



## Prosperous Cocoa Communities in Ghana:

Addressing child labor, boosting cocoa production, and improving access to services

6,454

Farmers

110

Communities

37,433

Community  
Members

6,000+

Teachers, parents &  
local leaders

**OVERVIEW** A three-year partnership between Cargill and CARE improved the livelihood and wellbeing of Ghanaian cocoa-producing farm families while keeping children in school and out of fields.

### PROCOCO

#### Project Summary

Prosperous Cocoa-Farming Communities (PROCOCO) in Ghana sought to promote more prosperous, sustainable and resilient cocoa-farming communities through a community development approach that engages civil society to increase cocoa production, reduce child labor, ensure food and nutrition security, and promote education in some of the country's most impoverished regions. PROCOCO, built upon five years of investment by CARE and Cargill, was implemented from September 2013 to August 2016 in 110 communities in four of Ghana's poorest cocoa-producing districts. The project reached nearly 44,000 people and made significant progress toward its objectives.

#### 2016 Status

- CARE trained 2,810 farmers through Farmer Business School to improve cocoa production.
- More than 5,900 farmers received extension services on ways to cultivate healthy and productive cocoa trees through the Ghana Cocoa Health and Extension Division
- The project established 62 demonstration farms to serve as practical training grounds for farmers. Community members visited the plots to learn appropriate agricultural techniques.
- Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) helped communities mobilize funds to improve off-farm,

income-generation activities such as small shops and marketable trades. The partnership created 89 VSLAs, with 2,180 members saving a total of \$112,160 and accessing more than \$73,526 in small loans.

- Over the past year, CARE reached 6,400 community members through 90 community awareness meetings focused on the importance of eliminating the worst forms of child labor in 85 communities.

### Impact

PROCOCO Ghana successfully achieved the following results during the life of the project:

- **Increased access to assets, inputs, income, and services:** Mean Assets Index increased from .45 to .73, farmers more than tripled their income, and access to both inputs and agricultural extension services increased two-fold.
- **Increased access to credit:** There was a five-fold increase in access to financial services.
- **Higher profitability of farmer products:** The percentage of farmers who incorporated strategies to increase the value of their product/services improved from a baseline of 32% to 54.6%.
- **Increased business and financial management awareness:** Average farmer financial literacy levels increased from 39.3% at baseline to 50%.
- **Reduced child labor:** The percentage of children engaged in child labor, including hazardous labor, has decreased from 16.2% at baseline to 9.3%.

**“My life has improved because I do not struggle to care for my family now. I am in a better position to take care of my children by giving them the best education.”**

**- Vida N., Abehenase, Female, Cocoa Farmer and VSLA member**