

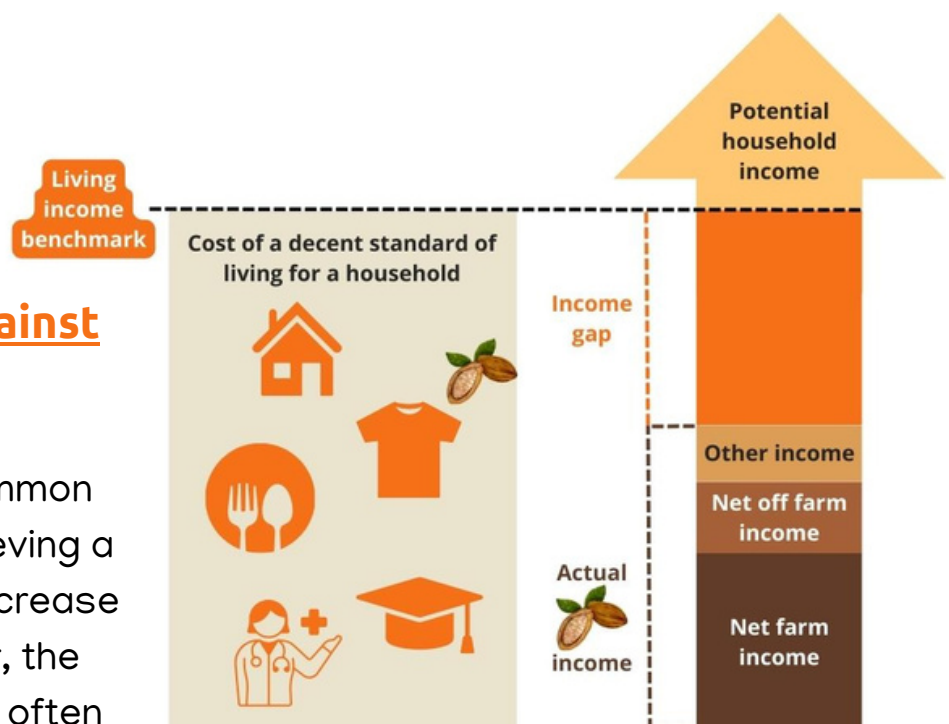
# What is a living income?

**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>