



## Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change for the Elimination of Child Labour in Cocoa Producing Areas in Ghana (CLIMATE COCOA Project)

Protecting children. Empowering families. Growing sustainability.

### About the project

The ILO-supported CLIMATE COCOA Project helped cocoa-growing communities in Ghana eliminate child labour while strengthening resilience to climate change.

Through Child Labour-Free Zones and climate-smart biochar production, the project tackled root causes such as poverty, low productivity and weak protection systems.

Working with government, workers, employers and communities, it contributed directly to SDG 8.7 and climate action goals.

### Objectives

The project established and strengthened Child Labour-Free Zones in cocoa-growing communities. By reinforcing community-based protection systems and improving local capacity to identify, prevent and respond to child labour, it created safer environments where children can thrive, free from exploitation.

It also aimed to improve cocoa productivity and strengthen family livelihoods through the promotion of biochar, a climate-smart green technology that increases soil fertility, boosts yields and reduces production costs.



**Location:** Bibiani Ahwiaso Bekwai Municipal, Western North Region of Ghana



**Duration:** March 2025 – February 2026



**Budget:** USD 1.5 million



**Funded by:** Government of Japan

Finally, the project aimed to generate and disseminate knowledge on greenhouse gas reduction and carbon financing. By documenting practical experience in biochar production and its climate benefits, it contributed to broader learning on how climate action and the elimination of child labour can advance together in cocoa-producing communities.

# ✓ Results at a Glance

## More Child Labour Free Zones

Child Labour-Free Zones were implemented in eight communities in the Asawinso Zonal Council, including two targeted communities and six additional communities that benefited from strengthened systems. As a result:

- Functional community registers were established to monitor and track child protection concerns.
- Community Child Protection Committees were strengthened and equipped to prevent, report, and monitor child labour and other violations.
- Effective referral and remediation systems were established.
- Community regulations were developed to address child labour and forced labour.
- 218 children identified in child labour were counselled and supported through remediation measures.

District-level actors were also equipped with logistical support, including motorbikes, computers and printers, to improve responsiveness and coordination.

## Improved Education Access

To improve attendance and reduce barriers to education:

- 50 bicycles were provided to children who travel long distances to school.
- School supplies including textbooks, pens, pencils, school bags, rulers, and math sets were distributed.
- Community Child Protection Committees in eight communities received bicycles to support child labour monitoring.

These contributed to improved school attendance, safer learning environments, and stronger community ownership of education.

## Improved Infrastructure

Access to quality education was strengthened through improved infrastructure and targeted support for children. Achievements include:

- Construction of a 4-unit classroom block.
- Construction of a school kitchen and canteen.
- Installation of separate toilet facilities for boys and girls.
- Installation of a mechanised borehole to improve access to water.
- Support for the development of School Performance Improvement Plans.

## Better Climate-Smart Livelihoods through Biochar

Biochar education and support was implemented in five communities in the Bibiani Asawinso Bekwai Municipal in the Western North Region, including two communities within the Asawinso Zonal Council. As a result:

- 48 farmers were trained in biochar production, including 26 men and 22 women.
- 300 cocoa farmers were sensitised on biochar application, including 178 men and 122 women.
- 75 farmers benefited from financial literacy training.
- 45 tons of biochar were produced from cocoa pods.
- 262 farmers received at least three bags of biochar for application on their farms, including 154 men and 109 women.
- 5 demonstration sites for vegetables, cereals and cocoa seedlings were established.
- 5 limited mechanised water systems were installed to support demonstration sites.

The use of biochar improved soil fertility, increased yields and reduced farming costs, contributing to more stable household incomes.



## Knowledge Generation

The project documented and shared practical guidance to ensure sustainability and scalability. Key outputs include:

- A guideline on the use of biochar in cocoa production systems in Ghana.
- A manual on biochar and carbon credit production.
- Guidance on vinegar production during the biochar process.
- Documentation on carbon credit generation mechanisms.

By strengthening knowledge on greenhouse gas reduction and climate financing, the project laid the groundwork for longer-term climate-smart agricultural practices and sustainable community development.

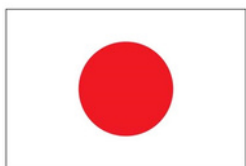
## Inclusive Impact

The project placed strong emphasis on inclusion and gender equality:

- Women represented nearly half of farmers trained in biochar production.
- Over 120 women were reached through sensitisation on biochar application.
- Boys and girls benefited equally from improved school infrastructure and access to education.
- Community systems were strengthened to protect the most vulnerable children.

Through this integrated approach, the project demonstrated that eliminating child labour and promoting climate resilience can advance together when communities are empowered and supported.





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the People of Japan

## Sustainability and Way Forward

The CLIMATE COCOA Project leaves behind functional child protection structures, trained farmers, strengthened district systems and practical climate-smart guidelines.

Communities now have improved capacity to monitor and prevent child labour while sustaining environmentally responsible agricultural practices.

These foundations support continued progress toward child labour-free cocoa production and more resilient rural livelihoods in Ghana.

### More Information

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