This dissertation, which comprises three essays, studies the economics of child labor and child education using data from Ghana and Nigeria. The first essay investigates the effect of household shocks on child labor and school enrollment. I use data from a two-year panel dataset of Nigerian households surveyed between 2010/2011 and 2012/2013. I find that agricultural shocks, measured as crop and livestock losses, increase child labor hours and decrease the probability that a child will enroll in school. I also find that health shocks to men increase child labor hours. In contrast, health shocks to women have no impact on child labor hours and school enrollment. The second essay studies the impact of parental health insurance enrollment on child labor and school enrollment. I use data from the sixth round of the Ghana Living Standards Survey to examine if children living in households where parents are enrolled in the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) have better schooling and child labor outcomes compared with children living in households where parents are not enrolled in the NHIS. Using a propensity score matching and an instrumental variable estimation technique, I find that enrollment in the NHIS increases the probability that a child will attend school and decreases child labor hours. The third essay examines the factors that determine whether a child living in a cocoa growing household attends school only, combines school with work on the family farm, combines school with work outside the family farm, or is idle. I employ a three-stage
sequential logit model estimation where in the first stage the household head decides whether the child attends school only against all other options. In the second stage, the household head decides whether the child will combine school with work on the family farm against all other options. In the last stage, the household head decides whether the child will work outside the household farm, or if the child is idle. The results indicate that parental education, poverty, household size, parental farm experience, age and gender of child are important variables that determine child labor and school enrollment.