



Child Labor in the Cocoa Fields*



What you can do

Purchase only Fair Trade certified chocolate, which was grown under standards that prohibit child labor.

Look for one of these two labels which indicate that the specific product has been certified Fair Trade.



- Child labor in cocoa fields has been documented in the following countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, (leading supplier, accounting for around 40% of production) Guinea and Nigeria.
- Hundreds of thousands of children work in cocoa fields, and many of them are exposed to hazardous conditions, where they:
 - Spray pesticides and apply fertilizers without protective gear
 - Use sharp tools, like machetes
 - Sustain injuries from transporting heavy loads beyond permissible weight
 - Do strenuous work like felling trees, and clearing and burning vegetation
- These children are treated with the "worst forms of child labor" (defined by the International Labor Organization), including
 - forms of slavery,
 - the sale of a child and
 - trafficking of children (recruiting children to work far away from families)
 - debt bondage
- Most children who travel to work in cocoa fields are not accompanied by their parents
- Over 40% of children working in cocoa fields do not attend school
- Children as young as five (5) years old work on cocoa farms

* Sources of Information: Payson Center for International Development, Tulane University "Oversight of Public and Private Initiatives to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Cocoa Sector in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana", 9/30/10. U.S. Dept. of Labor "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor – 3rd and 4th Annual Reports", 10/2009 and 9/2010

