

REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE  
Union - Discipline - Travail

# ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AGR:</b>	Income Generating Activities
<b>ANADER:</b>	National Agency for Rural Development Support
<b>BICE:</b>	International Catholic Child Bureau
<b>ILO:</b>	International Labor Office
<b>ACRWC:</b>	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>CRC:</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>NSCCL:</b>	National Steering Committee for the Fight against Child Labor
<b>IMC:</b>	Inter-ministerial Committee for Fight against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor
<b>CNLTEE:</b>	National Committee for Fight against Child Trafficking and Exploitation
<b>CNS:</b>	The National Oversight Committee for Actions in the Fight against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor
<b>CMR:</b>	Centre for Rural Jobs
<b>DLTE:</b>	Direction for Fight against Child Labor
<b>DPE:</b>	Department for Child Protection
<b>DSRP:</b>	Strategy Paper for Poverty Reduction
<b>ENVM:</b>	National Survey on Household Living Standards
<b>ENTE:</b>	National Survey on Child Labor
<b>GEPEX:</b>	Coffee and Cocoa Export Group
<b>ICI:</b>	International Cocoa Initiative
<b>INS:</b>	National Institute of Statistics
<b>IITA:</b>	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
<b>IPEC:</b>	International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor
<b>MEMEASS:</b>	State Department, Ministry for Employment, Social Affairs and Solidarity
<b>MEMJ:</b>	Department of State, Ministry for Justice
<b>MEN:</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MFFE:</b>	Ministry of the Family, Women and Children
<b>NGO:</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PNA:</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NCA:</b>	National Action Plan for Children
<b>NDP:</b>	National Development Plan
<b>UNDP:</b>	United Nations Development
<b>ILO:</b>	International Labor Organization
<b>UNS:</b>	United Nations System
<b>SOSTECI:</b>	Observation and Monitoring System of Child Labor in Cote d'Ivoire
<b>SSTE:</b>	Tracking Child Labor System
<b>STCP:</b>	Sustainable Tree Crops Program
<b>UNICEF:</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>USAID:</b>	United States Agency for International Development

*The National Oversight Committee for  
Actions Against Trafficking,  
Exploitation and Child Labor.*

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*Republic of Côte d'Ivoire  
Union-Discipline-Labor*

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## **VALIDATION CERTIFICATE**

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The National Oversight Committee, chaired by Mrs. Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, expresses its satisfaction for the consultative and participatory approach that led the entire process of development of this National Action Plan.

Therefore, we, the undersigned Members of the National Oversight Committee for Actions in the Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor, vouch for the validation of the National Action Plan 2012 - 2014 against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor, and invite all parties to take ownership of it.

The development of this consensual document, which has combined all the energies at the Inter-ministerial Committee level as well as at our partners' levels (national and international NGOs, organizations of workers and employers) to effectively combat Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor, deserves our encouragement and support.

Abidjan, March 23rd, 2012  
On behalf of  
The National Oversight Committee  
THE PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ouattara', written over a horizontal line.

Dominique OUATTARA  
First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire

# F O R E W O R D

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Studies and surveys carried out on the situation of children around the world show that many children are victims of violence and all forms of abuse, which jeopardizes their future, their development, their physical and psychological health. Of these abuses, child trafficking, exploitation and labor are among the most egregious.

This issue has rightly become the focal point as the international and national community works together towards "a future without child labor." The effective abolition for child participation in the labor market remains one of the "most urgent imperatives of our time." The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, on the minimum age employment and the worst forms of child labor respectively, and all other legal instruments ratified by States including Côte d'Ivoire, include provisions for the integration of child development.

Despite the ratification of these conventions, many children continue to be used for illicit activities such as drug sales, the production and dissemination of pornographic materials, and sexual exploitation for commercial purposes. Others are forced into types of work that undermine their health, safety and morals. These children are deprived of their legitimate rights to survival and development, education and protection in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted by the United Nations on November 29, 1989.

Côte d'Ivoire is unfortunately no exception to this phenomenon. In fact, according to the National Survey on Household Living Standards (ENVM) conducted in 2008, about 1,237,911 children aged 5 to 17 in all regions of the country are forced to do jobs which should be banned, of which 1,202,404, or 91.1%, are involved in hazardous work.

This plan is a response, in terms of political commitment of Côte d'Ivoire, to fight vigorously against child trafficking, exploitation and labor. It is also an opportunity to create a framework for coordination of aid to children. This framework will enable the Government to develop programs and allocate budgets specifically for at-risk children and victims. This fits into the goal of protecting the promise of future generations.

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**INS/ILO**, Child Labor in Côte d'Ivoire, from the data of the Survey of Living Household Standards (ENV) in 2008, Abidjan, August 2010.

This Action Plan aims to implement the programs and actions undertaken by the Government in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor on the basis of an analysis of all major problems facing children today. This process implies a redefinition of priorities regarding actions and interventions on behalf of child victims.

We would like to pay tribute to the public institutions, international and non-governmental organizations whose collaboration was integral to the development of this Action Plan. We would particularly like to thank the International Labor Office (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for their support and actions for the protection of children.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire would also like to thank Senator Tom Harkin, Representative Eliot Engel and the U.S. State Department, for their continued support for the fight against the worst forms of child labor.

The Government would also like to express its thanks to Mrs. Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and President of the National Monitoring Actions Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor, for her personal commitment to the fight against child trafficking and the worst forms of labor.

We continue to count on the support and cooperation of each player for the implementation of the National Action Plan

Thank you for your support.

Raymonde GOUDOU COFFIE  
Vice-President of the  
Inter-Ministerial Committee



Gilbert KAFANA Koné  
President of the  
Inter-Ministerial Committee



# I N T R O D U C T I O N

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Côte d'Ivoire is located in West Africa, in the northern hemisphere between the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator. Explicitly, its coordinates are between 10 ° and 4 ° north latitude and 10 ° and 0 ° longitude.

It is bordered to the north by Mali and Burkina Faso, to the west by Guinea and Liberia, to the east by Ghana and to south by the Atlantic Ocean.

With a surface area of 322,462 square kilometers, Côte d'Ivoire is a country of medium size with a population of 15,366,672 inhabitants, according to the General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH) of 1998. This population is now estimated at 20 million inhabitants according to the National Statistics Institute (INS). The population growth rate was 2.85% between 1998 and 2007.

The country's economy is based on agriculture. Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer of cocoa and the tenth largest producer of coffee. The main export products are cocoa, coffee, wood, cotton, and palm oil.

For over a decade, Côte d'Ivoire has been known on the international stage as a destination country for child victims of cross-border trafficking, but also as a country of abuse of child labor, especially in the area of cocoa production.

Far from denying this reality, the Ivorian government has taken steps to eliminate this phenomenon. The government response has been focused on the reinforcement of legislative and institutional framework for child protection, reinforcement of regional cooperation, reinforcement of the capacity of industry actors to address the problem, awareness-raising campaigns for local populations, and anti-poverty measures targeted at vulnerable children and their families.

Despite achievements so far, the phenomenon persists, causing the government to reaffirm its determination and commitment to combat these intolerable violations of human rights by establishing new institutions and the development of a National Action Plan for the period 2012-2014.

This new approach is composed of the Inter-ministerial Committee and the National Oversight Committee for Actions Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor. Both bodies will work together to ensure coordination, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor, as well as to ensure transparency in the implementation of activities.

Therefore, the adoption by Côte d'Ivoire of the present National Action Plan for the Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor, paves the way for new perspectives and a new dynamic to ensure better protection for children.

The approach of the work is threefold:

Part I: Definition of Concepts and Situational Analysis;

Part Two: Report of Anti Child Labor Efforts in Côte d'Ivoire

Part Three: The New Institutional Framework and the National Action Plan 2012-2014



This Action Plan aims to significantly reduce the worst forms of child labor by 2014 and is stated in four strategic areas of focus:

1. Prevention;
2. Protection for children;
3. Prosecution and punishment of offenders;
4. Monitoring and evaluation activities.

These strategic areas of focus include specific objectives.

- Strategic Focus 1: Prevention

This area of focus includes three (03) specific objectives which are:

- To reinforce the legislative and regulatory framework of protection against child trafficking, exploitation and labor;
- To raise awareness and inform communities and social organizations about behavioral changes required to protect children against trafficking, exploitation and child labor;
- To reinforce the operational capacities of actors involved in the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor;

- Strategic Focus 2: Protection

This area of focus includes three (03) specific objectives which are:

- To improve children's access to education;
- To provide support for child victims of trafficking, exploitation and worst forms of child labor and their families;
- To strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor.

- Strategic Focus 3: Prosecution and Punishment

This area of focus includes two (02) objectives which are:

- To identify and prosecute perpetrators of child trafficking, exploitation, and worst forms of child labor;
- To strengthen regional police cooperation in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor.

- Strategic Focus 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

This area of focus includes two (02) objectives which are:

- To implement the Observation and Monitoring System of Child Labor in Côte d'Ivoire (OMSCLCI);
- To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Action Plan.

# CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

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The development and adoption of the 2012-2014 National Action Plan against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor, occurs in a context where, after a decade of crisis, Côte d'Ivoire is going through a period of reconstruction.

Several sectors of economic and social life of the State have been affected by the crisis, notably education and health services. In addition, the primary structures of social protection and assistance that are the family, the community, and the basic social safety net, underwent a profound disintegration, thus losing their essential operational capacity. An economic downturn also contributed to rising unemployment and increased poverty.

In the face of such poverty, families are forced to look for alternative survival strategies including the participation of children in the workforce. Thus, more and more children are forced to work, exposing themselves to many forms of exploitation and abuse.

Confronted with this situation, the Government has taken urgent and decisive measures to reinvigorate the fight against trafficking and the worst forms of child labor.

One such measure is the reorganization of the government's institutional framework to lead the fight. On November 3rd, 2011, the Government created two national committees in charge of actions against trafficking, exploitation and child labor. They are:

- the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor, chaired by the Minister of State for Labor;

- the National Oversight Committee for Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor, chaired by the First Lady of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has ratified several international instruments protecting the rights of the child. These include the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor, and ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum employment age.

In this fight, Côte d'Ivoire has benefited from continued support and monitoring by the international community and organizations such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), UNICEF, the European Union and the U.S. State Department.

In this dynamic of international solidarity, the actions of Senator Tom Harkin and Representative Eliot Engel remain a vital source of support for Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, in 2001, these two leaders in American politics motivated the signing of a voluntary commitment by leading producers in the cocoa and chocolate to eliminate worst forms of child labor in the cultivation and processing of cocoa beans and their derivative products wherever cocoa is grown, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire.

This commitment, known as the "Harkin-Engel Protocol," led in 2002 to the creation of the International Cocoa Initiative Foundation (ICI), which aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and forced labor in the growing and processing of cocoa beans. The actions of the foundation have to the cocoa-producing communities in Cote d'Ivoire.

The Protocol also established the Child Labor in Cocoa Coordination Group (Coordination Group for Action against Child Labor). This group certifies the labor practices of cocoa production in Cote d'Ivoire through the monitoring of projects and programs involved in the fight against child labor.

Senator Tom Harkin and Representative Eliot Engel also continue to require that chocolate companies dedicate funds specifically to fight against the use of child labor in cocoa production. For this purpose, on December 13, 2010, the chocolate industry and the Governments of Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and the United States signed a statement of Joint Action aiming to support the Implementation of the Protocol.

The National Action Plan 2012-2014 is a strategic document that provides the broad outlines and strategic choices of the Government in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and child labor. It is possible, if political will exists, if the necessary resources are provided, and if appropriate strategies are adopted, to put an end to this phenomenon that has affected so many families around the world and especially in developing countries such as Côte d'Ivoire.

# PART I: DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS AND SITUATION ANALYSIS —

## **I-DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS**

To facilitate the understanding of the National Action Plan, it is necessary to define some key concepts.

### **I.1. The Child**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states in Article 1 that a child "means every human being below the age of eighteen years."

### **I.2. Child Trafficking**

According to Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol, trafficking in children is "any act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receiving a child inside or outside of a country for exploitation whatever the means used."

### **I.3. Child Labor**

The concept of "child labor" does not include all tasks performed by people under 18 years. In general, it is assumed that children's participation in work that is not detrimental to their health and their physical development or a hindrance to their schooling can be a positive experience. Thus, child labor refers to work liable to:

- harm the health and physical, mental, moral or social development of children;
- compromise their education.

### **I.4. Worst Forms of Child Labor**

According to Article 3 of Convention No. 182, the term "worst forms of child labor" comprises:

- all forms of slavery or similar practices, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for their use in armed conflicts;
- the use, recruitment or offering of a child for prostitution, production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- the use, recruitment or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, are likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

These types of work are totally unacceptable for anyone under 18.

## **I.5. Hazardous Child Labor**

Hazardous work is work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Forms of hazardous child labor are determined nationally by Order No. 009 MEMEASS / CAB of January 19, 2012 revising Decree No. 2250 of 14 March 2005 determining the list of jobs prohibited for children under 18.

However, the ILO Convention 138 states in Article 3 that dangerous work can be by children 16 years and older, after consultation with employers' organizations and unions, if the child's health, safety and morals are fully protected and the child has been instructed or professionally trained.

## **I.6. Exploitation of Children**

The Additional Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), provides in Article 3 that " exploitation means at a minimum, the exploitation or the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs ."

# **II- CURRENT SITUATION**

## **II.1. The Situation of Child Labor in Côte d'Ivoire**

Child labor is one of the social phenomenon that political and administrative authorities of the country are trying to eliminate. It is difficult to determine accurately the number of children affected, because many cases remain discreet and unknown. However, studies on the phenomenon provide an overview of the situation.

First of all, a survey conducted in 2002 and published in 2003 by the ILO, IITA and USAID has helped to establish that in the cocoa sector:

- Over 600,000 children aged 6 to 17 are involved in cocoa production, of whom over 98% work in family plantations;
- Approximately 127,000 children perform dangerous tasks such as fertilizing, spraying, heavy lifting, or cleaning with machetes.

This survey also found that a relatively small number of children among working in the cocoa sector were victims of trafficking.

Another nationwide study focusing on child labor, conducted in 2003 by the Ministry for Social Affairs in collaboration with UNICEF, established that:

- There are children working in family production units;
- Even if the work is done in an extended family setting, the child's placement outside the circle of the immediate family (the father and / or mother) exposes the child to virtually the same risks as children working completely outside the family;

The placement of the child in a relationship of "paid work" actually presents more risks to the child; Child labor has increased in the agricultural industry and in informal urban markets.

The last nationwide study is the National Survey on Child Labor (ENTE) of 2005.

This survey, conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (INS) in collaboration with the ILO, gave the following results:

- 395,990 of economically active children worked in the agricultural sector, and 160,103 practiced in the retail sector;
- Approximately 115,694 child laborers are engaged in hazardous work that is currently prohibited for children by regulations in Cote d'Ivoire.

In addition to these studies, the National Survey on Household Living Standards 2008 (NSHLS 2008) found that 1,570,103 economically active children are engaged in the agriculture sector and 517,520 engaged in the service sector. The survey also states that 1,202,404 children are involved in hazardous work and 3,364 are victims of trafficking.

The survey reveals that this is mostly an internal trafficking, that is to say a transfer of children from one region to another of the country for the purpose of economic exploitation.

## **II.2. The Manifestations of the Phenomenon of Child Labor**

Child labor in Côte d'Ivoire has several characteristics. Various types of child labor include:

- use in transport, carrying heavy loads, transporting loads with wheelbarrows, handcarts, or other vehicles, loading heavy luggage in transit vehicles, porters, etc.;
- placement in apprenticeship;
- use in underground mines, mines and quarries;
- use in agriculture and forestry activities such as felling, controlled burning of fields, handling and spreading of agro-pharmaceuticals, production of charcoal, etc.;
- use in livestock farming (Cowherd, slaughter of animals, harvesting honey, etc.);
- use in fishing (deep sea diving, sea fishing, fishing on the lagoon or rivers);
- use in the informal urban sector (begging, childcare, working at night in bars or restaurants or nightclubs, etc.);
- use in the mines for tasks such as drilling, blasting, transportation of fragments or of stone blocks, crushing, ore use of chemicals, etc.;
- use in commerce (selling pornographic materials, prostitution or pimping, salvaging objects in dumping, drainage and pre-collection and collection of rubbish, production or purchase or sale of chemicals, etc.);
- use as porters in the markets;
- use in industry and crafts when they are engaged in grinding, milling, rolling, lubrication or cleaning, repair of machines or mechanisms in steps, manufacturing or repair firearms, planning and mechanized and chemical treatment of wood, brewing and alcohol production, boiler, and handling of flammable hydrocarbon etc..
- use in construction industry (excavation, construction of the foundations, building walls, formwork, mining of construction minerals etc.).

### **II.3. Explanatory Factors of Child Labor**

There are many factors that contribute to the incidence of child labor in Cote d'Ivoire. They can be grouped into two basic categories: socio-economic factors and socio-cultural factors.

#### **II.3.1. Socio-Economic Factors**

In general, it is poverty, particularly difficult economic circumstances due to the loss or, lack of, income, decrease in the living conditions of households, social inequalities and poverty, that predispose children to work and exploitation.

In fact, because of the poverty of their parents, many children leave school and go to work, not only to meet their daily needs but also to support their families.

With regard to girls in particular, some surveys reveal that in their quest for acceptance and social integration, many girls will seek a cleaning job in the wealthy households in cities.

#### **II.3.2. Socio-Cultural Factors**

From a traditional point of view, child labor has long been seen as a way of socializing children, that is to say, a process which gradually introduces the child to work and transfer necessary survival skills to them.

It is generally accepted that the child must learn to adapt himself to situations in his environment and find solutions to problems that confront him. Although these forms of work have a socializing effect in our communities, certain deviations or abuses can lead to the worst forms of child labor.

### **II.4. The Consequences of Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Worst Forms of Labor**

Child victims of trafficking, exploitation and labor suffer numerous consequences such as psycho-social and physical difficulties.

Indeed, the trafficked child faces several psychosocial difficulties. Deprived of his family and its system of support, he suffers a sense of loss and has difficulty adjusting to his new surroundings. Furthermore, child victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation experience additional trauma which can lead to mental health problems.

They suffer in particular from depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and have low self-esteem. The working conditions for these children are generally harsh: they are subjected to demeaning work that does not take into account their age, and are exposed to abuse and sometimes to punishments for poor performance.

Therefore, children often face physical injuries such as bruises, burns, lacerations and fractures, infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancy, permanent damage to their bones (deficiencies and growth retardation ) problems with alcohol and drug abuse, violence, abuse, mistreatment, road accidents, and fatal accidents due to explosions, gases and dusts, diseases (tuberculosis, silicosis).

Given the scale of the problem, the Ivorian Government has taken significant actions in collaboration with international and national partners for the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor.



## PART TWO : REPORT OF ANTI CHILD LABOR IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The efforts of the Ivorian Government as well as those of its partners in the Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor have helped to register achievements even if some points for improvement remain.

### **I - THE ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **I.1. The Legislative and Regulatory Framework**

The legislative and regulatory framework in the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor has been enriched with several texts. These include:

- At the International level, we note the Ratification of the following Conventions:
  - The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), February 3, 2003;
  - ILO Convention No 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, February 3, 2003;
  - Convention No 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labor, February 3, 2003;
  - The Additional Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children, to be specified;
  - The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, August 3, 2011, aiming to repress and punish trafficking, particularly women and child trafficking.
  - The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography of children, September 7, 2011.
  
- At the regional level, to strengthen cooperation with its neighbors, the Government signed the following two agreements:
  - The cooperation agreement between Côte D'Ivoire and Mali, September 1, 2000;
  - The Multilateral Agreement between Côte d'Ivoire and nine other countries in West Africa to strengthen regional cooperation in the fight against child trafficking, July 27, 2005.
  
- At the national level, the State has adopted the following texts:
  - Law No. 2010-272 of September, 30 2010 prohibiting trafficking and the worst forms of child labor;
  - Decree No. 2005-264 of July, 21 2005 on the promotion of the family, wife and child laying down detailed rules of Law No. 2003-208 of 07 July 2003 on the transfer and distribution of State powers to local authorities;
  - Decree No. 2006-11 of February 23, 2006 organizing the Ministry of the Interior for the establishment of a Sub-Department of the Fight Against Child Trafficking and Juvenile Delinquency. The Sub-Department is responsible for pursuing and arresting the perpetrators of child trafficking.
  - Decree No. 2007-449 of March, 29 2007 establishing the Steering Committee of the Monitoring System of Child Labor as part of the certification process for cocoa production;

- Order No. 0074 of September 23, 2009 of the Ministry of Education amending and completing Decree No. 0093 of 02 December 2005 on the establishment and regulation of the community education centers;
- Order 009 MEMEASS / CAB of January 19, 2012 revising Decree No. 2250 of March, 14 2005 determining the list of hazardous work prohibited for children under 18 in all economic sectors.

## **I.2. Capacity Building of Actors**

One of the major actions undertaken by the Government and its partners is the capacity building of players involved in the fight against the worst forms of child labor. This mainly includes the training of parties at national and local levels as well as providing technical, logistical and financial support to rural communities to improve their living conditions.

## **I.3. Awareness Raising Campaigns**

The Government and its partners have also intensified their actions in terms of education and raising community awareness about the dangers of Child Trafficking and Worst Forms of Labor.

This action assumes local communities are the best suited to ensure greater protection for children against trafficking and the worst forms of work. If local communities have a better understanding of the dangers and negative consequences of Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Labor, they will help to strengthen community mechanisms of child protection, thus eradicating the phenomenon.

The Government has thus implemented several programs using community awareness raising activities as a means of preventing Child Trafficking and Worst Forms of Labor. Over 700 local committees have been established in several localities. Community committees are leading outreach awareness campaigns on the local consequences of trafficking and hazardous child labor as well as on child protection in order to increase community involvement in fighting and preventing this phenomenon.

## **I.4. Direct Actions for Child Victims at Risk and their Families**

Direct assistance to victims and the reintegration into families and communities has also been a priority for those involved in the fight against trafficking and worst forms of child labor in Côte d'Ivoire. Among the actions undertaken in this context, it's important to emphasize the following:

- Writing a handbook of care for children victims of trafficking;
- Identification, care and reintegration of child victims;
- Integration of child victims or at risk children into school and socio-professional alternative;
- Economic support for families;
- Creation of community learning centers;
- Support in providing education for child victims or at risk children,..

Among the achievements, we can also mention "the Action Plan in medium term" for education sector, the National Action Plan for Children (NCA), the Strategy Paper for Poverty Reduction (SPPR), the National Development Plan (NDP), all of which provide better protection for the child.

Despite the progress already achieved in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor in Côte d'Ivoire, efforts are still required at the institutional, legislative and regulatory levels and in terms of raising awareness.

## **II- AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD LABOR**

### **II.1. At the Institutional Level**

Several governmental and nongovernmental, national and international structures have been striving to eradicate child labor in Côte d'Ivoire. However, we must acknowledge that the lack of coordination has negatively influenced the efforts of the Government and its partners.

### **II.2. At The Legislative and Regulatory Level**

The State has achieved a major breakthrough at legislative and regulatory levels by ratifying several international conventions and adopting Law No. 2010-272 - September 30, 2010 on the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor. However, dissemination measures and implementation have not yet been effective.

### **II.3. At the Level of Awareness Raising**

Many different structures carry out awareness raising activities on the ground. However, there is currently no harmonized manual for awareness raising. It is therefore appropriate to establish a consensus strategy of communication for more effective advocacy.

### **II.4. At the Level of Direct Actions for Child Victims or at Risk and their Families**

Actions of support for child victims, at risk children and their families exist but they must be strengthened to include better overall poverty reduction efforts.

### **II.5. At the Level of Monitoring and Evaluation**

Establishing a System of Observation and Monitoring of Child Labor in Côte d'Ivoire (SOSTECI) and the National Supervisory Committee should enable better monitoring and evaluation of actions against trafficking, the exploitation and child labor.

## PART THREE : THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2012-2014

To enable better coordination and to capitalize on all of the actions of the fight against Child Trafficking, Exploitation, and Labor, a new institutional framework has been established and a national action plan has been developed.

### **I-THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The institutional framework of the Fight Against Child Labor was reinforced by the creation of two (02) Committees:

- The Inter-ministerial Committee to Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor;
- The National Committee for Monitoring Action Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and labor.

#### **I.1. The Inter-Ministerial Committee**

**The Inter-ministerial Committee set up by Decree No. 2011 - 365 of 3 November 2011, established the Inter-ministerial Committee to Fight Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor.**

It has a Technical Secretariat.

Its mission is to conceive, coordinate and ensure the implementation of programs and projects for the prohibition of child labor. In this respect, it is assigned to:

- Define and monitor the implementation of policies of the Government as part of national policy to fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor;
- Validate the various programs and projects implemented by partners to ensure their conformity with the national policy to fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor;
- Coordinate the activities of all players involved in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor;
- Assess the implementation of programs and projects related to the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor.

It is chaired by the Minister for Employment and Labor and its Vice President is the Minister of Women, Family, and Children.

It includes:

- A representative of the Prime Minister;
- A representative of the Minister for Justice;
- A representative of the Minister in charge of Territorial Administration;
- A representative of the Minister of Economy and Finance;
- A representative of the Minister in charge of National Education;
- A representative of the Minister in charge of Handicrafts;
- A representative of the Minister responsible for Agriculture;
- A representative of the Minister in charge of Technical Education;
- A representative of the Minister in charge of Human Rights;
- A representative of the Minister in charge of Communication;

- A representative of the Minister for Transport;
- A representative of the Minister responsible for Youth Development;
- A representative of the Minister Delegate for Defense.

## **I.2. The National Oversight Committee for Actions Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor**

The National Oversight Committee for Actions Against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor was established by **Decree No. 2011-366 of November 3, 2011**.

It is chaired by the First Lady of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, **Mrs. Dominique OUATTARA**.

It is composed of international and national organizations working in the field of child protection. They are:

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- The International Labor Organization (ILO);
- The NGO Save the Children International;
- The International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE);
- International Cocoa Initiative Foundation (ICI);
- The International Rescue Committee (IRC);
- The Council of Coffee and Cocoa;
- The Group of Exporters (GEPEX);
- Traders International Group (GNI);
- The General Union of Workers of Côte d'Ivoire (UGTCI);
- The National NGO Forum for assistance to children;
- The NGO Brotherhood without limits;
- Agricultural Cooperative KAVOKIVA of Upper Sassandra (CAKHS);
- Children of Africa Foundation.

In addition to these organizations, the National Oversight Committee has an Executive Secretariat.

The mission of the National Oversight Committee is to monitor and evaluate the actions of the Government in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor. In this respect, it is assigned to:

- Monitor the implementation of projects and programs of the Government in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor;
- Monitor the implementation of agreements on the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor;
- Initiate preventive measures against child trafficking, exploitation and labor;
- Make proposals to the Government for the abolition of child labor;
- Ensure the implementation of the policies of the Government as part of the national policy;
- Propose measures to support victims of the worst forms of child labor;
- Contribute to the educational and vocational reintegration of child laborers.

## **II-THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2012-2014**

### **II. 1 The Objectives**

#### II.1.1.The General Objective

The general objective of the plan is to contribute to a significant reduction of the worst forms of child labor by 2014.

#### II.1.2. The Specific Objectives

The specific objectives are defined according to the four (04) strategic areas of focus, identified within the 2012-2014 National Action Plan for the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor, which are: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Suppression, Monitoring and Evaluation.

### **II.2. The Strategic Areas of Intervention**

Interventions in the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor are organized around four (04) strategic areas of focus which are:

- **Strategic Focus 1: Prevention**

This area of focus includes three (03) specific objectives which are:

- To reinforce the legislative and regulatory framework of protection against child trafficking, exploitation and labor;
- To raise awareness and inform communities and social organizations about behavioral changes required to protect children against trafficking, exploitation and child labor;
- To reinforce the operational capacities of actors involved in the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor;

- **Strategic Focus 2: Protection**

This area of focus includes three (03) specific objectives which are:

- To improve children's access to education;
- To provide support for child victims of trafficking, exploitation and worst forms of child labor and their families;
- To strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor.

- **Strategic Focus 3: Prosecution and Punishment**

This area of focus includes two (02) objectives which are:

- To identify and prosecute perpetrators of child trafficking, exploitation, and worst forms of child labor;
- To strengthen regional police cooperation in the fight against child trafficking, exploitation and labor.

- **Strategic Focus 4: Monitoring and Evaluation**

This area of focus includes two (02) objectives which are:

- To implement the System of Observation and Monitoring of Child Labor in Côte d'Ivoire (SOSTECI);
- To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Action Plan.

### **III- MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM**

Poor coordination and reporting have been identified in the areas for improvement. Therefore, the government and its partners agree on the need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of interventions in the fight against trafficking, labor and the exploitation of children as a strategic area of focus.

Monitoring and evaluation will occur at two levels.

#### **III.1. The Inter-ministerial Committee's Mechanism for Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation activities to be implemented as part of this National Action Plan will build upon the System for Observation and Monitoring of Child Labor in Côte d'Ivoire (SOSTECI) through different actors at different levels.

##### III.1.1. The Players

- The Executive Secretariat provides central coordination with all ministries involved;
- Regional committees chaired by the Prefects that include all regional representatives of ministries that are members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, as well as representatives from unions, national and international actors;
- The departmental, sub-prefectural and village committees.

##### III.1.2. The Activities of the Inter-ministerial Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Monitoring and evaluation will be done through:

- Quarterly meetings by committee members;
- Supervisory field visits. They consist in data collection, analysis and report transmission;
- Preparation of annual reports to address the strengths and weaknesses of actions on the ground in order to improve in the future.

## **III.2. The National Oversight Committee's Mechanism for Monitoring and Evaluation**

### III.2.1. The Players

The National Oversight Committee will intervene through its Executive Secretariat and other members of the committee.

### III.2.2. The monitoring and evaluation activities of the National Oversight Committee

Monitoring activities will be done through:

- Monthly meetings of members of the National Oversight Committee;
- Semimonthly meetings between the Executive Secretaries of the National Oversight Committee and IMC;
- Monthly meetings between the National Oversight Committee and the IMC;
- Quarterly monitoring visits of field activities.

The evaluation will include:

- a mid-term review of implementation of the plan;
- a final review of the plan in late 2014;
- a national survey at the end of the implementation plan.

Ultimately, monitoring and evaluation activities performed by the different actors intervening in the fight against this phenomenon will allow a maximization of the results of the National Action Plan.

## **IV - BUDGET AND FUNDING**

### **IV.1. The Budget**

The total cost of planned activities within the framework of the implementation of this plan is 13,782,595,000 CFA for the period 2012-2014. The share of the Ivorian Government in the financing of this plan is 3.032 billion CFA francs, representing 22% of the budget.

It should be noted that this budget does not include operating expenses of the two committees ( the Inter-ministerial Committee and the National Oversight Committee ) which are entirely the responsibility of the State of Côte d'Ivoire.

In total, 10.750595 billion will be mobilized from partners and donors to ensure the implementation of the three year plan.

Priority actions to be undertaken in 2012 include among others:

#### **1. At the Level of Prevention**

- Capacity building of actors;
- Awareness raising of local populations;
- Creating a website to fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor.

#### **2. At the Level of Protection**

- Building two reception centers for victims of child trafficking, exploitation, and labor;
- Building and equipping 10 community education centers;



- Building two school canteens;
- Building and equipping two primary schools with six classrooms;
- Revitalizing 100 child protection and monitoring committees;
- Establishing Income Generating Activities (IGA) for victims, at-risk children , and their families;
- Building 10 health units;
- Establishing a free phone line for children in distress;
- Signing a bilateral agreement between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

### **3. At the Level of the Prosecution / Enforcement**

- Creating 2 police brigades for child protection;
- Conducting 4 police operations;
- Conducting 5 police patrols.

### **4. At the Level of Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Completion of SOSTECI tools;
- Conducting a feasibility study on the use of mobile phones for data collection;
- Initial training for National Oversight Committee members on monitoring and evaluation;
- Development of the Supervision Guide.

In total, the overall cost of activities for the year 2012 totals 3.864255 billion CFAF.

## IV.2. FUNDING

Summary Table of Activities and Funding of the National Action Plan 2012-2014 for the Fight Against Child Trafficking Exploitation and Labor

STRATEGIC AXES	BUDGET ESTIMATE (in millions of Francs)	ANNUAL COST		
		2012	2013	2014
<b>NATIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE</b>				
Prevention	1.018.915.000	371.925.000	319.945.000	327.045.000
Protection	370.000.000	170.000.000	140.000.000	60.000.000
Monitoring-Evaluation	516.000.000	289.000.000	146.000.000	81.000.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.904.915.000</b>	<b>830.925.000</b>	<b>605.945.000</b>	<b>468.045.000</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR THE NATIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FROM 2012-2014: 1. 904. 915. 000 F CFA</b>				
STRATEGIC AXES	BUDGET ESTIMATE (in millions of Francs)	ANNUAL COST		
		2012	2013	2014
<b>INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE</b>				
Prevention	3.338.680.000	1.152.330.000	1.504.045.000	682.305.000
Protection	7.254.000.000	1.478.000.000	3.338.000.000	2.438.000.000
Prosecution	687.500.000	153.500.000	292.000.000	242.000.000
Monitoring-Evaluation	597.500.000	249.500.000	224.000.000	124.000.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.877.680.000</b>	<b>3.033.330.000</b>	<b>5.358.045.000</b>	<b>3.486.305.000</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FROM 2012-2014: 11. 877. 680. 000 F CFA</b>				
<b>GENERAL TOTAL:</b>		<b>13. 782. 595. 000 F CFA</b>		
<b>Contribution of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire: 3. 032. 000. 000 F CFA</b>				
<b>Amount to be mobilized from partners:</b>		<b>10. 750. 595 F CFA</b>		

## **V-THE MATRIX OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2012-2014**

The strategic areas of focus and specific objectives are stated through activities contained in the attached matrix (Pages 29 to 66).

These activities progress over three years. This matrix contains the actions conducted by Inter-Ministerial Committee and those conducted by the National Oversight Committee for Actions against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor.

## CONCLUSION

At the end of the process of development of this National Action Plan 2012-2014, it is worth noting that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, aware of the size and harmful effects of Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor has made the fight against this phenomenon a national priority.

The results of surveys and the evaluation of activities carried out over the last ten years have enabled us to capitalize achievements in some areas. However, it must be recognized that weaknesses persist and need to be corrected. Therefore, this plan, which aims to significantly reduce the phenomenon, is built around fundamental strategic areas of focus that are the keystone of the policy of the Fight against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor.

From this perspective, the Inter-Ministerial Committee, whose main task is to coordinate and ensure the implementation of programs and projects for the prohibition of child labor, deserves collective commitment.

And the National Oversight Committee whose main function is to monitor and evaluate the Government's actions in the fight against Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labor, will constitute without any doubt a guarantee of transparency, good governance and confidence between the State and its development partners.

This plan, developed with the support of all the players involved in this issue, is a national response to this scourge.

Therefore, it is imperative for all the players to work from now on within the strict framework of the guidelines and specific objectives determined in this document.

Cooperation within the national framework is the prerequisite for success in significantly reducing the complicated issue of Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Labor in Côte d'Ivoire.