Child Labor in the Cocoa Fields*

- Child labor in cocoa fields has been documented in Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire. These two countries supply around 60% of all cocoa production.

- 2.3 million 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
  - Half 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
  - 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