

Child labour in the cocoa producing area of Gomoa Ofaso, Winneba District, Ghana, 1874-1940

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- -Abena Oteeba; 82 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 8, 2017.
- -Adwoa Ahima, 75 years old, personal interview, on her husband's farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.
- -Adwoa Amuna, 79 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 13, 2019.
- -Adwoa Beyeako, 75 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa

- Ofaso, Central Region, March 8, 2017.
- -Adwoa Entiee, 78 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 13, 2019.
- -Adwoa Kentenma, 85 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 12, 2019.
- -Adwoa Nsafoa, 75 years old, personal interview, on her husband's farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.
- -Adwoa Tima, 80 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 13, 2019.
- -Agya Amandoh, 80 years old, personal Interview, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, July 10, 2019.
- -Akua Jesewa, 80 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 12, 2019
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- -Akua Otsiriwaa, 79 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, July 10, 2019.
- -Akua Yaayaa, 81 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 12, 2019
- -Alaba Akwoa, 82 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region.
- Ama Atta, 77 years old, personal interview, on her husband's farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.
- -Ama Beesiwa, 77 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso,

- Central Region, June 12, 2019.
- -Amos Dentu, 76 years old, personal interview, on his farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, July 10, 2019
- -Efua Mansa, 78 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 8, 2017.
- -Eric Kwame Mensah, 45 years old, personal interview, telephone interview, February 22, 2022.
- -Esi Esanwoa, 82 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, July 10, 2019.
- -Esi Kwaasiwa, 80 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 12, 2019.
- -Esi Nana, 88 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 13, 2019.
- -Esther Boakye Gyamfua, 83 years old, personal interview, in her residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 8, 2017.
- -Grace Esi Badua, 60 years old, personal interview, on her husband's farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.
- -Kofi Aduku, 87 years old, personal interview, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 19, 2019.
- -Kofi Nkum, 77/82 years old, personal interview, on his farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017/2022.
- -Kofi Sam, 70 years old, personal interview, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022
- -Kofi Sammy, 79 years old, personal interview, on his farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.

- -Kojo Dadzie, 72 years old, personal interview, on his farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, July 10, 2019.
- -Kwaku Kimpo, 80 years old, personal interview, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 8, 2017.
- -Kwame Baah, 57/62 years old, personal interview, on his farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March9, 2017/2022.
- -Kwame Otuba, 80 years old, personal interview, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, June 13, 2019.
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- -Obodai Kojo, 81 years old, personal interview, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, July 10, 2019.
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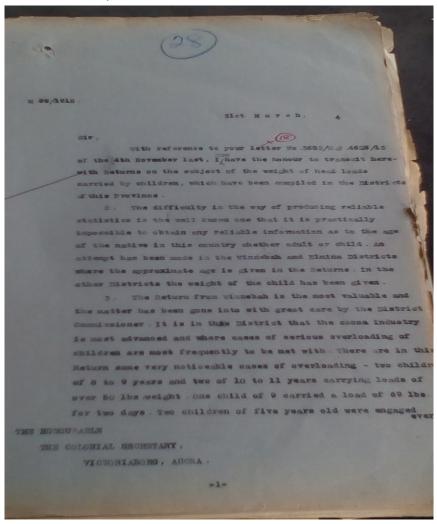
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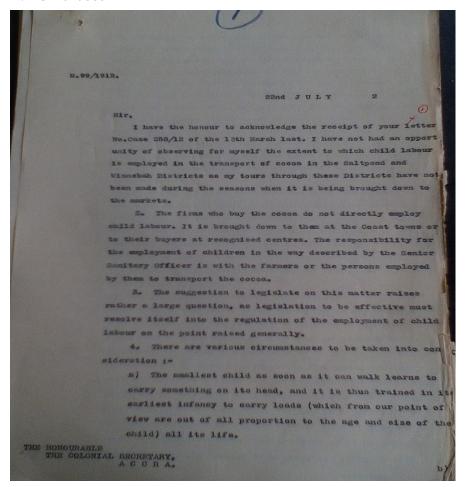
## **APPENDICES**

#### APPENDIX A

A.1 Child labour, Winneba District



#### A. 2 Child labour



#### A. 3 Child labour

3-

scarcity of labour available for transport (of shich every cocca farmer complains) caused by the number of persons engaged on the farmess the proportion of children employed in this work is higher than in other branches of transport. It is also more than probable as the Secretary for Native Affairs suggests that the services of the children are not offered voluntarily. They rarely are. It should however be borne in mind that the transport of socca is not continuous but only lasts for short periods of intervals during the year.

- 5. I venture the opinion that it is only in the circumstance described in paragraph (d) that any legislative enactment is really seriously called for. It might take the form of prohibiting under penalty the employment of a child of a certain age to carry a load of more than a certain weight. The scale to be fixed after careful enquiry, taking into consideration their naturally acquired ability to carry head loads and the variation in the physical development of children of the same age.
- c. Legislation even to this extent, I venture to think should be centiously enforced, and only in exaggerated cases where palpable injury to the child might ensue. If every women who allowed to carry a load, perhaps only slightly above the regulated weight were to be constantly prosecuted. I think some trouble might be caused, as it is to be remembered that the market towns and especially those on the Goast are under the present conditions what have existed for years entirely dependent on the women from the bush village who bring the daily supply to the market, and the least interference with them on the road by the Government causes apprehension and might result in a secious shortage of supplies.

I have the honour to be,

Sir.

Your obedient servant.

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COMMISSIONER CENTRAL PROVINCE.

#### A. 4 Child labour

b) Children are constantly employed in this way in every phase of native life, when the family travels the father usually carries nothing, the mother bears the bulk of the burden of the household goods in addition probably to baby on her back. The rest of the things are divided amongst the the children able to walk. Small girls are often seen wrestling with babies nearly as large as themselves tied to their backs. Small boys tackle heavy loads of netting or fish from the cances to the house or market. Children of all ages are seen struggling with enormous burdens of firewood on their heads; this is specially the case where it has to be obtained from a distance and as much as possible is brought in a single journey. c) Thetraffic in dried fish from the Coast and produce to the Coast is almost entirely in the hands of the women and young girls. They often carry heavy loads, but it is not the rule to see any of them labouring under heavy distree nor for small children to be engaged in this traffic. The reason for this, no doubt is that they do not carry heavy loads for choice, the daily distances are not excessive, and there is no reason to hurry. a) The circumstances attending the carriage of cocoa are different. Competition to reach the market is keener, transport is scarce and the journeys to be covered are often long. Time of importance, as more than one journey has to be undertaken during the season so as to get as much cocoa to the market/it spoils on the farm. The grower usually pays the carriers a fixed sum for the journey so that while the adult is well able to look after himself and/not usually carry more than the recognised weight, it is probable that the weight assigned to a child carrier (who is cheaper) is often excessive. In these circumstances it is conceivable that the loads are heavier than usual and owing to the

Boarcity

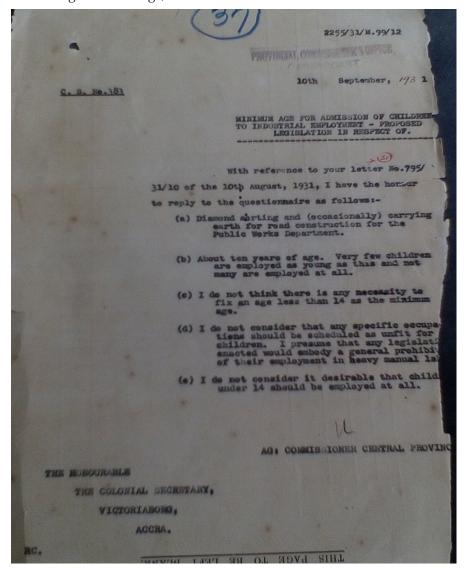
#### A. 5 Child labour

every day in carrying loads of nearly 20 lbs weight. The Baltpond Return is not so satisfactory and few tests were made in this District . The relation between the weight of the child and of the load carried is about the same in this District as in the Cape Coast District . Some very heavy loads were carried . some exceed 70 lbs in weight, while all the loads checked in the Cape Coast District exceed 60 Da in weight 8. The Elmina Beturn relates chiefly to loads of water There is not the some traffic in cocon and produce here as in the other Districts, and the distances covered are much less 6. My own observation when travelling is that a large number of the children of this colony are engaged daily in heavy weight carrying. It is in fact their daily occupation but the fact is particularly striking of course when one neets strains of carriers old and young carrying heavy loads of comes often for considerable distances to the nearest buying depots . A great deal of this cocos carriage is in the hunds of the Umgaras, and it is not usual to see immature children amongst them, but is it astonishing to see how the adults particularly the men will stagger along under colossal loads. Young women and youthe will carry leads in proportion. 7. It is only, I think, in connection with the extraordinary traffic in comes which only lasts for certain periods of the year that may steps to check the employment of child carriers would be justified. It may safely be anticipated that with the development of motor traffic and the extension of Failways, the emount of head carriage in connection with the produce trade will be materially reduced. I would submit that Legislation in this connection would not therefore be justified and to apply it to the every day life of the native would be =2=

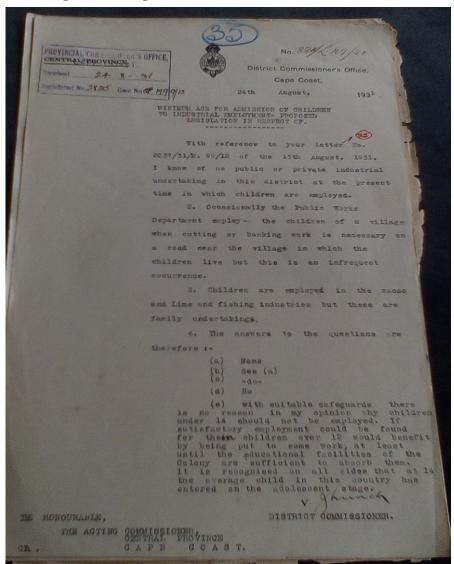
PRAAD, Cape Coast, ADM23/1/207, Child labour

Source:

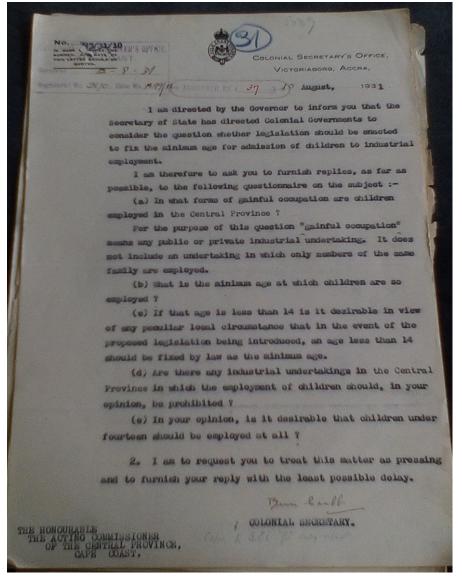
#### A. 6 Fixing minimum age, 1931



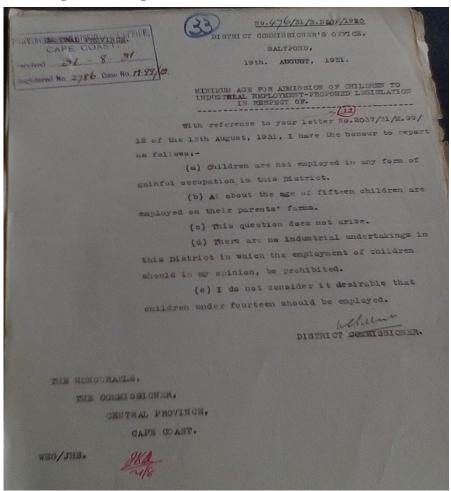
## A. 7 Fixing minimum age, 1931



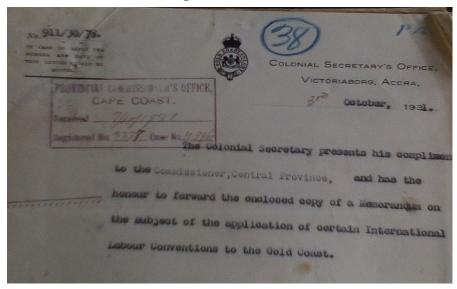
## A. 8 Fixing minimum age, 1931



## A. 9 Fixing minimum age, 1931

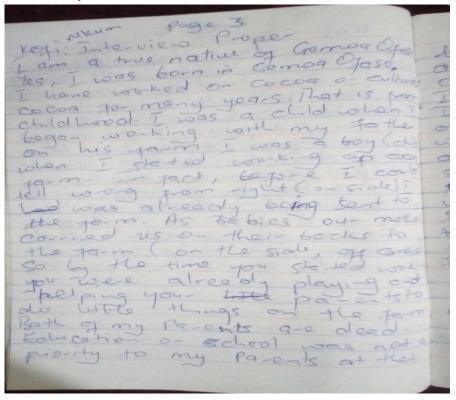


# A. 10 International Labour Organisation Convention, 1931



#### APPENDIX B

B. 1 Life story, Kofi Nkum



Source: Kofi Nkum, 82 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

## B. 2 Life Story, Kofi Nkum

Voy All Page 4
Kof rukum
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nothing a bout select
or formal education. However,
when It comes to
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i Answe : when we go to the
hel go 10 fle
jam, my mother gives me
a section of glis from land
to the form land
to weed and cultivate.

Source:

Kofi Nkum, 82 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

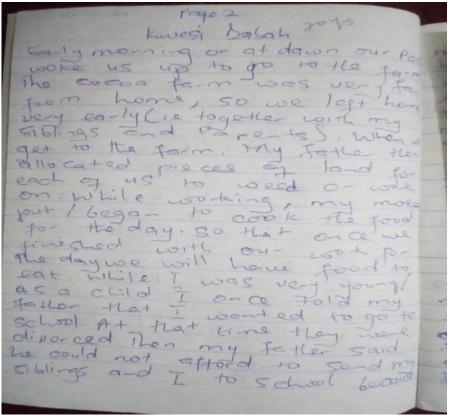
## B. 3 Life Story, Kofi Nkum

My tatle allo cated a piece of lond to me And, he told me Hot when I allow a feel to culting the cocoa on that piece of he work of yield, the money according from the sole of the cocoa Good which he would be used to take or elfor my needs. In some tases, when the sale of my ported my heads. When we went to my needs also were weeding. It my the only one weeding the

Source:

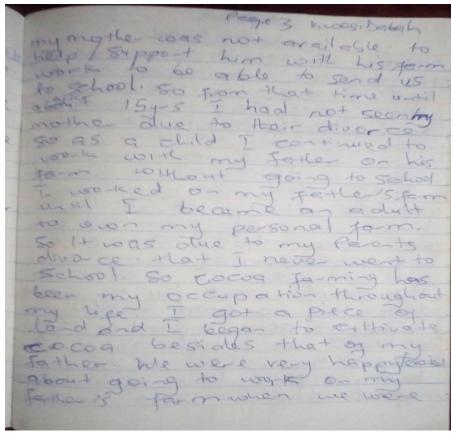
Kofi Nkum, 82 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

## B. 4 Life Story, Kwesi Dabah



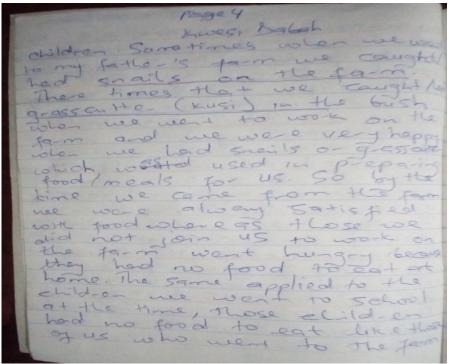
Source: Kwesi Dabah, 70 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

## B. 5 Life Story, Kwesi Dabah



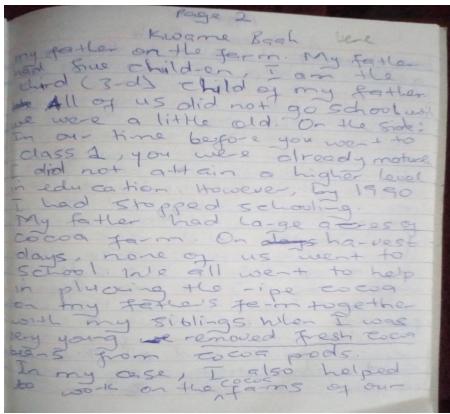
Source: Kwesi Dabah, 70 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

# B. 6 Life Story, Kwesi Dabah



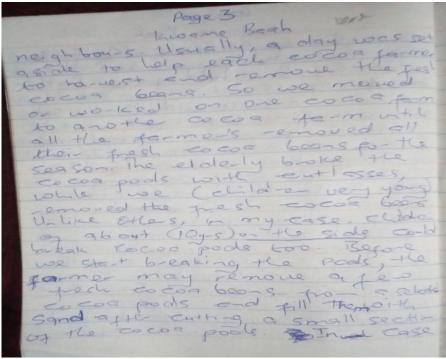
Source: Kwesi Dabah, 70 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

## B. 7 Life Story, Kwame Baah



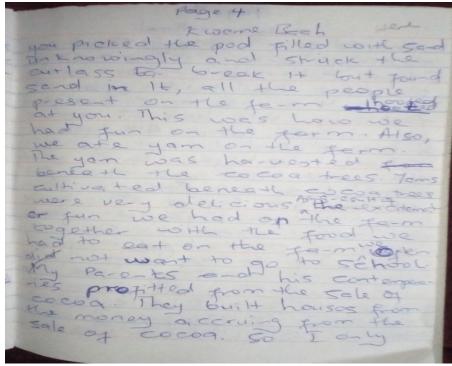
Source: Kwame Baah, 62 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

## B. 8 Life Story, Kwame Baah



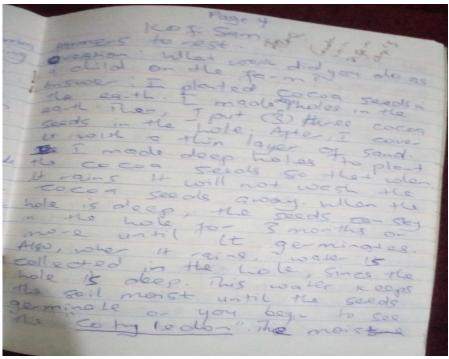
Source: Kwame Baah, 62 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

## B. 9 Life Story, Kwame Baah



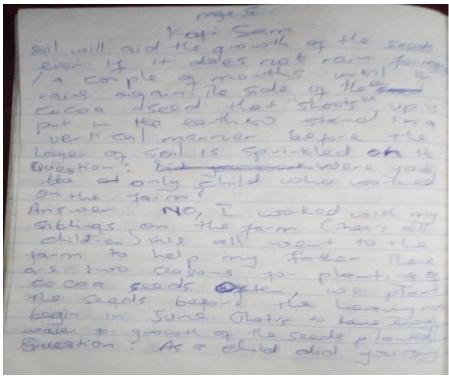
Source: Kwame Baah, 62 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

# B. 10 Life Story, Kofi Sam



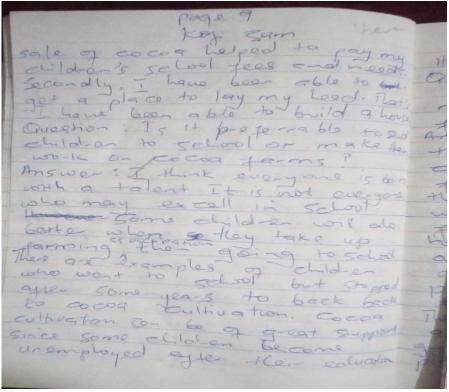
Source: Kofi Sam, 70 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

#### B. 11 Life Story, Kofi Sam



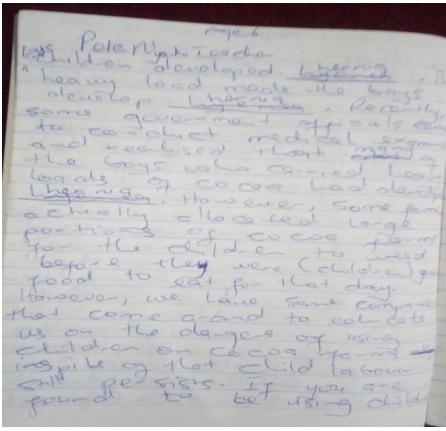
Source: Kofi Sam, 70 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

#### B. 12 Life Story, Kofi Sam



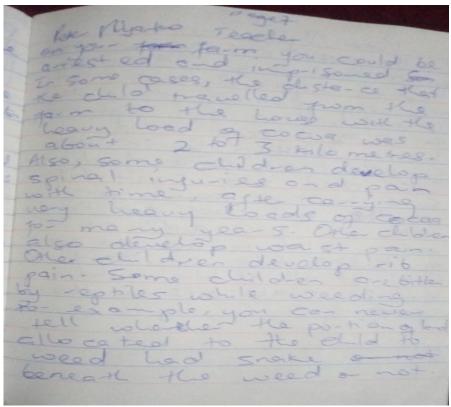
Source: Kofi Sam, 70 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

### B. 13 Life Story, Peter Nyarko



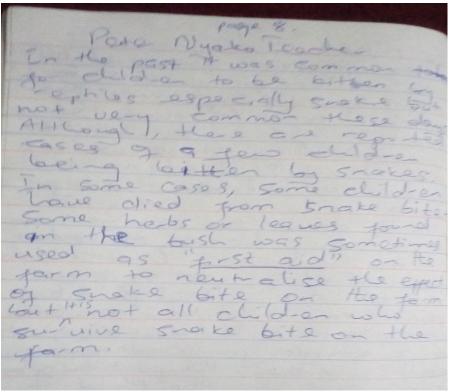
Source: Peter Nyarko, 69 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

### B. 14 Life Story, Peter Nyarko



Source: Peter Nyarko, 69 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

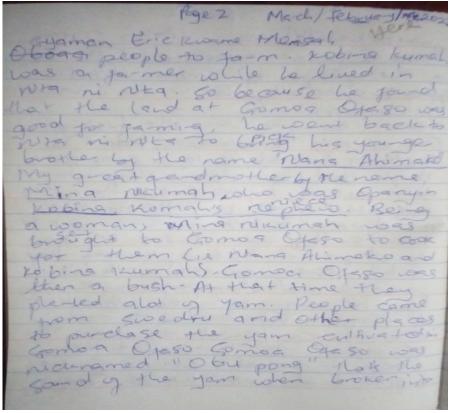
### B. 15 Life Story, Peter Nyarko



Source: Peter Nyarko, 69 years old, personal interview in series of life stories of child labourers, in his residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, November 29, 2022.

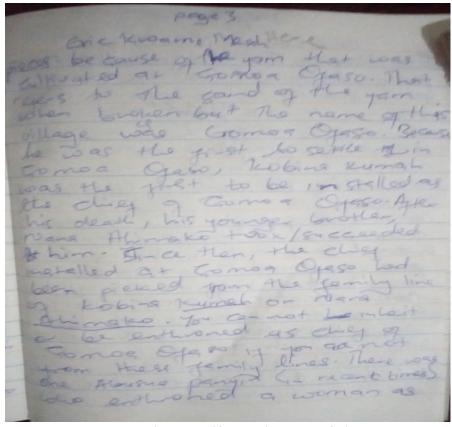
#### APPENDIX C

C.1 Gomoa Ofaso history



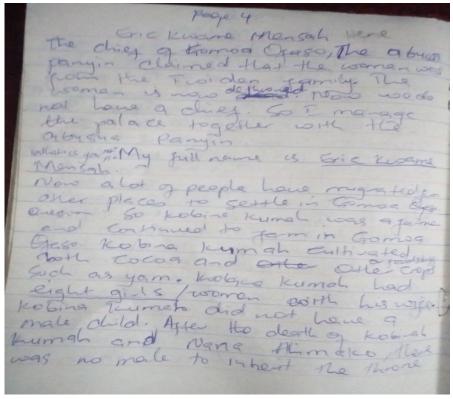
Source: Eric Kwame Mensah, 45 years old, personal interview, telephone interview, February 22, 2022.

#### C. 2 Gomoa Ofaso history



Source: Eric Kwame Mensah, 45 years old, personal interview, telephone interview, February 22, 2022.

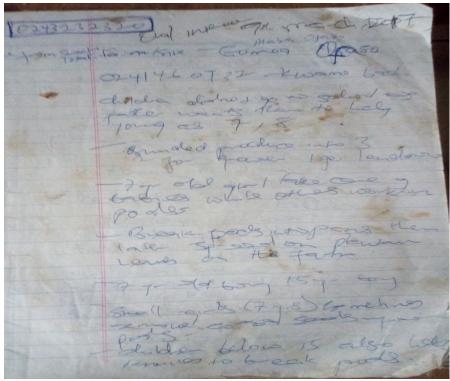
### C. 3 Gomoa Ofaso history



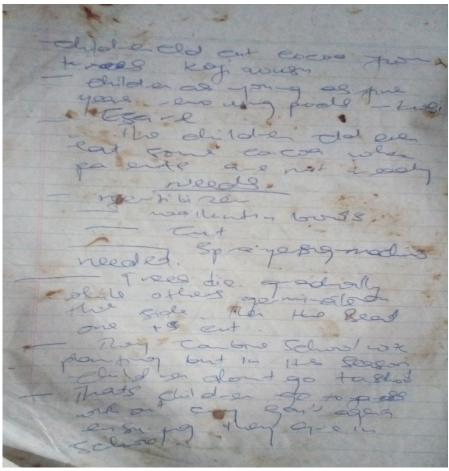
Source: Eric Kwame Mensah, 45 years old, personal interview, telephone interview, February 22, 2022.

### APPENDIX D

D.1 Cocoa production and export

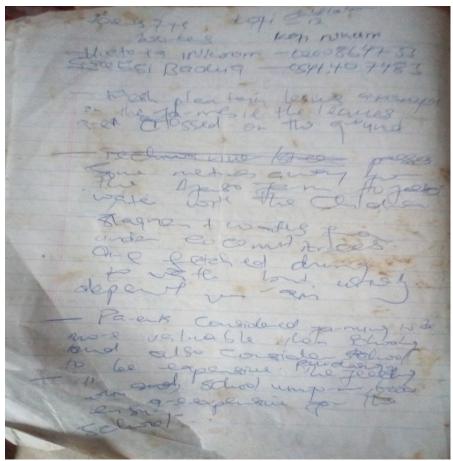


### D. 2 Cocoa production and export



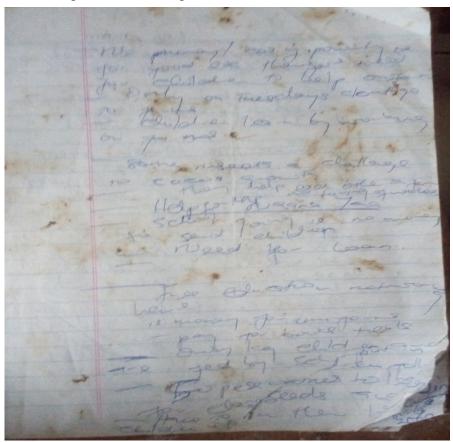
Source: Group discussion notes, personal interview, on Peter Nyarko's cocoa farm at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.

## D. 3 Cocoa production and export



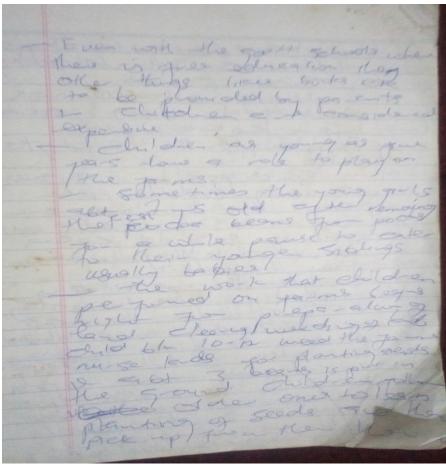
Source: Group discussion notes, personal interview, in Victoria Inkoom's residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.

### D. 4 Cocoa production and export



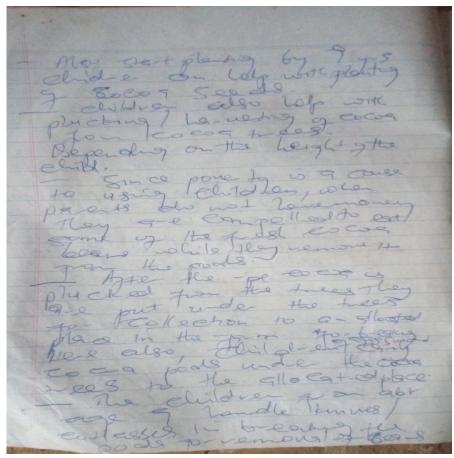
Source: Group discussion notes, personal interview, in Victoria Inkoom's residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.

### D. 5 Cocoa production and export

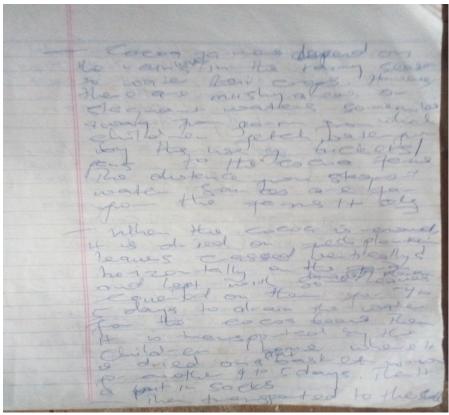


Source: Group discussion notes, personal interview, in Victoria Inkoom's residence at Gomoa Ofaso, Central Region, March 9, 2017.

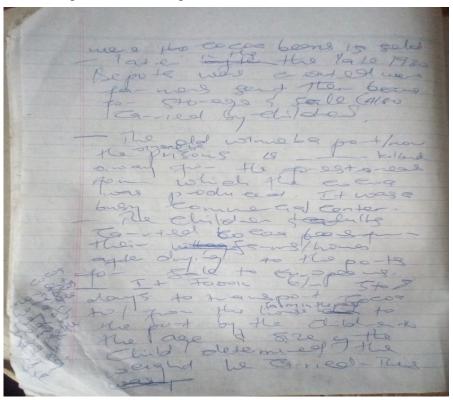
### D. 6 Cocoa production and export



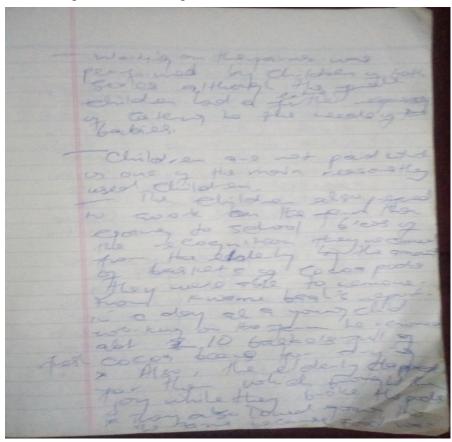
### D. 7 Cocoa production and export



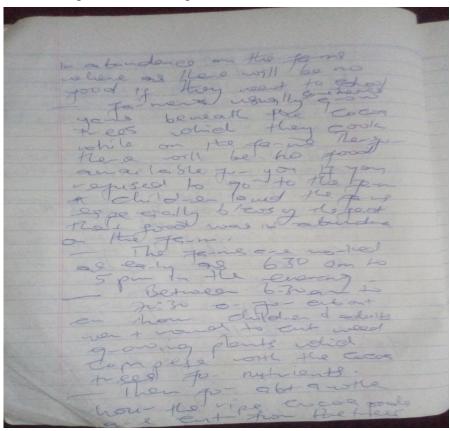
### D. 8 Cocoa production and export



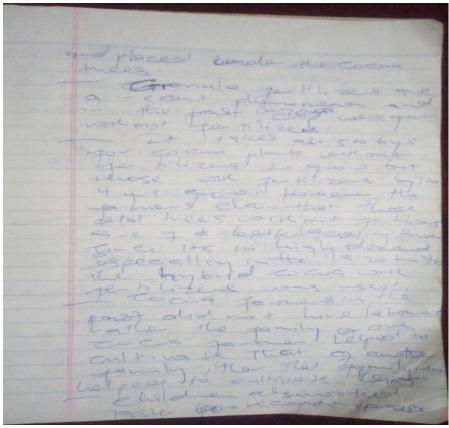
### D. 9 Cocoa production and export



## D. 10 Cocoa production and export



### D. 11 Cocoa production and export



# QUOTATION

"No great achievement is possible without persistent work" by Bertrand Russell