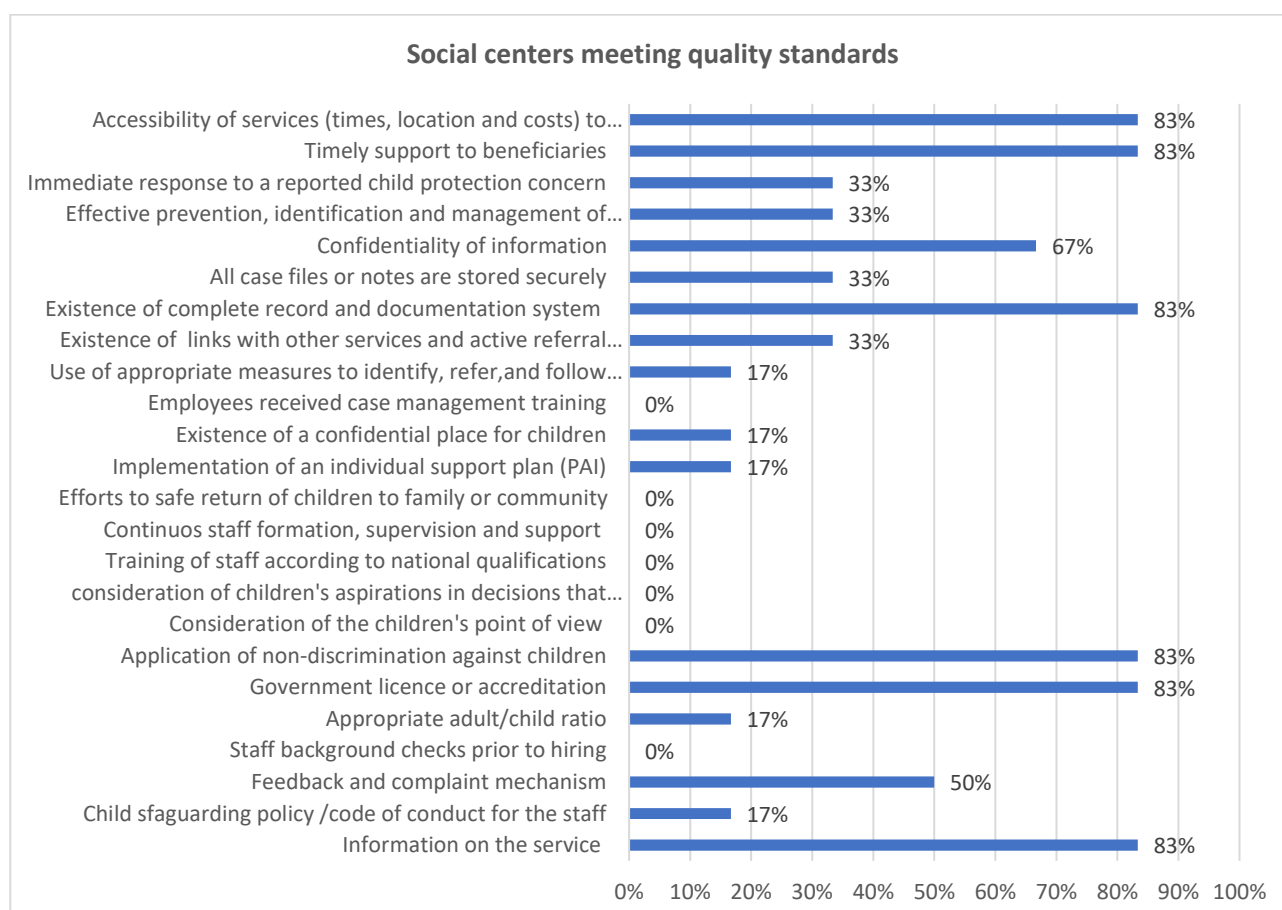| | |
|---|---|
| Children Group | 19% |
| COGES | 31% |
| PTA | 13% |
| Code of Conduct in schools | 0% |
| Community canteen | 0% |
| Learning space | 0% |
| School  canteen | 19% |
| School garden | 3% |
| Water user association | 13% |
| CAP | 16% |
| CLMRS | 0% |
| Chil protection Committee | 13% |
| Electricity | 25% |
| Drinkable water | 44% |
| Health centre | 13% |
| Bridging school | 3% |
| School | 59% |

0%  20%  40%  60%  80%  100%

| School | Bridging school | Health centre | Drinkable water | Electricity | Chil protection Committee | CLMRS | CAP | Water user association |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| 59% | 3% | 13% | 44% | 25% | 13% | 0% | 16% | 13% |
| School canteen | Learning space | Community canteen | Code of Conduct | PTA | COGES | Children Group | School garden | |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 1 | |
| 19% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 13% | 31% | 19% | 3% | |

### 2.3 Formal child protection services status

In the departments of Daloa and Zoukougbeu there are six formal child protection services, these are: the Family and Child social center of Daloa, the Quartier Garage social center, the Zoukougbeu social center, the Cherubins social center in Gboguhé, the Bédiala social center, and the social center of Gadouan, which is not yet functional thus was not covered by the assessment.

Using the "Quality of Service" Tool, 24 key informant interviews were conducted with managers and staff members of the social centers. Quality standards were scored assessing the level of evidence and efforts to meet the indicators, and consistency towards the standards.

**Social centers meeting quality standards**

| Standard | Value |
|---|---|
| Accessibility of services (times, location and costs) to… | 83% |
| Timely support to beneficiaries | 83% |
| Immediate response to a reported child protection concern | 33% |
| Effective prevention, identification and management of… | 33% |
| Confidentiality of information | 67% |
| All case files or notes are stored securely | 33% |
| Existence of complete record and documentation system | 83% |
| Existence of links with other services and active referral… | 33% |
| Use of appropriate measures to identify, refer,and follow… | 17% |
| Employees received case management training | 0% |
| Existence of a confidential place for children | 17% |
| Implementation of an individual support plan (PAI) | 17% |
| Efforts to safe return of children to family or community | 0% |
| Continuos staff formation, supervision and support | 0% |
| Training of staff according to national qualifications | 0% |
| consideration of children's aspirations in decisions that… | 0% |
| Consideration of the children's point of view | 0% |
| Application of non-discrimination against children | 83% |
| Government licence or accreditation | 83% |
| Appropriate adult/child ratio | 17% |
| Staff background checks prior to hiring | 0% |
| Feedback and complaint mechanism | 50% |
| Child sfaguarding policy /code of conduct for the staff | 17% |
| Information on the service | 83% |

As shown in the summary, the areas that need urgent action are Training and supervision, Involvement of children and consideration of their point of view, Staff background checks prior to hiring, and Efforts to safe return to children for family, whereby all Social Centers scored 0. According to the assessment, 5 out of 6 centres meet quality standards on Accessibility of services, Timely support to beneficiaries, Documentation system, Non-discrimination against children, Government accreditation, and Information on the services.
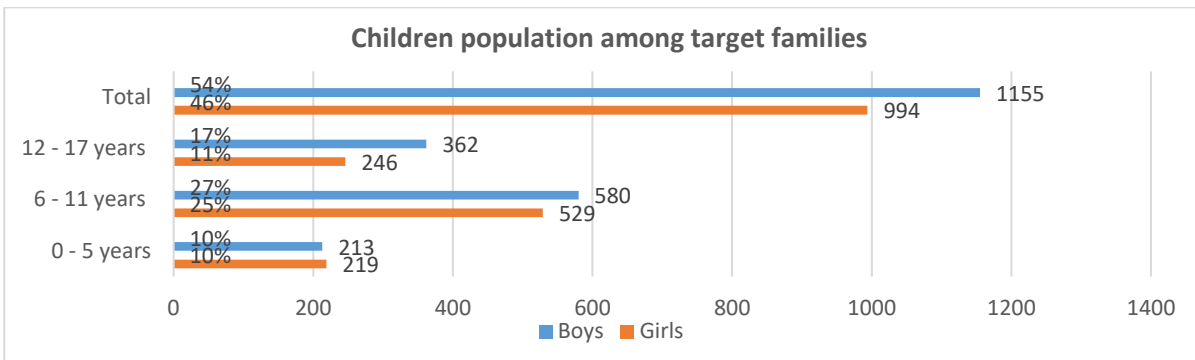
### 3.  Households survey results

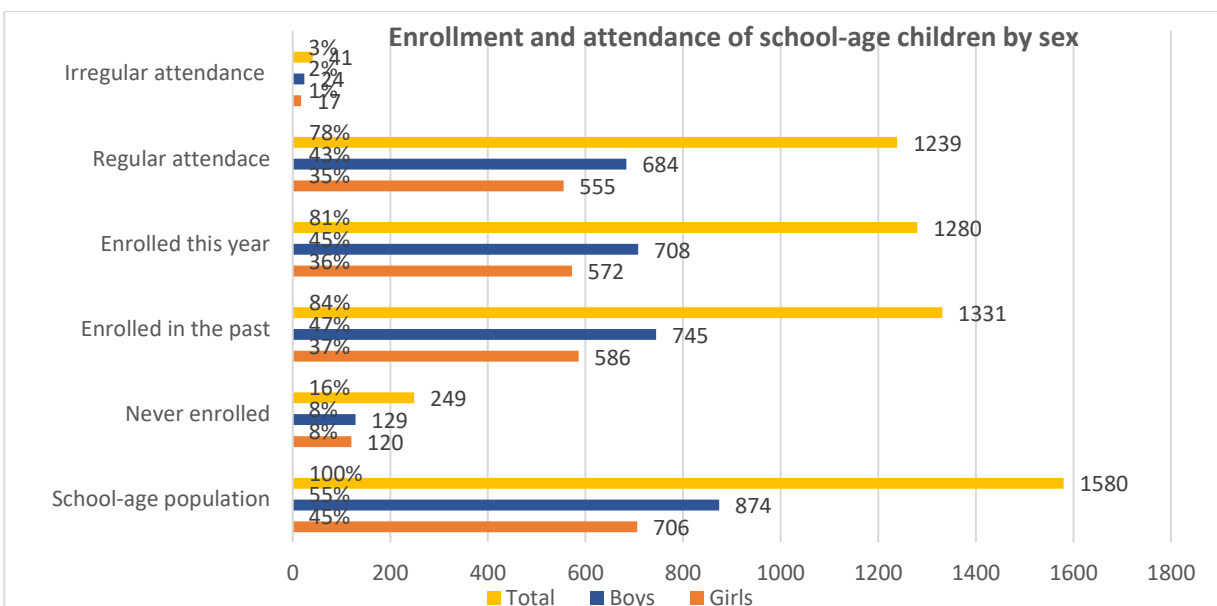### 3.1  Vulnerability assessment and target selection

The selection of the 900 most vulnerable households started from a list of 1575 vulnerable households initially identified by stakeholders. Given the high number of duplicates and movement of people, 1173 households were interviewed based on vulnerability criteria. The key criteria were Food and Nutrition; Household Health, Education and Income/Livelihoods; Shelter and Housing; Expenses for Children; Household Responsibility; Special Needs and Other Vulnerabilities, as well as Child labour risk/presence. Of the 1173 households surveyed, 857 families with the highest vulnerability score were selected, while among the remaining 61 households with an equal score, 43 families with the highest number of children in and living in communities with the largest population were further identified, to reach a total of 900.
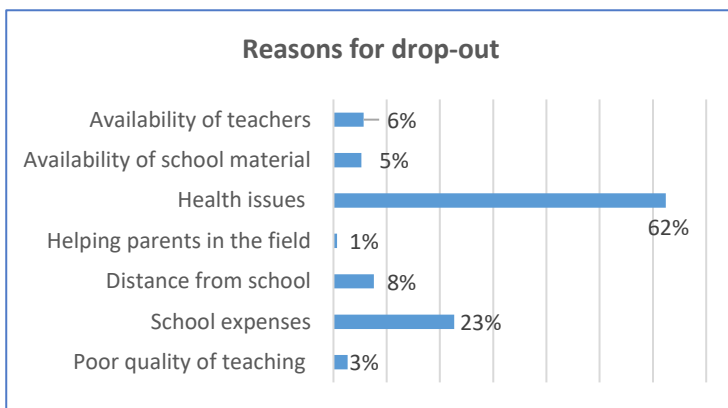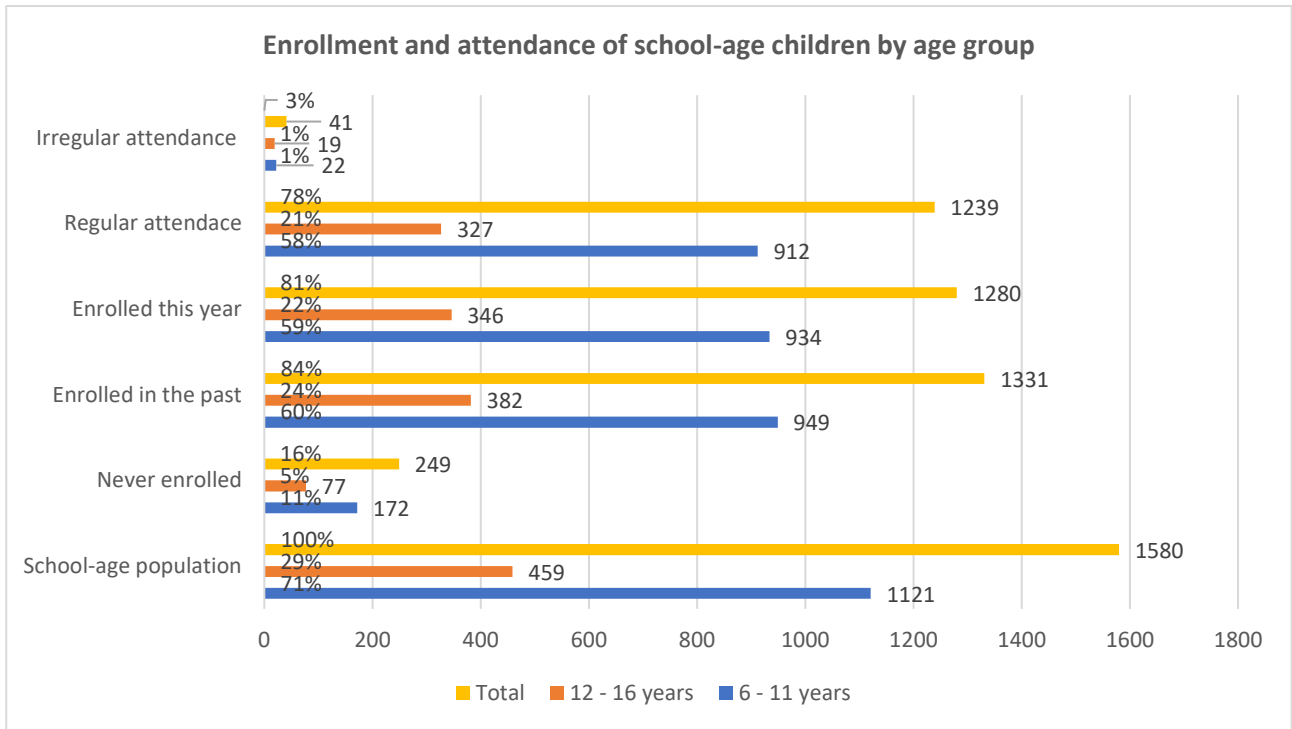
### 3.2  Children population and schooling

As shown in the graph below, from the household data collected there are 2149 children among the 896 families surveyed, of which 1155 (54%) male and 994 (46%) female. Children are distributed along age groups as follows: 432 children from 0 to 5 years, 1109 children from 6 to 11, and 608 from 12 to 17 years.

**Children population among target families**

| Category | Boys | Girls |
|----------|------|-------|
| Total | 1155 (54%) | 994 (46%) |
| 12 - 17 years | 362 (17%) | 246 (11%) |
| 6 - 11 years | 580 (27%) | 529 (25%) |
| 0 - 5 years | 213 (10%) | 219 (10%) |

Based on Côte d'Ivoire education policy, the status of enrolment and attendance was assessed for the 1580 children and adolescent in school age (6 – 16 years).  Most school-age children are in the 6-11 years age group (71%). As shown in the graph below, a high number of children who have never had the chance to be enrolled school was found (249 children, 16% of school-age population), 81% children are enrolled in this school year, of which 78% attend school regularly and 3% often miss classes or dropped-out. The gender factor doesn't seem to make a significant difference in terms of enrolment and attendance, both among children who never went to school (8% girls and 8% boys) and among those who attend irregularly (1% girls and 2% boys).

**Enrollment and attendance of school-age children by sex**

| Category | Total | Boys | Girls |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| Irregular attendance | 41 (3%) | 24 (2%) | 17 (1%) |
| Regular attendace | 1239 (78%) | 684 (43%) | 555 (35%) |
| Enrolled this year | 1280 (81%) | 708 (45%) | 572 (36%) |
| Enrolled in the past | 1331 (84%) | 745 (47%) | 586 (37%) |
| Never enrolled | 249 (16%) | 129 (8%) | 120 (8%) |
| School-age population | 1580 (100%) | 874 (55%) | 706 (45%) |

## Enrollment and attendance of school-age children by age group

| | Total | 12 - 16 years | 6 - 11 years |
|---|---|---|---|
| Irregular attendance | 3% — 41 | 1% — 19 | 1% — 22 |
| Regular attendace | 78% — 1239 | 21% — 327 | 58% — 912 |
| Enrolled this year | 81% — 1280 | 22% — 346 | 59% — 934 |
| Enrolled in the past | 84% — 1331 | 24% — 382 | 60% — 949 |
| Never enrolled | 16% — 249 | 5% — 77 | 11% — 172 |
| School-age population | 100% — 1580 | 29% — 459 | 71% — 1121 |

**Reasons for drop-out**

- Availability of teachers — 6%
- Availability of school material — 5%
- Health issues — 62%
- Helping parents in the field — 1%
- Distance from school — 8%
- School expenses — 23%
- Poor quality of teaching — 3%

When asked about the reason for the children not being enrolled or not attending school regularly, most parents reported health problems (diseases or disabilities, 62%) as the first cause, followed by the difficulties in covering school expenses (23%) and distance from school (8%).

Availability of children and school material and quality of education are also causes mentioned by the parents while, interestingly, helping parents in the field was only mentioned in very few cases.

**Families by % of income used for education**

- 0 à 10% — 41%
- 11% - 25% — 22%
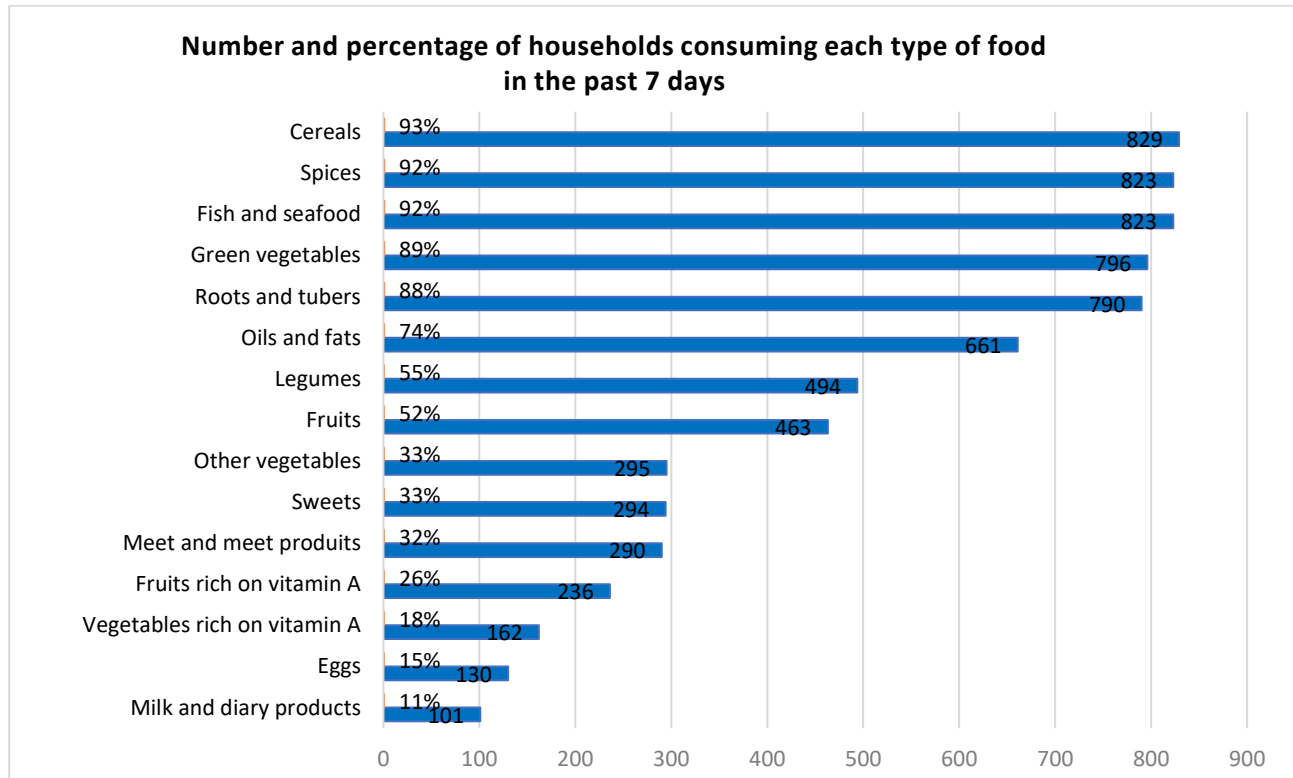- 26% - 50% — 20%
- 51% - 100% — 17%
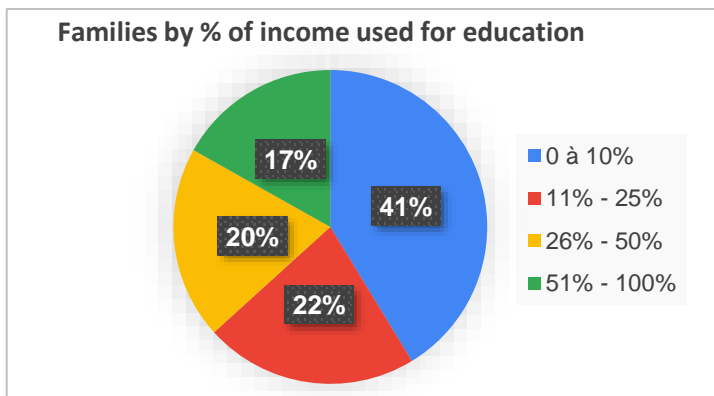
The fact that expenses are an obstacle for school attendance is confirmed by this graph, showing that in 17% of interviewed households (151) schooling retains at least 51% of their income, a high proportion especially since the average annual income is estimated at 251,834 CFA francs (430 USD).
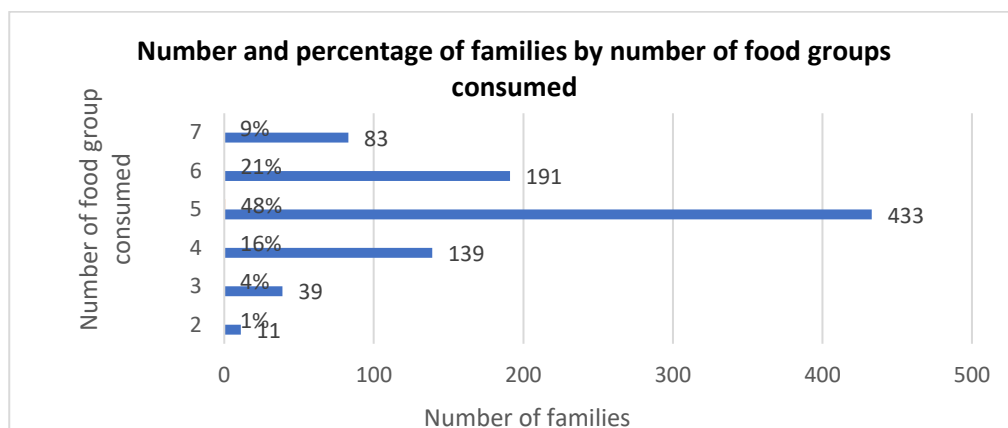
## 3.3 Nutrition practices

**Overall household**

Households, particularly women, were asked questions on the type of food consumed in the past 7 days, choosing among the 15 categories shown in the graph below. Results show that the least consumed foods are milk or dairy products rich in Vitamin B (in 11% of households), eggs consumed (15%), and fruit and vegetables rich in Vitamin A (18% and 26%). The most consumed food groups among households are cereals, fish and green vegetables.

**Number and percentage of households consuming each type of food in the past 7 days**

| Food type | Percentage | Number |
|---|---|---|
| Cereals | 93% | 829 |
| Spices | 92% | 823 |
| Fish and seafood | 92% | 823 |
| Green vegetables | 89% | 796 |
| Roots and tubers | 88% | 790 |
| Oils and fats | 74% | 661 |
| Legumes | 55% | 494 |
| Fruits | 52% | 463 |
| Other vegetables | 33% | 295 |
| Sweets | 33% | 294 |
| Meet and meet produits | 32% | 290 |
| Fruits rich on vitamin A | 26% | 236 |
| Vegetables rich on vitamin A | 18% | 162 |
| Eggs | 15% | 130 |
| Milk and diary products | 11% | 101 |

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations, five food groups, among seven suggested categories, are necessary to ensure optimal development in adults. The foods were then grouped into categories and the number and proportion of families consuming each group was calculated.
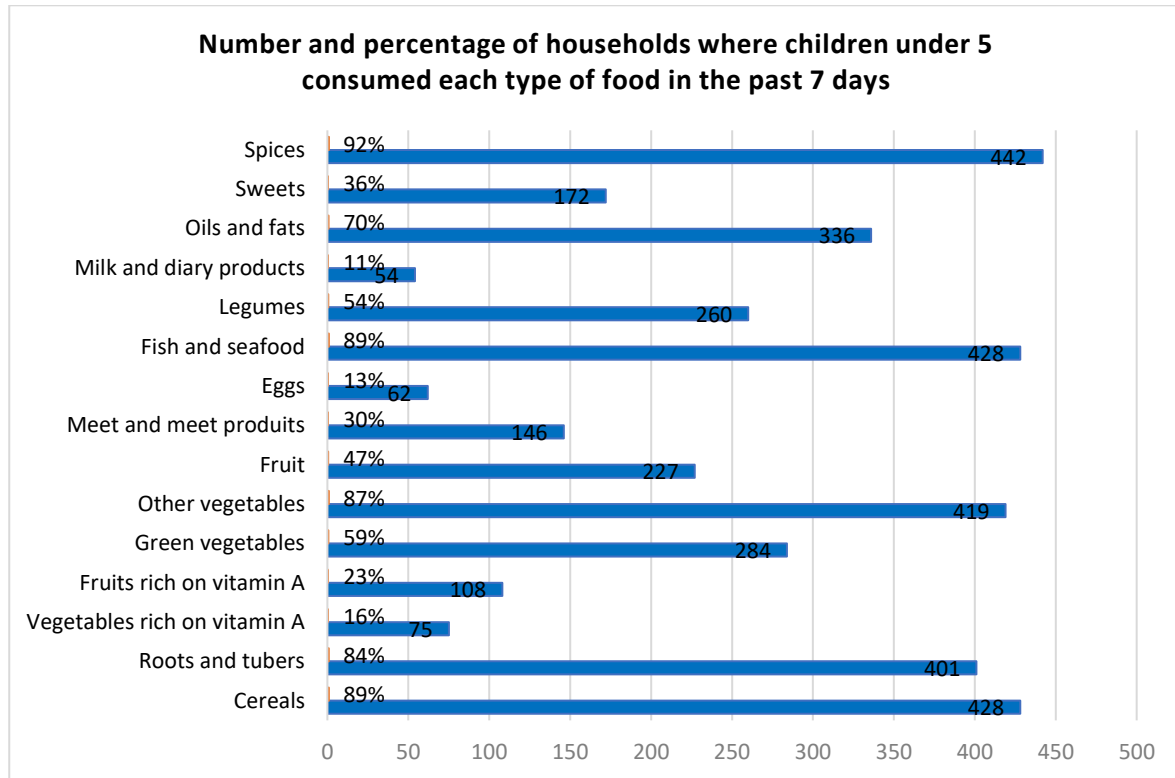
As shown in the graph below, nearly half of the households (48%) have consumed 5 food categories over the last 7 days, while 21% households consumed 6 food categories and only 9% all groups. The average proportion of families who reported the consumption of at least 5 categories is quite high at 79%.
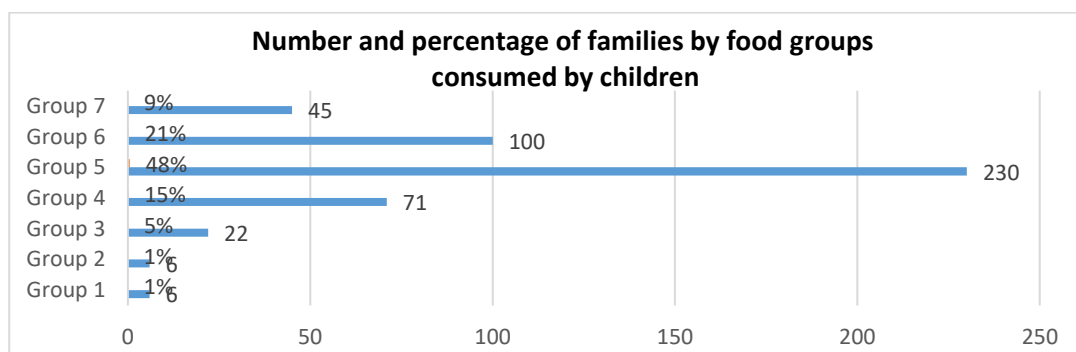
**Number and percentage of families by number of food groups consumed**

| Number of food group consumed | Percentage | Number of families |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | 9% | 83 |
| 6 | 21% | 191 |
| 5 | 48% | 433 |
| 4 | 16% | 139 |
| 3 | 4% | 39 |
| 2 | 1% | 11 |

**Children 0-5 years**

The types of food consumed by children under 5 of the surveyed families were not much different from those consumed by adults (see graph below).
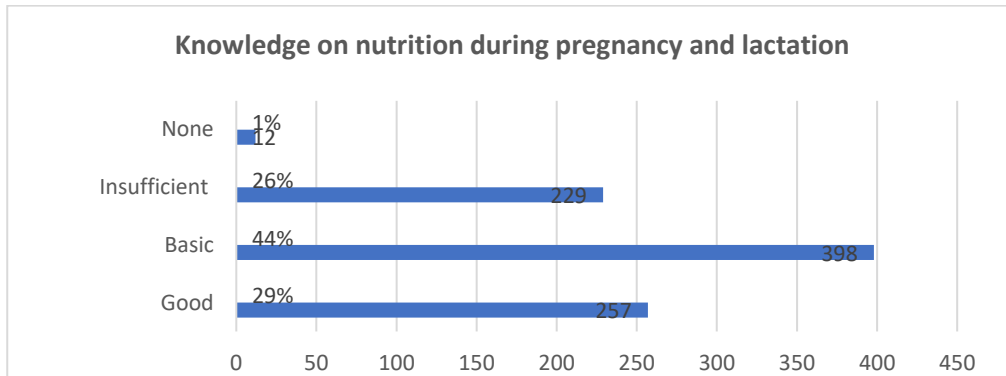
**Number and percentage of households where children under 5 consumed each type of food in the past 7 days**

| Food type | Percentage | Number |
|---|---|---|
| Spices | 92% | 442 |
| Sweets | 36% | 172 |
| Oils and fats | 70% | 336 |
| Milk and diary products | 11% | 54 |
| Legumes | 54% | 260 |
| Fish and seafood | 89% | 428 |
| Eggs | 13% | 62 |
| Meet and meet produits | 30% | 146 |
| Fruit | 47% | 227 |
| Other vegetables | 87% | 419 |
| Green vegetables | 59% | 284 |
| Fruits rich on vitamin A | 23% | 108 |
| Vegetables rich on vitamin A | 16% | 75 |
| Roots and tubers | 84% | 401 |
| Cereals | 89% | 428 |

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) at least four food categories are necessary to ensure optimal development of children. In 93% of households the respondents reported that children consumed 4 or more food groups in the past 7 days. In the majority of households (48%) children consumed 5 food categories, and 6 and 7 food categories respectively in 21% and 9% of households.

**Number and percentage of families by food groups consumed by children**

| Group | Percentage | Number |
|---|---|---|
| Group 7 | 9% | 45 |
| Group 6 | 21% | 100 |
| Group 5 | 48% | 230 |
| Group 4 | 15% | 71 |
| Group 3 | 5% | 22 |
| Group 2 | 1% | 6 |
| Group 1 | 1% | 6 |

## 3.4 Nutrition knowledge

**Knowledge on Nutrition during pregnancy and lactation**

To assess the level of household knowledge of nutrition during pregnancy and breastfeeding, specific questions were asked to women of childbearing age present in the household during the data collection. After assigning a score to correct and incorrect answers, the data analysis showed that the majority of respondents (44%) have basic level of knowledge, about a quarter (26%) have insufficient knowledge and only (29%) have good knowledge on this topic.

**Knowledge on nutrition during pregnancy and lactation**

| Category | % | Value |
|---|---|---|
| None | 1% | 12 |
| Insufficient | 26% | 229 |
| Basic | 44% | 398 |
| Good | 29% | 257 |

**Knowledge on Infant Feeding practice (0-6 months)**

Families seem to have a better understanding on infant feeding practice from 0 to 6 months with 50% of households demonstrating good knowledge and 37% basic knowledge.

**Knowledge on nutrition on infant feeding**

| Category | % | Value |
|---|---|---|
| None | 13% | 119 |
| Insufficient | 6% | 56 |
| Basic | 30% | 273 |
| Good | 50% | 448 |
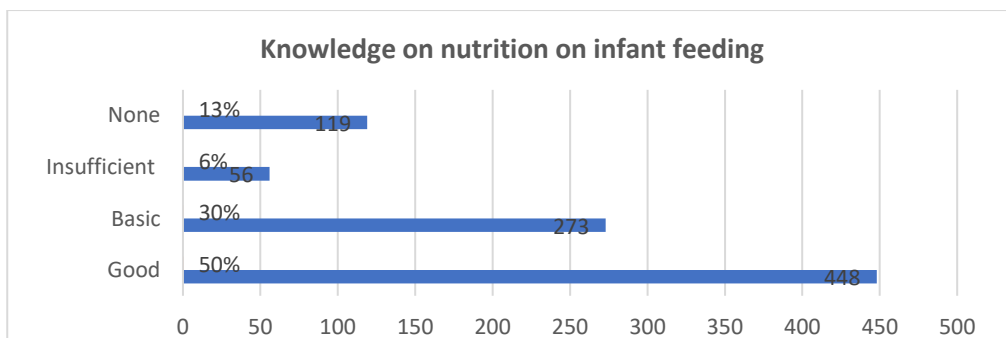
**Knowledge of complementary feeding of children 6-23 months**

In general, the households surveyed demonstrated little understanding of supplementary feeding, with 58% of households showing insufficient knowledge, 36% basic, and only 6% good.

**Knowledge on nutrition on complementary feeding**

| Category | % | Value |
|---|---|---|
| None | 0% | 0 |
| Insufficient | 58% | 518 |
| Basic | 36% | 327 |
| Good | 6% | 51 |
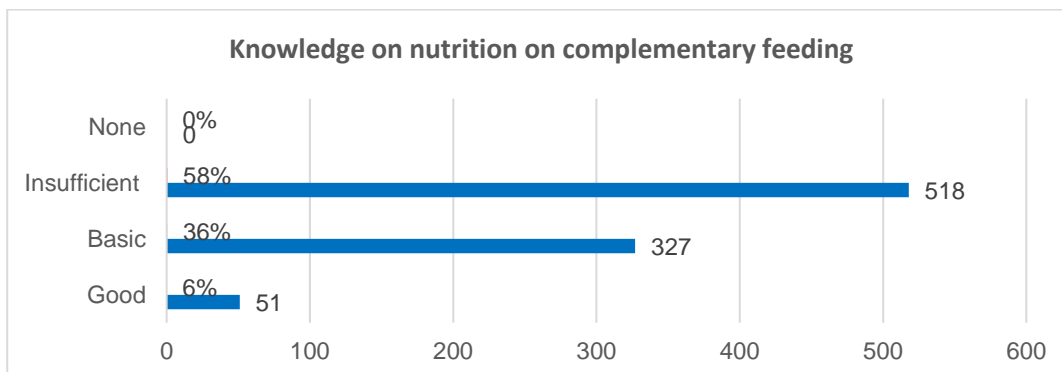
### 3.1 Nutrition status of children and adolescents

**Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old**

To measure the nutrition status of children and the impact on their growth, the health workers involved in the data collection measured height and weight of children who were available in the households during the survey. In total, 584 children from 0 to 5 years old were assessed.

Based on World Health Organization methodology, weight and height of children was analysed based on Standard Deviation from growth chart.  As shown in the following graph, a high proportion of children presented a severe stunting (26%) while 34% of children have moderate stunting and only 41% a normal growth status. Comparing boys and girls, no significant differences were found.
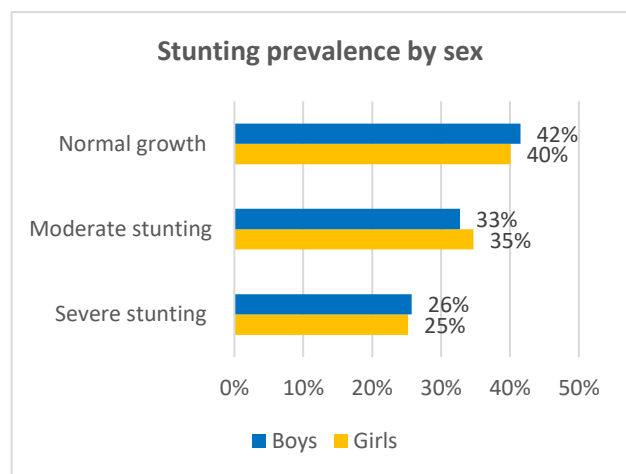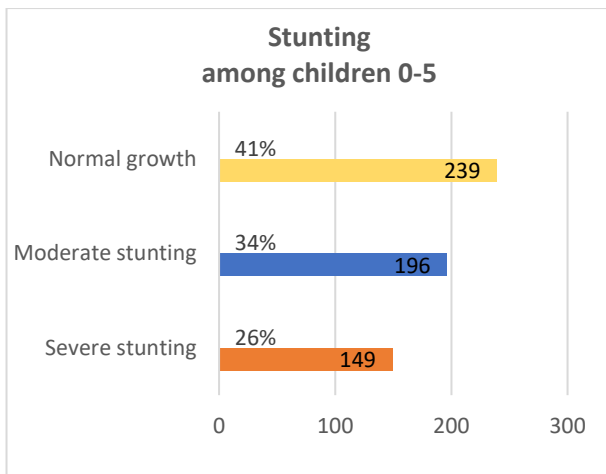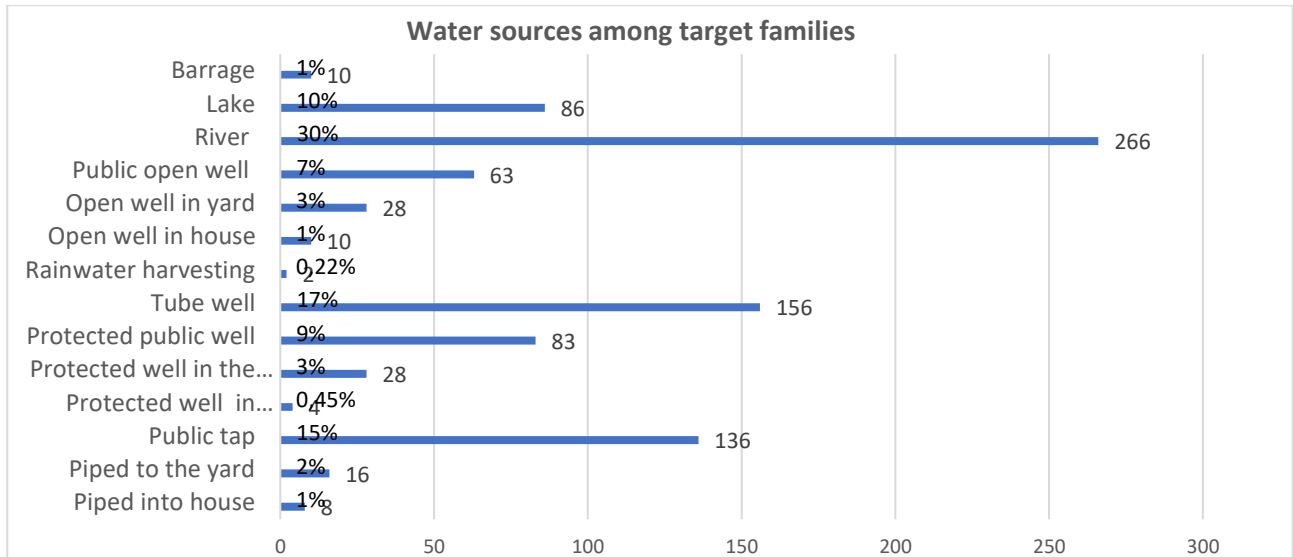


**Body Mass Index of adolescent girls**

Body Mass Index is a very important indicator to monitor adolescent girls' nutrition and health status. BMI was measured by taking height and weight of 284 adolescent girls among the surveyed families and calculating the BMI level using WHO method based on age (BMI = weight in kg/height² in m).

The data analysis showed that only about half of girls (51%) have normal BMI, while 40% are underweight and 9% are overweight. Looking at difference by age group, girls from 10 to 13 years seem to have a higher proportion of underweight (44%) than girls from 14 to 17 years (32%).
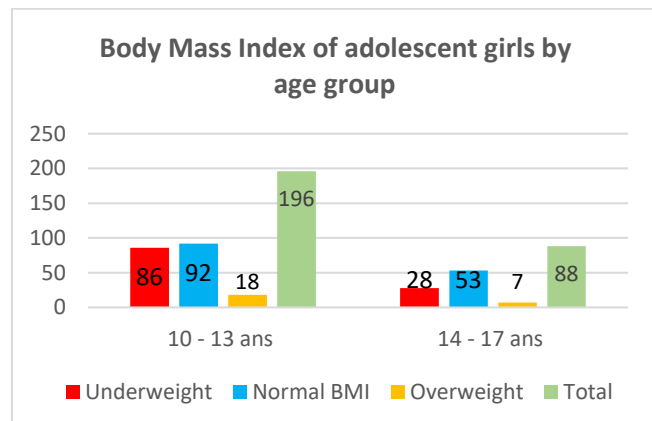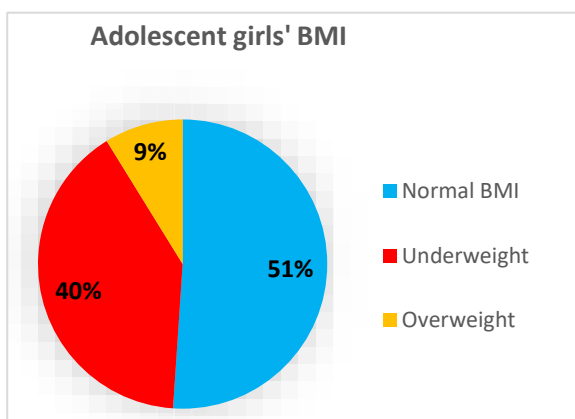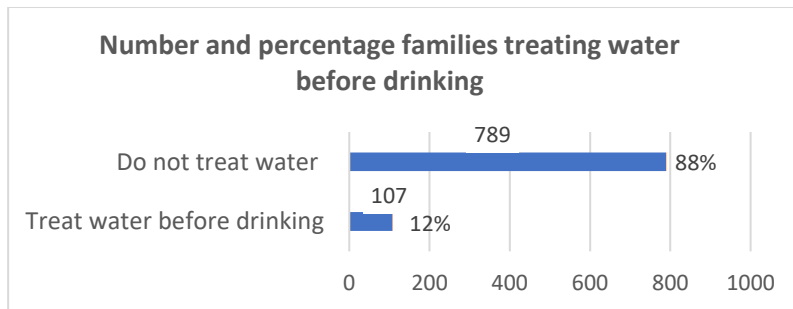
### 3.5 Water and Sanitation

The households' access to water supply was studied during the study, showing that that the majority of households do not have access to safe water, with river being the most common source of water (30% of households) followed by boreholes (17%) and public tap (15%).

**Water sources among target families**

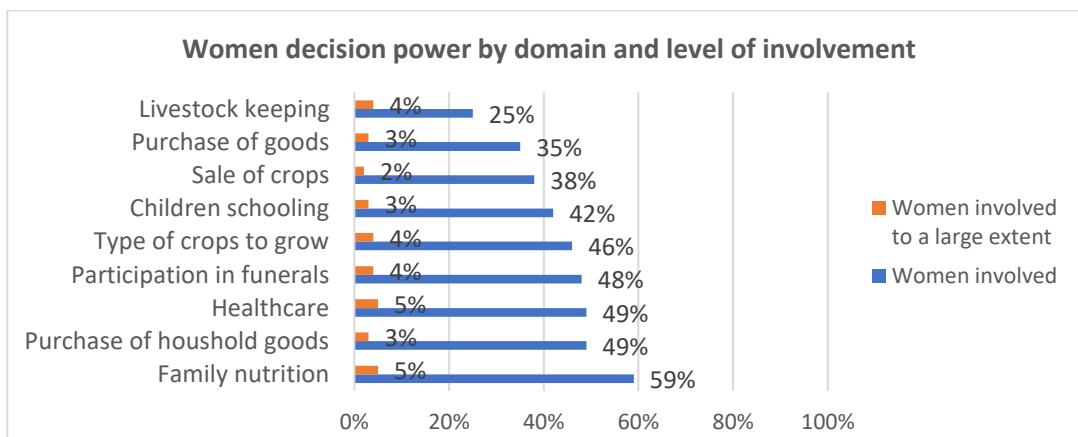| Source | Percentage | Value |
|---|---|---|
| Barrage | 1% | 10 |
| Lake | 10% | 86 |
| River | 30% | 266 |
| Public open well | 7% | 63 |
| Open well in yard | 3% | 28 |
| Open well in house | 1% | 10 |
| Rainwater harvesting | 0.22% | 2 |
| Tube well | 17% | 156 |
| Protected public well | 9% | 83 |
| Protected well in the… | 3% | 28 |
| Protected well in… | 0.45% | 4 |
| Public tap | 15% | 136 |
| Piped to the yard | 2% | 16 |
| Piped into house | 1% | 8 |

Nevertheless, in 788 households (88% of interviewed) drinking water does not undergo any treatment before being consumed, putting family members, especially children, at risk of diseases.

**Number and percentage families treating water before drinking**

| | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Do not treat water | 789 | 88% |
| Treat water before drinking | 107 | 12% |

### 5.6 Women's involvement in decision-making

The household survey also aimed at assessing women's involvement in decision-making within the family. To do so, Women were asked a set of questions to assess their involvement in taking decisions on different household domains, and the extent of their involvement.

**Women decision power by domain and level of involvement**

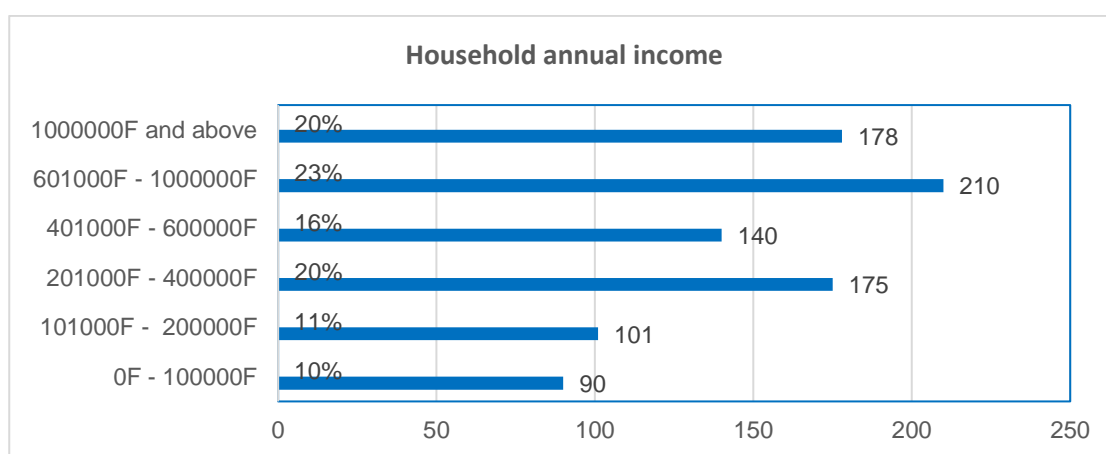| Domain | Women involved to a large extent | Women involved |
|---|---|---|
| Livestock keeping | 4% | 25% |
| Purchase of goods | 3% | 35% |
| Sale of crops | 2% | 38% |
| Children schooling | 3% | 42% |
| Type of crops to grow | 4% | 46% |
| Participation in funerals | 4% | 48% |
| Healthcare | 5% | 49% |
| Purchase of houshold goods | 3% | 49% |
| Family nutrition | 5% | 59% |

Women appear to be more involved in decisions related to the health care, nutrition and schooling, while have less power in taking economic decisions, such as the sale and purchase of goods. Decision-making power is generally weak in the areas of the purchase of inputs for agricultural production (35.27%), the sale of crops (38.28%), even lower in the decision-making process concerning livestock (25.67%).

On average, 50% of interviewed women declared to be somehow involved in decision making, however only 5% of them reported to be involved to a large extent.
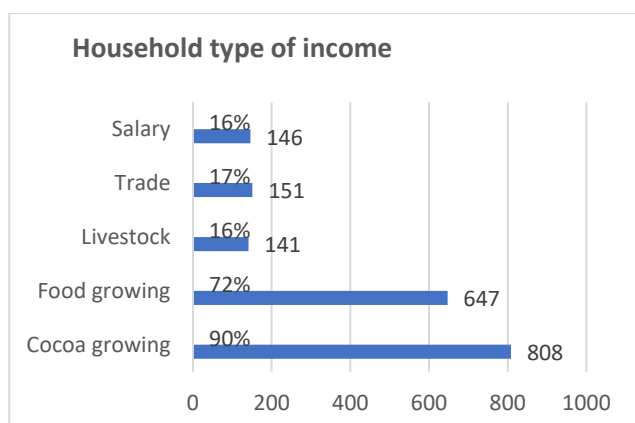
## 5.7 Incomes and sources of income

The 896 surveyed families were asked to quantify their total annual income, taking into account all the members of the household and different sources of revenue.

The respondents indicated that the majority (57%) of households have an annual income below 600,000 FCFA (1000 USD) per year.

**Household annual income**

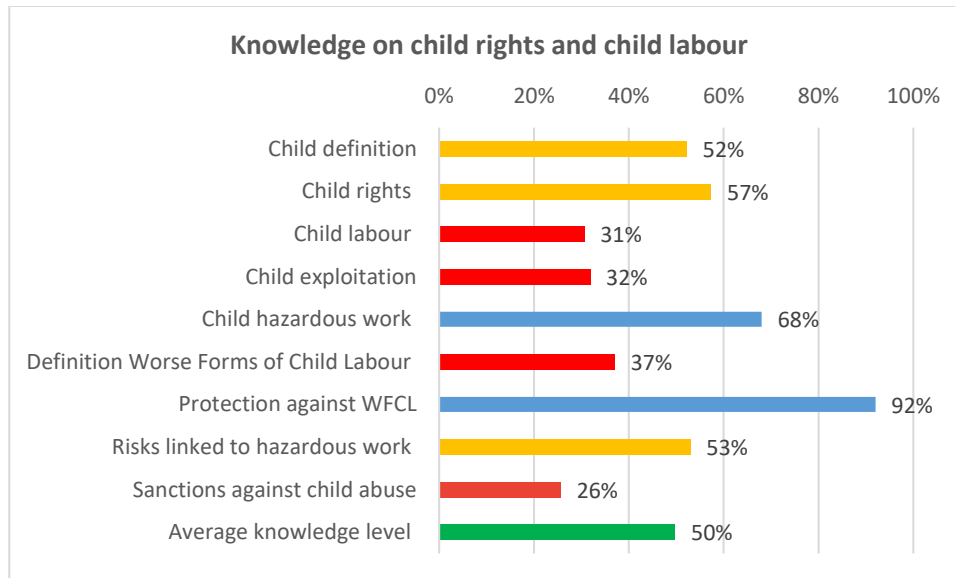| Category | Percentage | Value |
|---|---|---|
| 1000000F and above | 20% | 178 |
| 601000F - 1000000F | 23% | 210 |
| 401000F - 600000F | 16% | 140 |
| 201000F - 400000F | 20% | 175 |
| 101000F - 200000F | 11% | 101 |
| 0F - 100000F | 10% | 90 |

As shown in the graph below, 90% of families derive their income mainly from cocoa farming, followed by food growing (72%). Trade makes the 17% of income and livestock 16%. Only 16% of the income is based on a job salary. The majority of vulnerable households (44%) have two sources of income, while 27% have three and 21% have a single source of income.

**Household type of income**

| Type | Percentage | Value |
|---|---|---|
| Salary | 16% | 146 |
| Trade | 17% | 151 |
| Livestock | 16% | 141 |
| Food growing | 72% | 647 |
| Cocoa growing | 90% | 808 |

**Household income diversification**

Number of source of income:

| Number | Percentage | Value |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | 0,2% | 2 |
| 4 | 4,3% | 38 |
| 3 | 27,5% | 246 |
| 2 | 44,6% | 399 |
| 1 | 21,8% | 195 |
| 0 | 1,8% | 16 |
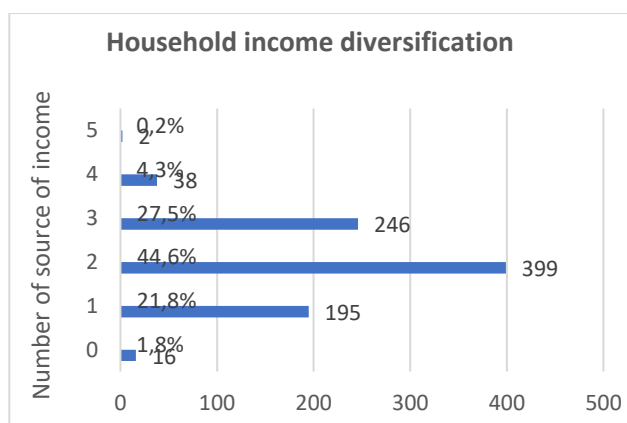
## 5.8 Knowledge of children's rights and child labour

The survey questionnaire had a dedicated section to assess parents' knowledge on child rights, child labour, and risk and protections against it.

The head of the household was the main respondent for the questions. The graph below shows the proportion of the correct answers given for each component.
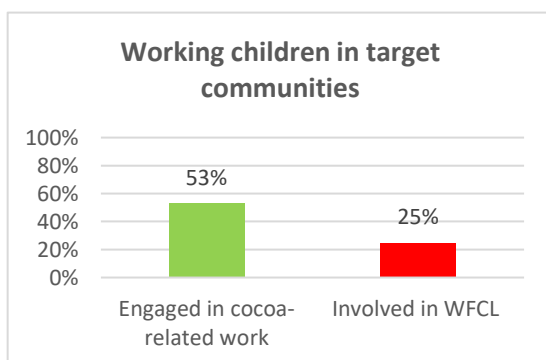
**Knowledge on child rights and child labour**

| Component | Value |
|---|---|
| Child definition | 52% |
| Child rights | 57% |
| Child labour | 31% |
| Child exploitation | 32% |
| Child hazardous work | 68% |
| Definition Worse Forms of Child Labour | 37% |
| Protection against WFCL | 92% |
| Risks linked to hazardous work | 53% |
| Sanctions against child abuse | 26% |
| Average knowledge level | 50% |

The major areas of gaps are the knowledge on the sanctions for people who do not respects child rights (26%) and the concepts and activities that define Child Labour (31%), the Worse Forms of Child Labour (36%) and Child exploitation (32%). This show the major work that needs to be done in terms of community sensitization and awareness raising on these topics.

## 6. Child labour and worst forms of child labour

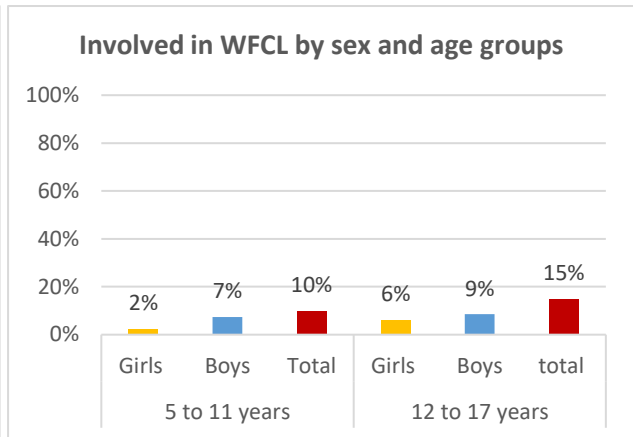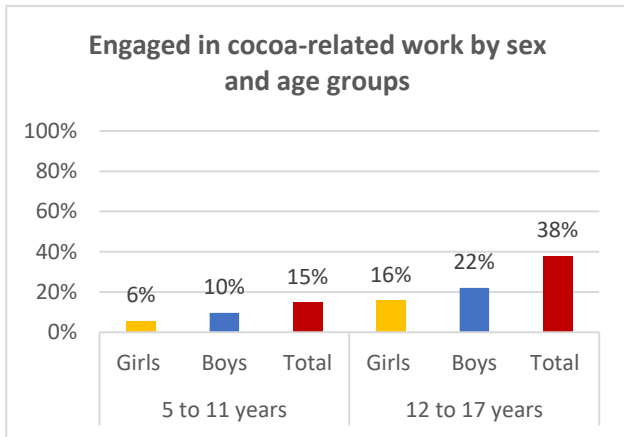**Children involved in child labour**

Data on child labour and the nature of the work were collected with interviews to a total of 527 children aged 5-17 years selected from both target family and the community.

**Working children in target communities**

| Category | Value |
|---|---|
| Engaged in cocoa-related work | 53% |
| Involved in WFCL | 25% |

Children were asked questions related to their tasks in helping in the house and the type of activities they undertake in the cocoa fields.
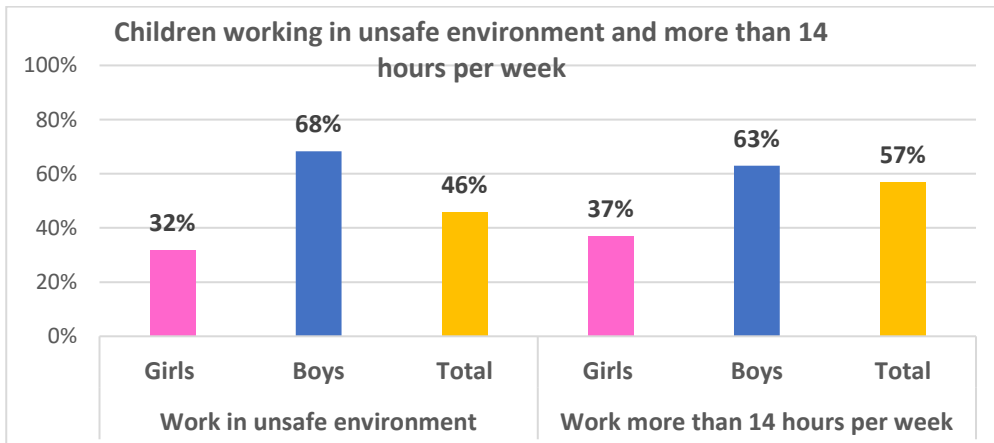
The answers to these questions allowed to identify not only the extent of children involved in cocoa-related work (53%) but also in the Worse Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) (25%).

The graphs below show that boys, particularly on the age group of 12-17 years, are the most vulnerable as more likely to be engaged in work and to undertake dangerous activities:
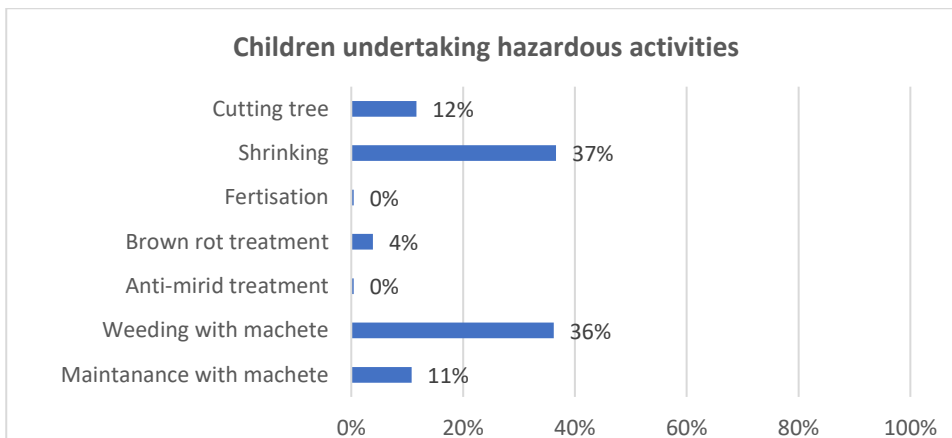
**Engaged in cocoa-related work by sex and age groups**

| | 5 to 11 years | | | 12 to 17 years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Girls | Boys | Total | Girls | Boys | Total |
| | 6% | 10% | 15% | 16% | 22% | 38% |

**Involved in WFCL by sex and age groups**

| | 5 to 11 years | | | 12 to 17 years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Girls | Boys | Total | Girls | Boys | total |
| | 2% | 7% | 10% | 6% | 9% | 15% |

**Characteristics of child labour**

Children were asked questions to understand the type of environment and the working hours, such as if they feel safe at work, if they have ever been injured, and the quality of their relationships with the people they work with. The answers were categorised to identify safe and unsafe working environment. According to the children and adolescents interviewed, a high proportion of them (46%) work in an unsafe environment, and the majority (57%) work more than 14 hours per week. In both cases, proportions are higher for boys, as shown in the graphs below.

**Children working in unsafe environment and more than 14 hours per week**

| Work in unsafe environment | | | Work more than 14 hours per week | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Girls | Boys | Total | Girls | Boys | Total |
| 32% | 68% | 46% | 37% | 63% | 57% |

The graph below shows type of hazardous activities undertaken by children. The majority of them are involved in weeding with machetes and in cocoa shelling.

**Children undertaking hazardous activities**

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Cutting tree | 12% |
| Shrinking | 37% |
| Fertisation | 0% |
| Brown rot treatment | 4% |
| Anti-mirid treatment | 0% |
| Weeding with machete | 36% |
| Maintanance with machete | 11% |

## 7. Findings from the Focus Group Discussions

**Socializing activities and child labor**

In the family context, as well as in the field, children's help is solicited, but according to the FGD participants the activities are selected considering the physical capacity of the children. All adult participants consider domestic work as a socializing and educational activity and agree that children and adolescents should contribute to family life by helping in the house and in the fields. Children work is seen as a process of acquiring certain family and community values and teach them how to work and to be strong.



The following domestic activities are considered appropriate for children: looking after babies, doing the laundry, fetching water, washing dishes, sweeping the house. In the rural field, the non-hazardous activities mentioned were: cleaning the cassava and groundnut fields, ploughing, sowing maize or rice, digging holes for planting cassava stems, chasing birds.

Overall, they agree that children cannot use machetes, herbicides, do field fires, lift heavy luggage.

Girls and boys are assigned different tasks, reflecting the gender social norms: girls do activities related to domestic work and boys work more in the fields, as it is considered a work that requires more physical effort, since boys are considered physically stronger than girls. In general girls report to have more hours devoted to work than boys.

There is a collective awareness of the phenomenon of child labour at community level, however most participants, especially women, think that it is a marginal problem as children only help their parents in the fields. Children engagement in agricultural work is associated with the poverty and vulnerability of certain families. In fact, parents report that children work during holidays so that they can have money to support their schooling. In general, child labor is perceived as negatively affecting only the development of children under 12 years.  Also, child labor is considered a work that is beyond the physical strength of the child and an obligation for a child to work against his or her will.

**Violence and exploitation of children**

Most participants identify only physical violence as abuse, such as beating, deprivation of food, not letting the child rest, or asking for tasks not appropriate for their physical conditions, like lifting heavy weights. Most communities, except one, claim that child marriage does not exist in their areas and that neither women nor girls are victims of violence. Participants of all groups confirm knowledge on the penalties for abusing children or not respecting children's rights, although they are not aware of the presence of a code of conduct for "zero tolerance policy in schools regarding sexual exploitation and abuse". The knowledge of existence of a mechanism for reporting, identifying, referring, and caring for child victims of abuse, exploitation and WFCL is lacking in most communities. However, some cooperatives have been mentioned in the communities as carrying out awareness-raising activities on child protection.



**Proposed solutions**

Some parents think that the sensitizations done by NGOs in the past have helped to stop children working in the fields, they therefore suggest continuing with community awareness raising activities.

Most FGD participants also stress the importance of the involvement of community leaders particularly on promoting the schooling of children, as they think that education can play a fundamental role in reducing the risk factors linked to child labour. The communities suggest the establishment of children's education centres to keep children busy during the holidays. Participants said that there are no training opportunities for adolescent girls in the different communities outside of the field activities and would be important to develop them. They also requested support from the public authorities in selling agricultural products and financing income-generating activities

## 8. Study recommendations for the project

Based on the findings, the study identified as major issues the high rate of child labour including its worse form, the high number of children who were never enrolled to school, the low knowledge on child rights as well as on key nutrition and hygiene practices, and the need of increasing and diversifying families' income. Based on these priority areas, the baseline study suggested the following recommendations, that are aligned with the project components, confirming that the planned strategies have the correct focus and directions:

**Community based awareness-raising programmes with focus on:**
- Differences between socializing work and child labor
- Dangerous and forbidden activities related to child labor and its worse forms
- Violence and abuse against children and its consequences
- Nutritional practices for women of childbearing age and for infants
- Appropriate hygiene and sanitation practices
- Gender and social factors in the growth of girls and boys in relation to domestic and field work
- Specific training plan for community leaders with the involvement of school teachers



**Child protection mechanisms**
- Establish monitoring systems with mechanisms for reporting, referral and case management in each community
- Establish and train Child Protection Committees in each community
- Strengthen the capacity of social services to deal with cases of abuse and worst forms of child labour
- Involve NGOs and government in supporting and financing community projects against child labour

**Livelihood and income generation**
- Support entrepreneurial capacity of vulnerable households through training, development of local financing systems and VSLA, income-generating activities and diversification of source of income
- Develop integrated agricultural projects (livestock and nutrient-rich fruit and vegetable production)
- Rehabilitate the access roads to promote the flow of agricultural production and food products



*Education*
- Establish bridging schools to for the children who were never enrolled in schools or dropped-out
- Develop literacy and training programmes within communities, particularly for young people
- Promote and revitalize the school canteens in each school.