

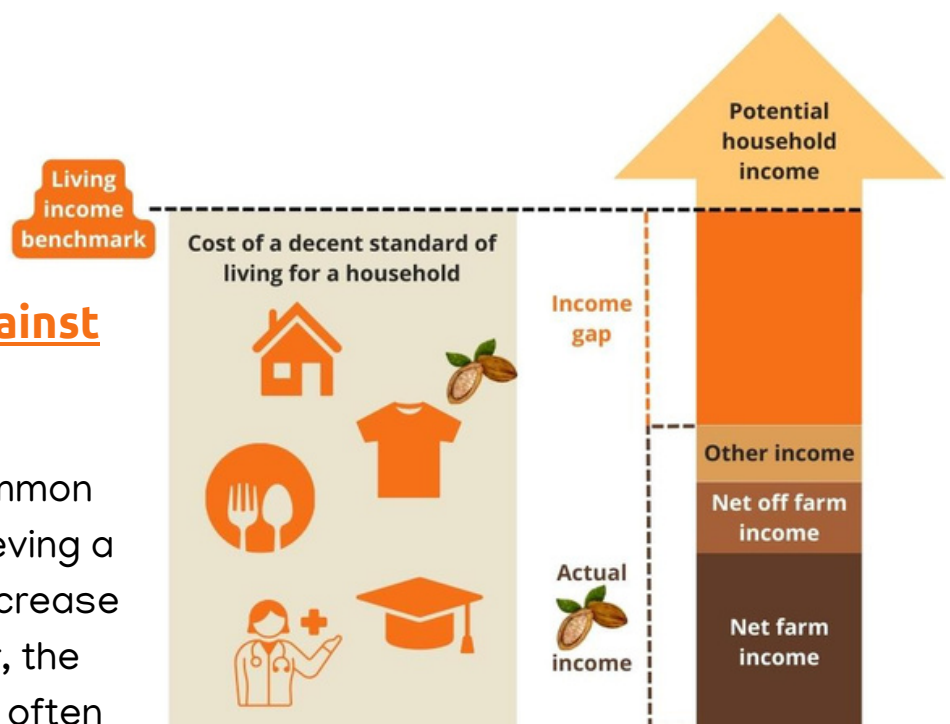
What is a living income?

Living income, also known as a living wage, is defined as "The net annual income required for a household in a particular place to afford a decent standard of living for all members of that household. Elements of a decent standard of living include: food, water, housing, education, healthcare, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events." [1]

Currently, almost no cocoa farmers in West Africa earn a living income.

Living income against modern slavery

One of the most common approaches to achieving a living income is to increase labor input. However, the need for labor is too often filled by children. [3]



Living Income, Freedom United, 2023

Furthermore, poverty is the main driver of child labor. [4] Therefore, **raising the farm-gate price** (the price of cocoa sold by the farmer) is collectively seen as an effective way to end cocoa farmer poverty and offers a way out of labor exploitation and child labor. [5] Providing a living income alone will not solve the problem, but it is an important step to eliminate modern slavery in the cocoa sector.

Call for laws that require companies to pay all workers a living wage.

[1] <https://www.living-income.com/the-concept>

[2] <https://www.living-income.com/measurement-living-income>

[3] <https://voicenetwork.cc/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/220920-Cocoa-Barometer-Living-Income-Compendium.pdf>

[4] https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-07/ending-child-labour-cote-ivoire-ghana-2021-executive-summary_en.pdf

[5] <https://voicenetwork.cc/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/200113-Necessary-Farm-Gate-Prices-for-a-Living-Income-Definitive.pdf>