

Final Evaluation Brief: Prosperous Cocoa Farming Communities Côte d'Ivoire



Successes from the CARE and Cargill Partnership in Côte d'Ivoire

Prosperous Cocoa-Farming Communities (PROCOCO) in Côte d'Ivoire sought to promote more prosperous, sustainable and resilient cocoa-farming communities through a community development approach that engages civil society to improve their livelihoods, reduce child labor, ensure food and nutrition security, and promote education. PROCOCO, built upon previous investment by CARE and Cargill, was implemented from April 2015 to November 2018 in 10 communities.

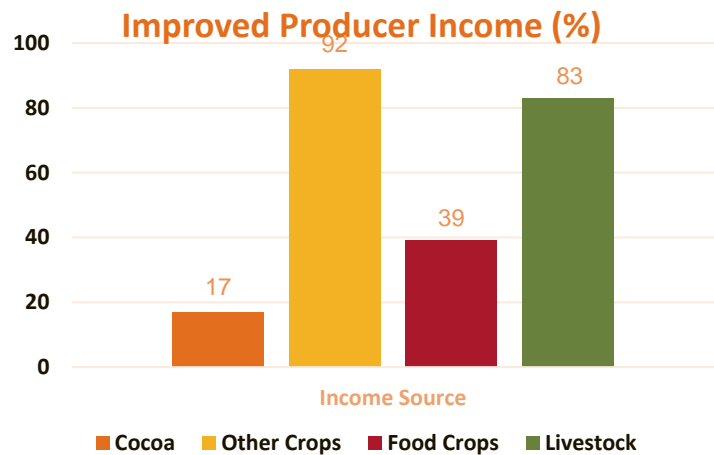
Increased Agricultural Diversity and Income

Improved Crop Production Leads to Increased Income: Average income from agriculture increased significantly at the farmer-level during the program compared to control area (see graph).

Program Participants Maintain Household

Incomes: At the community level, external factors drove average household incomes downward by 27.1% in the control area, but the program area saw only a 0.5% decrease in household incomes.

This demonstrates that program participants are more resilient to external shocks and stressors, ensuring stable household incomes even in the face of difficult external circumstances.



Improved Household Food Security and Nutrition

Households Consume More Nutritious Foods: Households in the project area consume 16% more vegetables and green leaves than those in the control area.

Food Security is Improved: The percentage of food shocks in PROCOCO's intervention area was 16% lower than households in the control area, with some municipalities exhibiting promising decreases of 65%, 57%, 34%, and 28% in the frequency of food shocks. Improved food security and lower food shocks are key indicators of consistent household food supply.



Reduced Childhood Labor and Increased Schooling

Lowered Barriers to School Attendance: PROCOCO recipient households are 12% less likely to cite lack of financial resources and nearly 6% less likely to cite a lack of a birth certificate as reasons their children are out of school.

Increased Awareness on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: 100% of the 10 Community Development Committees (CDCOMs) established by the project participated in sensitizations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, and those CDCOM members played an important role in educating other households on child labor, with 6% more exposure in the PROCOCO intervention area. Of the 99 CDCOM members, 25 were women. These members trained 1,283 people, including 491 women and 390 children in their communities on the worst forms of child labor.



91% of households say that school kits reduced school-related expenses and 68% say that the kits motivated students to go to school.

Empowering Women

VSLA Groups Increase Access to Savings for Women: Village Saving and Loan Associations allow women to save money, access credit, and build social solidarity. The project established 73 VSLA groups that include more 1,236 members (1,074 men, 145 women). These groups saved more than \$23,718 and distributed \$15,377 in loans. By the end of the project, women were 10% more likely to have independent access to savings.

Women Participate More in Household Decision-Making: Women participate more in important decision making on what to grow for sale and consumption, children's education, the sale of food products, and how to use money in the household.

Community Development

Community Group Involvement: 90% of the infrastructure projects received community support from CDCOMs with an average rate of 11% co-financing. Before the project, only 62% of projects received community support with 10% co-financing.

Improved Infrastructure: 10 infrastructure projects were carried out in 6 communities.

Improved Circumstances: 70% of cooperatives say the PROCOCO program improved their circumstances.

Favorable Community Perspectives: PROCOCO program participants say that the program contributed to social cohesion, empowerment of women, the creation of water reservoirs and other water infrastructure, improved intra-household relations, access to agricultural inputs and awareness on the importance of sending children to school, and increased literacy, school registrations, and school attendance.

