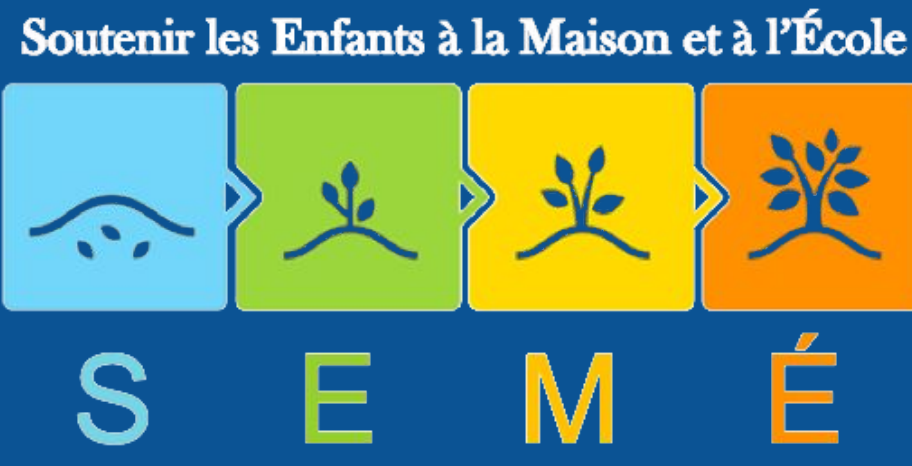


Parental Factors, Learning-Related Skills, and Academic Outcomes in Rural Côte d'Ivoire



Medha Aurora¹, Hannah Whitehead¹, Lujayn Mostafa¹, Sharon Wolf², Samuel Kembou³, Amy Ogan⁴, Kaja K. Jasińska^{1,5}
¹University of Toronto, ²University of Pennsylvania, ³Universite de Lausanne, ⁴Carnegie Mellon University, ⁵Haskins Laboratories



Aim and Research Questions

Aim: Explore relations between parental factors, fundamental child capacities, and child academic learning in rural low-income communities in Côte d'Ivoire

R1: How are academic parental expectations and involvement related to each other?

R2: How are parents' expectations and involvement associated with children's academic outcomes?


R3: Do EFs, SE skills, and growth mindset mediate the associations between parental expectations and involvement and academic outcomes?

Background

Parental expectations and involvement predict cognitive, socioemotional, and academic outcomes in children.¹

Most of this research comes from high income countries (HICs).

However, parental behavior is influenced by resources (e.g., time, education, money) and culture, which can vary based on country and context.²



Rural Côte d'Ivoire
 Low parental literacy (44% in 2014)³
 Child participation in domestic (80%) and agricultural work (>50%)⁴
 Only 40% of children complete primary school⁵

Methods

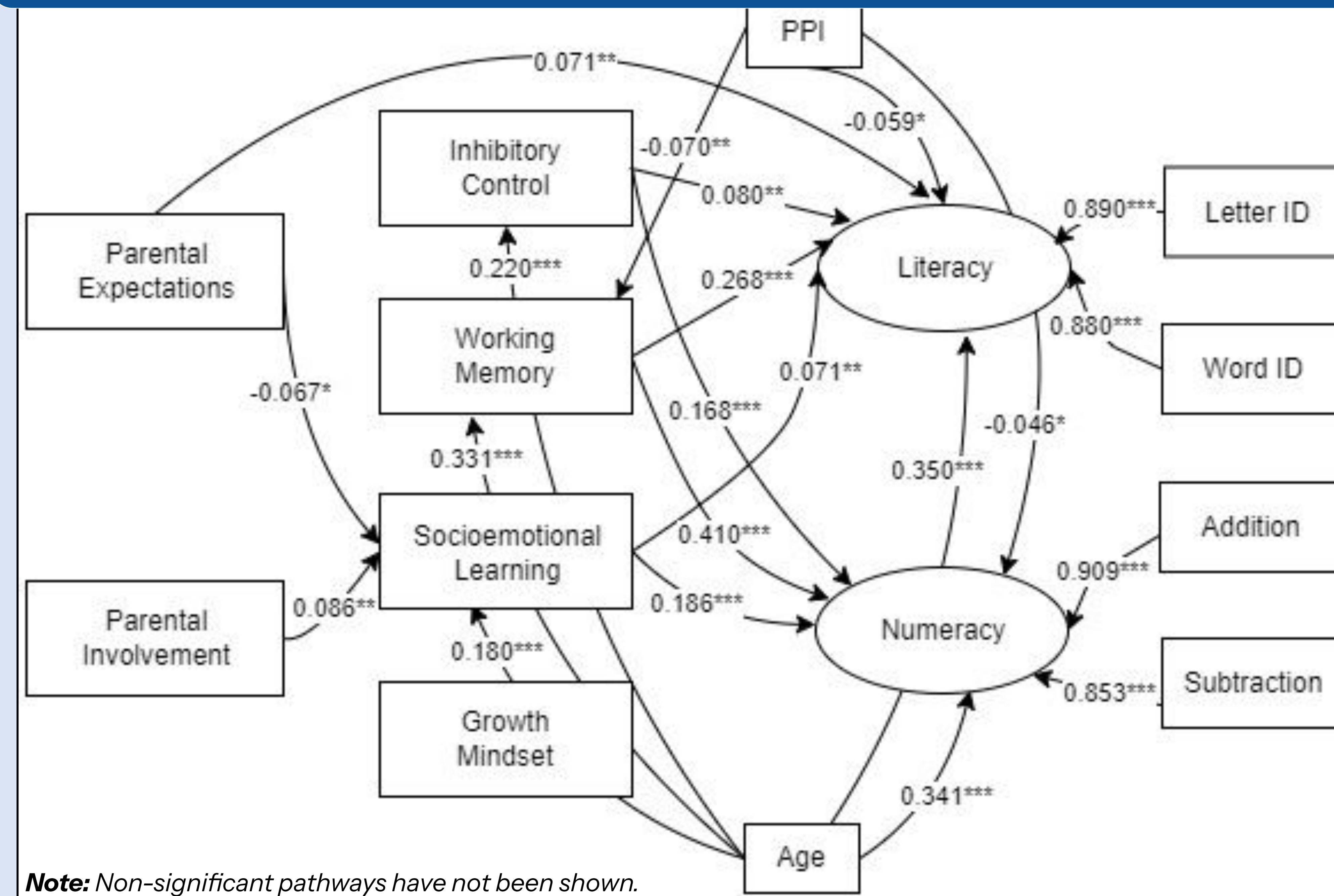


Participants
 136 communities
 Children (N=1514, girls=722)
 ages 5 to 15 yrs; Grades 1 to 6
 Primary caregivers 17 to 82 yrs

Parent Measures
 Parental Involvement
 Parental Expectations
 Education
 Stress

Child Measures
 Literacy
 Numeracy
 Executive Functions (EFs)
Working Memory
Inhibitory Control
 Socioemotional (SE) Skills
 Growth Mindset
 Probability of Poverty (PPI)
 Age

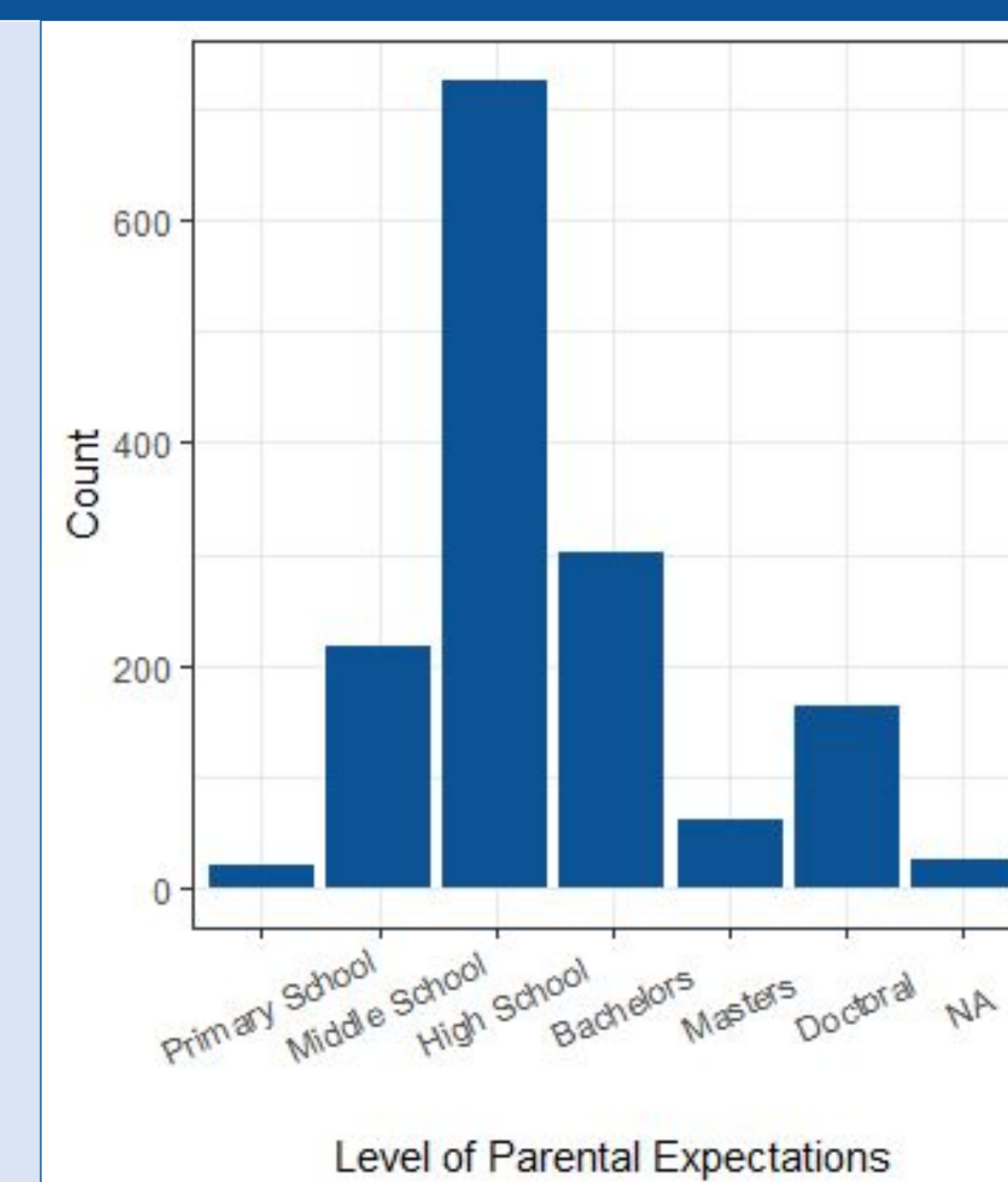
SE skills mediate relation between parent factors and academic outcomes



Results

R1: Parental involvement is lower among parents who expected their child to pursue tertiary education, compared to parents who expected their child to complete secondary education.

R2: Parental expectations positively predict literacy.



R3: SE skills are positively predicted by parental involvement. However, SE skills are negatively predicted by parental expectations. EFs and SE skills positively predict literacy and numeracy.

Discussion & Implications



Parental expectations and involvement broadly impact child academic outcomes and learning-related skills.



The negative association of SE skills with parental expectations sheds light on negative consequences of high expectations in a resource constrained context.



The positive association of SE skills with parental involvement highlights the importance of parental engagement in promoting learning.



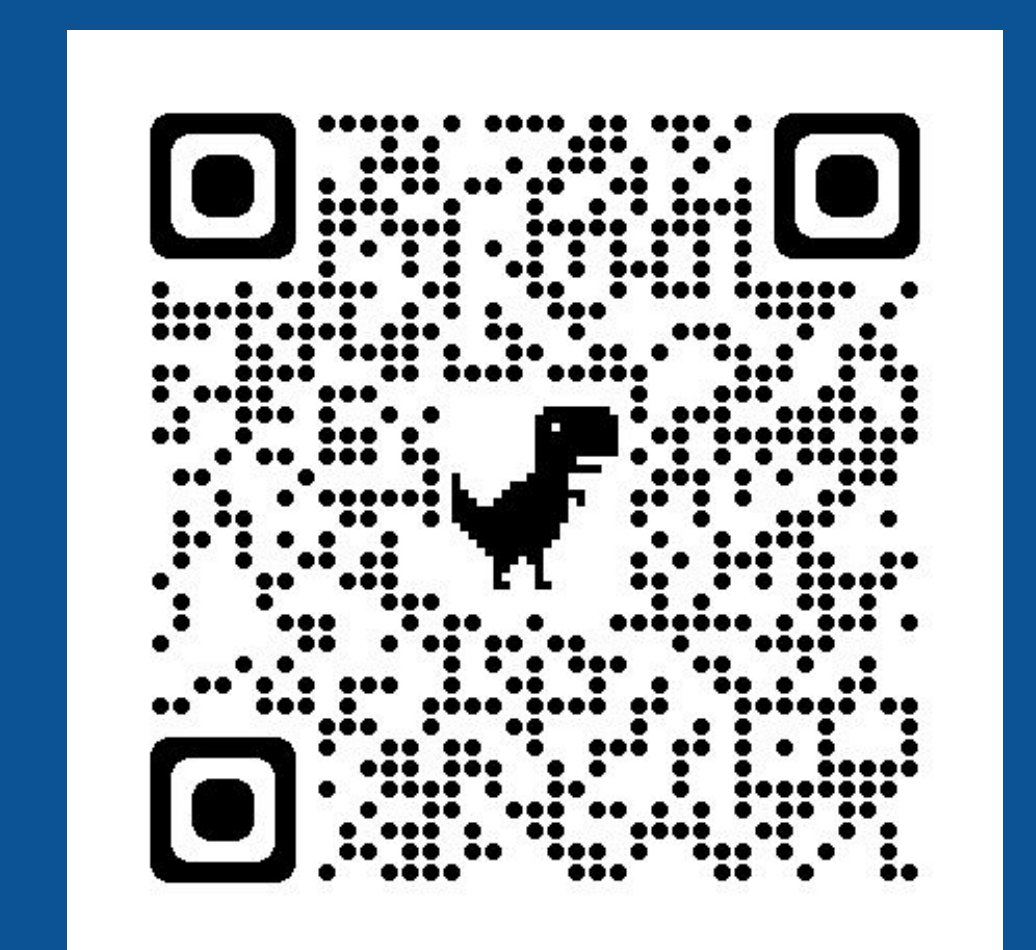
Mismatch between high parental expectations and low parental involvement highlights gaps in resources such as parental academic skills and time.



Findings and interventions from high income countries cannot be exported to other contexts; definitions, methods and materials should reflect cultural goals and values.



BOLD Lab website



References

- Wang, M.-T., & Sheikh-Khalil, S. (2014). Does Parental Involvement Matter for Student Achievement and Mental Health in High School? *Child Development*, 85(2), 610–625. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12153>
- McCoy, D. C., Zuilkowski, S. S., & Fink, G. (2015). Poverty, physical stature, and cognitive skills: Mechanisms underlying children's school enrollment in Zambia. *Developmental Psychology*, 51(5), 600–614. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0038924>
- UNESCO (2022). *Reimagining Education: The International Science and Evidence Based Education (ISEE) Assessment*. Retrieved from https://d1c337161ud3prcloudfront.net/files%2Fb4b7db2c-0dfc-4bdb-a507-cdec7504a18_English%20Headliner.pdf
- Kembou, S., Wolf, S., Jasińska, K., & Ogan, A. (2023). Child labor activities and schooling decisions in rural Côte d'Ivoire. *Consortium for Policy Research in Education*. <https://repository.upenn.edu/handle/20.50014332/58881>
- von Zinkernagel, H. (2017, October). Education and child labour risk for older children in Côte d'Ivoire. ICI Cocoa Initiative. Retrieved from <https://www.cocoainitiative.org/knowledge-hub/resources/education-and-child-labour-risk-older-children-cote-divoire>