

In 2018, Côte d'Ivoire made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government developed a new 2018–2020 National Action Plan of the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor, and drafted a National Labor Inspection Strategy. The First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire signed a memorandum of understanding for carrying out applied research on child labor in cocoa-growing areas, and opened a child protection center that houses and provides education, medical care, counseling, and vocational training to victims of child labor. The government also took enforcement actions against violations of the worst forms of child labor, including sentencing a child trafficker to 3 years in prison. However, children in Côte d'Ivoire engage in the worst forms of child labor in the harvesting of cocoa and coffee, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Gaps remain in resources, personnel, and training for law enforcement, which hindered child labor law enforcement efforts. Furthermore, the labor inspectorate is not authorized to assess penalties.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Côte d'Ivoire engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in the harvesting of cocoa and coffee, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. (1-3) According to a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in 2016, 21.5 percent of children ages 5–17 are engaged in hazardous work. (4) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Côte d'Ivoire. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	31.5 (1,682,754)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	63.5
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	21.5
Primary Completion Rate (%)		73.1

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2017, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2019. (5)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Enquête Démographique et de Santé (EDSCI-III) Survey, 2011–2012. (6)

Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children's work by sector and activity.

Table 2. Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Production of cocoa, including burning† and clearing fields;† cutting down trees† to expand cocoa plantations; spraying pesticides;† harvesting, drying, and fermenting cocoa beans; using sharp tools to break pods;† and transporting heavy loads† of cocoa pods and water (1,2,7-13)
	Production of cereals, pineapple, bananas, and coffee, including applying chemical fertilizers,† spraying pesticides,† cutting down trees,† and burning† and clearing fields† (1,14,15)
	Production of palm oil, cashews, honey, and rubber (2,7,16)
	Fishing, including deep sea diving;† repairing and hauling nets; cleaning,† salting, drying, descaling, and selling fish (2,14)
	Production of charcoal† (1,2,13)
	Forestry (7)

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Table 2. Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity (Cont.)

Sector/Industry	Activity
Industry	Mining,† including crushing and transporting stones, blasting rocks, digging, working underground, sieving, and extracting gold with mercury or cyanide (2,12,14,16,18-20)
	Manufacturing, including repairing automobiles (14,16,21)
	Construction,† activities unknown (14)
Services	Domestic work (4,12,14,15,22,23)
	Working in transportation and carrying goods† (1,2,12,14,16)
	Street vending and commerce (1,7,12,14,16)
	Work in restaurants (21)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Forced labor in mining, carpentry, construction, domestic work, street vending, restaurants, and agriculture, including in the production of cocoa, coffee, pineapple, cotton, and rubber, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (1,3,9,16,23-25)
	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (3,16,23)
	Use in illicit activities, including drug trafficking (15)
	Forced begging as talibés by Koranic teachers, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (15,19,21,26)

† Determined by national law or regulation as hazardous and, as such, relevant to Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182.

‡ Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor per se under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182.







Children from Côte d'Ivoire are subjected to human trafficking for forced labor in domestic work within the country and North Africa. Children are also brought from neighboring West African countries to Côte d'Ivoire for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor, including in begging, cocoa production, and artisanal mining. (1,3,10,15,16,22) In 2018, there were reports of child trafficking from Nigeria to mining regions, especially in northern Côte d'Ivoire, for commercial sexual exploitation. (21) IOM indicates that some Ivorian parents send their boys to Tunisia so they can play soccer, but upon arrival, the boys' identity documents are confiscated and they are subject to forced labor until they can repay the cost of their plane ticket. (27)

School is mandatory for children ages 6 to 16 in Côte d'Ivoire. Although the Law on Education provides for free education, students are often required to pay for textbooks, school fees, or uniforms, which may be prohibitive to some families. (7,15,27-29) In addition, identity documents are required for students to take exams to enter secondary school, and the lack of these documents hindered some students' ability to access secondary education. (7) Approximately 23 percent of primary school-aged children and 41 percent of secondary-school aged children in Côte d'Ivoire are not enrolled in school, with the highest rates of non-enrollment found in the North, Northwest, and West regions. (4,29) A shortage of teachers, poor school infrastructure, lack of transportation systems in rural areas, and inadequate sanitation facilities have negatively impacted children's ability to attend school. (7) Research also suggests that some students are physically and sexually abused at school, which may deter some students from attending school. (29,30)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Côte d'Ivoire has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

Convention	Ratification
 ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
 ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
 UN CRC	✓
 UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
 UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

In 2017, the government ratified the UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and in June 2018, the Ministry of Interior and Security passed a law on the illegal trafficking of migrants. (31,32-34)

The government's laws and regulations are in line with relevant international standards (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	16	Article 23.2 of the Labor Code; Article 16 of the Constitution (35,36)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 4 of the Prohibitions of Hazardous Work List (37)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Articles 5–11 of the Prohibitions of Hazardous Work List; Articles 6 and 19 of the Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law (37,38)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 5 of the Constitution; Articles 7, 11–14, 20–23, and 26 of the Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law; Article 3 of the Labor Code (35,36,38)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Article 5 of the Constitution; Articles 11–12, 20–22, and 26 of the Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law; Article 370 of the Penal Code; Articles 4.4 and 6 of the Anti-Trafficking Law (35,38-40)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 8–9, 15, and 24–29 of the Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law; Articles 4.4 and 6 of the Anti-Trafficking Law (37,38,40)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Articles 4 and 30 of the Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law (38)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 56.4 of the Armed Forces Code; Articles 7–8 and 18 of the Law Determining the Conditions for Entering the Military (41,42)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes*		Article 56.4 of the Armed Forces Code (41)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Articles 4 and 31 of the Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law (38)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16	Article 10 of the Constitution; Article 2.1 of the Law on Education (35,43,44)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 2 of the Law on Education (44)

* No conscription (32,42,45)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor (Table 5). However, gaps exist within the authority of the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection (MEPS) that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Employment and Social Protection (MEPS)	Develops, proposes, and enforces all labor laws, including those related to child labor. (30,46) Collaborates with the Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) and Ministry of Women, Family, and Children to provide support to victims of child trafficking and other forms of child labor. (15,22) Implements the child labor monitoring system, <i>Système d'Observation et de Suivi du Travail des Enfants en Côte d'Ivoire</i> (SOSTECI), which enables communities to collect and analyze statistical data on the worst forms of child labor. (12,14)
Ministry of Interior and Security	Through its ATU, leads efforts to enforce criminal laws against child trafficking. Through its <i>Mondaine</i> Brigades, combats commercial sexual exploitation, including exploitation of children. (3,32) Through its Unit for Combating Transnational Organized Crime, supports UNODC's West Africa Coast Initiative, which aims to improve cross-border cooperation to combat crimes, including human trafficking. (32,47)

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Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement (Cont.)

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Defense	Through its National Gendarmes Force, investigates child labor violations in rural areas where there is no police presence. (15)
Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	Investigates and prosecutes crimes related to child labor, including its worst forms. Through its Directorate of Judicial Protection of Childhood and Youth, assists with investigations and implements the ministry's child protection policy. (15)
Ministry of Women, Family, and Children (MFFE)	Leads the government's efforts to combat human trafficking and implements a National Policy on Child Protection. (7,48) Maintains the 116 Allo hotline for child labor issues, and responds to complaints. (15,49) Provides support to child labor victims in coordination with MEPS. (15,50)
National Commission of Human Rights	Maintains a hotline for reporting human rights abuses. (51)

In 2018, the Directorate of Child Protection of the Ministry of Women, Family, and Children identified 16 girls from Niger between ages of 15 and 17 who were being used as prostitutes. The girls were rescued and repatriated to Niger. (7) The General Labor Directorate in Abidjan coordinates the regional offices and their efforts to combat child labor. (15,52)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2018, labor law enforcement agencies in Côte d'Ivoire took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the MEPS that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including human resource allocation and authority to assess penalties for violations.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$329,600 (15)	\$416,171 (7)
Number of Labor Inspectors	259 (15)	292 (7)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (36)	No (7)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (15)	Yes (7)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (15,52)	Yes (7)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (15)	Yes (7)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	969 (52)	2,352 (53)
Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown (15)	Unknown (7)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	0 (15)	0 (7)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	N/A (15)	N/A (7)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	N/A (15)	N/A (7)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (15)	Yes (7)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Unknown (15)	Yes (7)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (36)	Yes (7)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (15)	Yes (7)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (15)	Yes (7)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (15)	Yes (7)

During the reporting period, the government hired and provided training to 33 new labor inspectors. (7) The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Côte d'Ivoire's workforce, which includes more than 8.5 million workers. (54) According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies, Côte d'Ivoire would employ about 567 labor inspectors. (54,55) Labor inspectors are also tasked with dispute conciliation, which may detract from their primary duties of inspection. (36,56) The government did not provide information on the number of labor inspections conducted at worksites for inclusion in this report.

The labor inspectorate suffers from a lack of resources, including insufficient staff, office facilities, and transportation. (15,17,30,56,57) As a result, inspectors primarily receive and resolve complaints, focusing on the formal sector. (56) In 2018, inspections took place in the informal sector, although no cases of child labor were identified. (53)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2018, criminal law enforcement agencies in Côte d'Ivoire took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of the criminal enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including training for criminal investigators and financial resource allocation.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (15)	Yes (7)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (58)	Yes (7)
Refresher Courses Provided	No (15)	Yes (7)
Number of Investigations	42 (52)	191 (7)
Number of Violations Found	42 (52)	7 (7)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	17 (52)	87 (7)
Number of Convictions	4 (32)	79 (7)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (7)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (15,50)	Yes (7)

During the reporting period, police identified 7 infractions of child labor laws relating to trafficking and rescued 79 children. The MOJ is examining three individuals associated with these infractions, which are being heard as cases of economic and sexual exploitation of children. (7,21) All 79 children were received by or referred to the child and youth judiciary protection unit of the court. (7)

In June 2018, the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, on behalf of the National Monitoring Committee on Actions to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor (CNS), opened a child protection center in Soubré, which houses and provides education, medical care, counseling, and vocational training to victims of child labor. (7,59) In December 2018, nine Burkinabe boys ages 14 to 18 who had been subjected to child trafficking as part of a gold mining operation were rescued and referred to the Soubré shelter before being repatriated to Burkina Faso. The trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in prison. (21)

In 2018, 3 new police officers received training on identifying victims of child trafficking. (21) However, the Anti-Trafficking Unit lacks the resources and personnel to adequately enforce criminal child labor laws throughout the country, and research indicates that criminal law enforcement officials may benefit from additional training on existing laws related to the worst forms of child labor. (3,10,51,60)

In October 2018, a 14-year old female trafficking victim was allegedly abducted at gunpoint by five *gendarmes* and two military firefighters, including the victim's trafficker, from an NGO-run shelter where she was receiving care. The UNODC and the First Lady's Office intervened and located the girl, who was determined to be safe. (21,61) Investigations and judicial proceedings against the alleged abductors were ongoing at the end of the reporting period. (61)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist that hinder the effective coordination of efforts to address child labor, including coordination among agencies.

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Table 8. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor (Cont.)

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Monitoring Committee on Actions to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor (CNS)	Supervises, monitors, and evaluates all government activities related to child labor and child trafficking, including making policy recommendations and harmonizing laws with international conventions. (62,63) Chaired by the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire and comprises 16 international and domestic partners. (22,62,64) In July 2018, CNS hosted the eighth annual Child Labor Cocoa Coordinating Group (CLCCG) Principals Meeting which was held for the first time in Abidjan. (65)
Interministerial Committee on the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor (CIM)	Designs, coordinates, and implements all government actions to combat the worst forms of child labor, and monitors relevant programs implemented by partner organizations. (49,62,64,66) Chaired by MEPS, includes representatives from 12 other ministries. (22,62,64,66) In March 2018, representatives of CIM participated in a workshop on the implementation of SOSTECL. (67)
National Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking (CNLTP)	Formed in support of the 2016 Anti-Trafficking Law and chaired by the Prime Minister, aims to fight human trafficking throughout Côte d'Ivoire. Oversees the implementation of the National Action Plan and Strategy Against Human Trafficking, validates programs, coordinates government efforts, and monitors implementation of all projects related to human trafficking. (68) Includes representation at the local level through dedicated units charged with implementing the National Action Plan and Strategy Against Human Trafficking. (68,69) MFFE serves as the executive secretariat and the committee comprises 13 ministries. This committee replaces a previous committee by the same name, which was defunct. (15) As of February 2018, this committee had not convened since its establishment in April 2017, although it has worked together informally to resolve some cases of human trafficking. (32)

In May 2018, as part of a bilateral agreement between Côte d'Ivoire and Mali to combat cross-border child trafficking, the Office of the First Lady coordinated meetings with Malian counterparts to discuss best practices and assess the implementation of anti-trafficking efforts. (70) In 2018, the CLCCG organized awareness campaigns in Abidjan on the worst forms of child labor that reached more than 800 people and trained 126 members of Child Protection Committees in San Pedro and M'batto on the implementation of the *Système d'Observation et de Suivi du Travail des Enfants en Côte d'Ivoire* (SOSTECL). (70) Government ministries coordinated effectively during the reporting period, and platforms bring together government offices and civil society members at the departmental and regional level to address issues of child labor. However, coordination on data collection among ministries and between different regions remains a challenge. (15)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established policies related to child labor (Table 9). However, policy gaps exist that hinder efforts to address child labor, including funding and mainstreaming child labor issues into relevant policies.

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Action Plan for the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor (2019–2021)†	Coordinated by CNS and CIM, approximately \$243 million project aimed to significantly reduce the number of children engaged in the worst forms of child labor by building on best practices and improving upon lessons learned from earlier National Action Plan implementation. Priorities include increasing efforts to mobilize resources at the national level, reinforcing regional cooperation and public-private partnerships, incorporating worst forms of child labor considerations into national and sector-specific programming, and reinforcing the monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy for the fight against trafficking and the worst forms of child labor. (53,71)
National Action Plan and Strategy Against Human Trafficking (2016–2020)	With the support of UNODC and coordinated by CNLTP, \$14.8 million project that aims to prevent human trafficking, expand social services for victims by improving physical infrastructure, provide training for law enforcement personnel and other stakeholders, promote coordination, and collect data on human trafficking. (72,73) This plan will begin implementation after the CNLTP becomes functional. (32)
2010 Declaration of Joint Action to Support the Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol (2010 Declaration) and Its Accompanying Framework of Action	Joint declaration by the Governments of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and the United States, and the International Cocoa and Chocolate Industry. (49,74,75) Provides resources and coordinates with key stakeholders on efforts to reduce the worst forms of child labor in cocoa-producing areas. Ensures that all project efforts implemented under the Declaration and Framework align with Côte d'Ivoire's national action plans to promote coherence and sustainability. (49,74,75) USDOL-funded projects and some industry-funded projects carried out activities that support the spirit of this policy during the reporting period. (49)

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor (Cont.)

Policy	Description
Partnership Agreement	Forms an agreement between the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) and CNS in support of the National Action Plan for the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor. Aims to reinforce and expand SOSTECI and improve school infrastructure. (76,77) In 2018, ICI conducted a mapping of schools built in cocoa-growing areas, and presented the research at the CLCCG meeting held in July 2018. Also during the reporting period, ICI supported the harmonization of SOSTECI data tools. (31)
Joint Declarations Against Cross-Border Trafficking	Bilateral declarations or cooperative agreements with Ghana and Burkina Faso to combat child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor. (78-81) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Joint Declarations Against Cross-Border Trafficking during the reporting period.
Child Protection Policies	Includes the National Policy on Child Protection (2014–2018), led by MFFE, which seeks to reduce the incidence of violence, abuse, and exploitation of children; and the National Policy of Judicial Protection of Childhood and Youth (2016–2020), led by MOJ, which aims to provide judicial protection to child victims of forced labor and has yet to be officially adopted by the Council of Ministers. (82,83) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Child Protection Policies during the reporting period.
National Development Plan (2016–2020)	Aims to improve governance and accelerate human capital development, including by combatting child labor. Allocates almost \$6.1 million over 5 years to conduct diagnostic studies on child labor and child trafficking; creates a unit in regional labor inspectorate offices to combat the worst forms of child labor; expands SOSTECI into 10 new departments; constructs 3 child protection centers; and develops a national action plan to combat human trafficking, particularly of girls. (84) During the reporting period, construction began on the Bouake and Ferkessédougou children's protection centers. Also during the reporting period, the government evaluated the efficacy of the SOSTECI model to determine best practices for 2019 expansion efforts. (31)
Compulsory Education Policy	In support of the Law on Education, aims to achieve 100 percent enrollment in primary school by 2020 and 100 percent enrollment in junior high by 2025. (27,85) Allocates \$1.34 billion to modernize the education system, including by building new classrooms, providing free textbooks to low-income families, and providing additional pedagogical training to teachers. (27) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Compulsory Education Policy during the reporting period.
Decent Work Country Program (2017–2020)	In collaboration with ILO, aims to improve working conditions, strengthen SOSTECI, and combat the worst forms of child labor. (58,86) Pending adoption by the Council of Ministers. (32) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Decent Work Country Program during the reporting period.

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

‡ The government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (28,29)

In February 2018, the First Lady of Cote d'Ivoire, on behalf of the CNS, signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago (NORC) establishing a formal framework for carrying out applied research on child labor in cocoa-growing areas of Cote d'Ivoire. In February and September 2018, the government participated in workshops on the methodology of the 2018–2019 survey being conducted by NORC on the prevalence of child labor in cocoa-growing areas of Cote d'Ivoire. (7,59) In March 2018, MEPS organized an implementation workshop on SOSTECI that was attended by 70 participants. (67) An international conference on the implementation of SOSTECI was held in December 2018. (7) Also during the reporting period, the government developed a draft Labor Inspection Strategy through MEPS, with assistance from the ILO, which is expected to be enacted in 2019. The strategy aims to enable the government to ensure the application of legal provisions for the improvement of working conditions and the removal of children from work through the inspection of worksites, counseling, and monitoring. (7,31,53)

The government has not included child labor elimination and prevention strategies in the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework. (87)

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VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2018, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including adequacy of programs to address the full scope of the problem in all sectors.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
USDOL-Funded Projects	USDOL projects in cocoa-growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana that aim to eliminate child labor through research, improved monitoring and enforcement, and implementation and expansion of SOSTECI. These projects include: Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (CLEAR) (2013–2019), \$7.95 million project implemented in at least 10 countries by ILO; Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers: SafeYouth@Work (2014–2019), \$11,443,156 global project implemented by ILO with Côte d'Ivoire as one of 8 countries; Assessing Progress in Reducing Child Labor in Cocoa-Growing Areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana (2015–2019), \$3 million project implemented by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago; and Eliminating Child Labor in Cocoa (2015–2019), \$4.5 million project implemented by ICI. (88-90) Additional information is available on the USDOL website.
Industry-Funded Projects	Industry-funded projects to increase sustainability in the cocoa sector; improve farmer livelihoods and access to education, and combat the worst forms of child labor in cocoa-growing areas. Some projects support World Cocoa Foundation's CocoaAction (2014–2020) strategy and the spirit of the 2010 Declaration. (49,91) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement industry-funded projects during the reporting period.
Centers for Vulnerable Children†	The government operates approximately 90 MFFE- and MEPS-funded social centers and 36 special education centers throughout the country that receive women and children who are victims of crime or violence, including children who are victims of the worst forms of child labor. (32) International NGOs also operate additional centers that provide meals and basic education. (73) In June 2018, the government began constructing centers in Bouake and Ferkessédougou. Between August and November 2018, the Soubré center spent \$32,838 to provide care to 42 children ages 6 to 16 who were victims of trafficking and exploitation. (70)
Programs to Promote Education†	These programs aim to raise school attendance rates in rural areas, particularly among girls, by providing school meals, facilitating birth registration, and constructing community schools (écoles de proximité). Programs include: the Integrated Program for Sustainable School Feeding, \$42.5 million WFP-funded program; the Ministry of National Education School Feeding Program; and the McGovern-Dole School Feeding Program, \$35.6 million joint initiative between WFP and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Ministry of National Education that benefits 129,000 school children. (16,72,92-94) In 2018, these program facilitated the construction of 23 schools with 69 classrooms, 84 teacher housing units, 13 canteens, and 112 latrines in primary schools. (7,70)
World Bank-Funded Projects	Programs aim to improve access to education and provide poverty relief. Include: Second Fiscal Management, Education, Energy and Cocoa Reforms Development Policy Operation (2017–2020), \$125 million project to increase the number of primary school teachers; and Productive Social Safety Net (2015–2020), \$50 million cash transfer project to poor households in the Central, Northern, and Western regions of Côte d'Ivoire. (95,96) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement World Bank-funded projects during the reporting period.
Community Animation Program for Child Protection (2015–2020)†	\$228,168 MFFE program as part of the National Policy on Child Protection, implemented with technical assistance from UNICEF, provides a service package for behavior change and improving communication at the community level that can be tailored to meet local needs. (97-99) During the reporting period, conducted sensitizations in Abidjan and Yopougon on topics related to combating the worst forms of child labor. (70)
National Solidarity Fund†	\$2.5 million fund that provides assistance to poor households, including victims of human trafficking. (51,100) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the National Solidarity Fund during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (101-103)

In March 2018, the government held an evaluation workshop on the implementation of the 2015-2017 National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labor (NAP). This workshop was used to inform the development of the new 2018–2020 National Action Plan. (70) The government dedicated funding to SOSTECI for its expansion and disbursed funds to the NAP, but the scope of existing programs is insufficient to fully address the extent of the problem, and not all relevant sectors are addressed. (15) In addition, the government primarily relies on NGOs to provide social services to victims of child labor and child trafficking, and government

services are under-resourced. (3,16,104) In 2018, due to a lack of financial transparency, UNICEF suspended a program implemented in 2017 in conjunction with MOJ that aimed to provide birth registration to 600,000 children who are currently enrolled in primary school. (7)

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor in Côte d'Ivoire (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Strengthen the labor inspectorate by authorizing the Inspectorate to assess penalties.	2014 – 2018
	Publish information about whether inspections are conducted at worksites.	2016 – 2018
	Ensure that labor inspectorates and criminal law enforcement agencies receive a sufficient amount of funding to conduct inspections and investigations throughout the country, including in the informal sector.	2014 – 2018
	Ensure that criminal law enforcement agencies receive the resources, personnel, and training needed to adequately enforce child labor laws.	2018
	Increase the number of labor inspectors to meet the ILO's technical advice.	2009 – 2018
Coordination	Ensure that all coordinating bodies function as intended and are able to carry out their mandates.	2017 – 2018
	Improve coordination on data collection among ministries and between different regions	2012-2018
Government Policies	Ensure that existing policies are implemented as intended.	2018
	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into all relevant policies.	2013 – 2018
Social Programs	Improve access to education by eliminating all school-related fees; improving the accessibility of schools; ensuring that schools are free of physical and sexual abuse; and increasing the number of teachers, sanitation facilities, and schools, particularly in rural areas.	2011 – 2018
	Ensure that social programs to address child labor are implemented in accordance with their mandates.	2018
	Expand existing programs to address the scope of the child labor problem in Côte d'Ivoire and institute programs to address child labor in all relevant sectors.	2009 – 2018
	Ensure that victims of the worst forms of child labor are able to access social services throughout the country.	2015 – 2018

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