

## Child Labor

Child labor and trafficking are serious challenges facing many supply chains that originate in developing countries, particularly for the entire cocoa industry, and most profoundly in West Africa. Mars has worked for years to address these challenges, both on its own, and through cooperative efforts with governments, nongovernmental organizations and industry. We share the widely held view that child labor is grounded in complex economic, political, and social issues and that our approach to addressing them must be similarly diverse and comprehensive. Ultimately, our business depends on farmers and communities that benefit from and see a positive future in cocoa production and the worst forms of child labor has no place in this future.

### **Working in partnership**

Mars is a signatory to the Harkin-Engel Protocol and has worked with various coalitions including the World Cocoa Foundation and the International Cocoa Initiative to both combat the worst forms of child labor and invest in more sustainable communities. We are also partnering with the U.S. Department of Labor, the International Labour Organization and producing-country governments to better understand the complexities behind the issue – including awareness and attitudes towards child labor locally and identifying more effective strategies to combat trafficking – to determine how we might more productively collaborate to achieve a greater impact.

Mars will continue to build broad partnerships to address this issue, but ultimately, making progress in eradicating the use of the worst forms of child labor in cocoa production requires the support, cooperation and commitment of governments of cocoa producing countries, cocoa farmers and others from within the cocoa community. Essential to this commitment is the recognition that responsible and sustainable cocoa production is critical to improving the lives of cocoa farming families and their communities.

### **Mars' actions**

Mars is also working independently to invest in many of the communities where we source our products, including through our Vision for Change initiative in Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, in 2009 Mars became the first global chocolate company to commit to sourcing only cocoa that is certified as being produced in a sustainable manner by 2020. As a part of this commitment, we are working with our certification partners to ensure that the cocoa we buy is produced in a way that adheres to international labor guidelines and provides economic opportunity to growers. Political instability within Côte d'Ivoire in 2010 and early 2011 delayed progress on this initiative, but we have now re-engaged with our partners in the country and are working to drive this important initiative forward.