



MOBILIZING COMMUNITY ACTION AND PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN GHANA'S COCOA-GROWING COMMUNITIES (MOCA)

The U.S. DOL-funded Mobilizing Community Action and Promoting Opportunities for Youth in Ghana's Cocoa-Growing Communities (MOCA) project (2015-2019) made substantial progress toward reducing the incidence of child and hazardous labor in the Ashanti and Western regions of Ghana.

The MOCA project increased the prioritization of child labor by Ghanaian government ministries, communities and cocoa producers. Two hundred and eighty community leaders were equipped to design and implement Community Action Plans to address child labor at the community level in 40 communities. District governments made several investments in MOCA communities, and all four of the districts where MOCA worked have funded activities in their medium-term development plans.

The project used an integrated area-based approach to target more than 2,800 youth (84 percent female), ages 15-17, who were engaged in or at risk of entering hazardous child labor in the cocoa sector. The project developed context-relevant skills training programs (based on a marketable skills assessment) for at-risk and out-of-school youth. To support youth to transition to

safe work opportunities, graduates received business startup kits with the tools and supplies needed for self-employment or apprenticeships with skilled craftspeople.

MOCA reduced household reliance on child labor by providing 2,400 adult females with livelihood support services to increase their incomes and their access to finance. Through adult Model Farm Schools, women and youth were empowered for self-employment in the agricultural sector with training in the production of cocoa seedlings, mushrooms, orange fleshed sweet potatoes, and other dry season vegetables. Through the creation of 108 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) MOCA helped women pool finances and issue microloans to members.

Through its Havener Endowment Fund, Winrock identified four female agricultural graduates to serve as agricultural extension agents in MOCA communities to better serve women in the agricultural sector and expand income-generating activities for women.

**40**

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