

In 2016, Côte d'Ivoire made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government enacted the Anti-Trafficking Law that carries more stringent penalties for offenders and adopted a Constitution that explicitly prohibits child labor and enshrines the right to education for both boys and girls. The National School of Administration integrated new modules on child labor into the curriculum for labor inspectors. With the assistance of UNICEF, the Government published a report on the expansion of its child labor monitoring system, SOSTECI, that included child labor prevalence data in three departments. In addition, the First Ladies of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire signed a joint declaration and cooperative agreement against cross-border human trafficking. The Government also launched a Ten-Year Education Training Plan and entered a partnership agreement with the International Cocoa Initiative to expand SOSTECI and improve school infrastructure in support of the National Action Plan for the Fight Against the Worst Forms of Child Labor. 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 enforcement efforts, and 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.(1-6) According to a report by Tulane University published in 2015 that assessed data collected during the 2013–2014 harvest season, the cocoa sector employed an estimated 1,203,473 child laborers ages 5 to 17, of which 95.9 percent were engaged in hazardous work in cocoa production.(7) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Côte d'Ivoire.

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 (%)		63.0

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2015, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016.(8)

Source for all other data: Enquête Démographique et de Santé en Côte d'Ivoire (EDSCI-III) Survey, 2011–2012.(9)

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 (3-7, 10-12)
	Production of cereals, pineapple, bananas, and coffee, including applying chemical fertilizers, [†] spraying pesticides, [†] cutting down trees, [†] and burning [†] and clearing fields (3, 4, 13, 14)
	Production of palm oil, honey, [†] and rubber (4, 6, 15)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Fishing, including deep sea diving;† repairing and hauling nets; cleaning, salting, drying, descaling, and selling fish (6, 14-16)
	Livestock raising and slaughtering† (15, 16)
	Production of charcoal† (3, 6, 15)
Industry	Mining, including crushing† and transporting stones,† blasting rocks,† working underground,† mining for diamonds, and extracting gold with chemicals† (6, 10, 13-15, 17-20)
	Manufacturing, including repairing,† lubricating,† or cleaning machinery while in operation† (14, 15)
	Construction, activities unknown (14)
Services	Domestic work† (10, 13, 14, 21, 22)
	Working in transportation, carrying goods,† and washing cars (3, 6, 10, 13, 14)
	Street vending and commerce (3, 10, 13, 14)
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 (2-4, 11, 16, 22-25)
	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2, 22, 26)
	Use in illicit activities, including drug trafficking (10)
	Forced begging by Koranic teachers, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (18, 26, 27)

† 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 are subjected to human trafficking within Côte d'Ivoire and are taken from Côte d'Ivoire for exploitation in other countries. Increasingly, girls from Côte d'Ivoire are subjected to human trafficking in the Middle East for forced labor in domestic work or brought from Nigeria to Côte d'Ivoire for commercial sexual exploitation.(2, 26, 28) Children from neighboring West African countries are brought to Côte d'Ivoire primarily for forced labor in agriculture, especially in cocoa production, and for forced begging and work in mining, construction, domestic work, street vending, and commercial sexual exploitation.(2, 3, 5, 12, 21, 26) A study by the ILO and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in 2013 estimated that 55 percent of children working in agriculture in rural areas are subject to forced labor.(3)

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.(16, 29-34) An estimated 2 million children ages 6 to 15 are not enrolled in school in Côte d'Ivoire, with the highest rates of non-enrollment found in the North, Northwest, and West regions.(34) The Government constructed 19,249 new classrooms between 2011 and 2016, but a lack of teachers, transportation, sanitation facilities, and schools, particularly in rural areas, remains. Research also suggests that some students are physically and sexually abused at school, which may deter some students from attending school.(10, 16, 20, 30, 34-43)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF 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	✓

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Côte d'Ivoire's legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	16	Article 23.2 of the Labor Code; Article 16 of the Constitution (44, 45)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 2 of the Hazardous Work List (46)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Articles 3–12 of the Hazardous Work List; Articles 6 and 19 of the Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law (9, 46)
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 (9, 44, 45)
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 (9, 45, 47, 48)
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 (9, 48)
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 (9)
Minimum Age for Military Recruitment			
State Compulsory	Yes*	18	Article 82 of the Armed Forces Code (49)
State Voluntary	Yes	18	Articles 2, 8, and 116 of the Armed Forces Code; Articles 7, 8, and 18 of the Law Determining the Conditions for Entering the Military (49, 50)
Non-state Compulsory	Yes	18	Articles 4 and 31 of the Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law (9)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16	Article 10 of the Constitution; Article 2.1 of the Law on Education (45, 51)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 2 of the Law on Education (51, 52)

* No conscription (50, 53, 54)

In December 2016, the Government adopted the Anti-Trafficking Law that supplements the 2010 Prohibition of Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Law. The new law includes tougher penalties and formalizes victim protection and assistance measures.(28, 48) The Government also adopted a Constitution by referendum, which explicitly prohibits child labor and enshrines the right to education for both boys and girls.(45, 55) A draft law providing greater protection to domestic workers is also under consideration. This law would allow labor inspectors to inspect private homes for labor violations.(56)

The existing hazardous work list is not comprehensive, as it does not prohibit children from using dangerous equipment or tools in the cocoa sector. However, an updated hazardous work list drafted in 2016 is currently under consideration and prohibits the use of machetes and other sharp tools. A new bylaw that determines the activities, number of hours and conditions under which light work may be permitted is also under consideration.(57-59)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 5). However, gaps in labor law and criminal law enforcement remain and some enforcement information is not available.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Employment and Social Protection (MEPS)	Enforce labor laws.(10) Implement the child labor monitoring system, <i>Système d'Observation et de Suivi du Travail des Enfants en Côte d'Ivoire</i> (SOSTECL), which enables communities to collect and analyze statistical data on the worst forms of child labor.(1, 14, 60, 61) Through its Direction of the Fight Against Child Labor, develop, monitor, and enforce laws related to child labor and collaborate with the Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) on cases of child trafficking.(21, 26, 30) In 2016, changed its name from the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Professional Training (MESAPT).(10)
Ministry of Interior and Security	Through its ATU, leads efforts to enforce criminal laws against the worst forms of child labor.(2, 10, 62, 63) Through its <i>Mondaine</i> Brigades, combat commercial sexual exploitation, including exploitation of children.(28)
Ministry of Justice	Investigate and prosecute crimes related to child labor, including its worst forms.(10)
Ministry of Women, Child Protection, and Solidarity (MWCPS)	Lead the Government's efforts to combat human trafficking and implement a National Policy on Child Protection.(26, 28, 53, 64, 65) Maintain a hotline for child labor issues, and respond to complaints.(26, 28, 31, 53, 64, 66)
National Commission of Human Rights (CNDHCI)	Maintain a hotline for reporting human rights abuses. From June to December 2016, received 264 calls, resulting in the identification of at least 1 case of child trafficking.(67)

Coordination among Government ministries on criminal law enforcement is inefficient, causing delays in delivering assistance to victims of human trafficking.(2, 26)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2016, labor law enforcement agencies in Côte d'Ivoire took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$273,385 (53)	\$300,842 (10)
Number of Labor Inspectors	259 (64)	259 (10)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (44)	No (44)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (66)	N/A (63, 66)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (53)	No (10)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (64)	Yes (63)
Number of Labor Inspections	596 (64)	739‡ (10)
Number Conducted at Worksite	596 (64)	739‡ (10)
Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	0 (64)	0‡ (10)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	0 (64)	0‡ (10)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	N/A (64)	N/A (10)
Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	N/A (64)	N/A (10)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (53)	Unknown (10)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Unknown (53, 64)	Unknown (10)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (44)	Yes (10)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (64)	Yes (10)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (64, 68)	Yes (10)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (69)	Yes (10)

‡ Data are from January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

New modules on child labor were integrated into the National School of Administration's curriculum following the adoption of the 2015 Labor Code. These modules were used to train 46 candidates who are expected to graduate in 2017 and begin work as labor inspectors in 2018; 36 are expected to graduate at the end of the 2016–2017 school year.(43, 63, 67) However, the number of labor inspectors will still be insufficient for the size of the Côte d'Ivoire's workforce, which includes over 8 million workers.(70) According to the ILO recommendation of 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies, Côte d'Ivoire should employ about 541 inspectors.(70-72)

Although the labor inspectorate received a 10 percent increase from its 2015 budget, a lack of resources, including insufficient staff, office facilities, and transportation, hampers the labor inspectorate's capacity to enforce child labor laws.(10, 13, 16, 30, 64, 73, 74) Research found that as a result of a lack of authority to assess penalties for labor violations, some labor inspectors fail to document identified child labor violations due to the perceived futility of doing so, given the limited capacity of law enforcement to investigate reported violations and the frequency of inspection findings not being reported to the courts.(16, 30, 69, 75) Although most inspections focus on formal sector establishments, in 2015 the government implemented a pilot project to conduct more labor inspections in the informal sector, where the majority of child labor is found.(10, 74) The Government is evaluating how this pilot project can be scaled up.(10)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2016, criminal law enforcement agencies in Côte d'Ivoire took actions to combat the worst forms of child labor (Table 7).

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (64, 68)	Yes (64)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A (64)	Yes (10)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (76)	Yes (10)
Number of Investigations	27 (68, 77)	20 (28)
Number of Violations Found	59 (53, 64)	64 (78)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown (68)	18 (28)
Number of Convictions	Unknown (64)	8 (28)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (64, 77)	Yes (10)

In 2016, the National Police's Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) received a budget of \$4,592, a decrease of approximately 30 percent from its 2015 budget.(10, 67) The ATU employed 13 Abidjan-based investigators to enforce laws related to the worst forms of child labor. The ATU has acknowledged that it lacks adequate staff and relies on regional police forces to enforce criminal child labor laws throughout the country.(2, 28, 64, 77) In addition, research indicates that laws on the worst forms of child labor may not be well understood by criminal law enforcement officials, impeding their ability to carry out effective enforcement.(12, 13, 28, 79) To improve knowledge of children's rights, including child labor, the Government provided training to 144 law enforcement officials during the reporting period.(10)

Insufficient monitoring of movement along the borders makes it difficult to detect cases of human trafficking. The Ministry of Interior and Security is reviewing a proposal by IOM to double the number of official border crossings and implement improved surveillance.(77) However, between May 2015 and November 2016, the Ministry of Interior and Security's *Mondaine* Brigade conducted several operations to rescue 116 Nigerian women and girls trafficked to Côte d'Ivoire for commercial sexual exploitation. Law enforcement officials arrested 36 Nigerian traffickers as a result of these operations, and 5 were sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment.(26)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 8).

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Monitoring Committee on Actions to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor (CNS)	Supervise, monitor, and evaluate all government activities related to child labor and child trafficking, including making policy recommendations and harmonizing laws with international conventions.(80, 81) Chaired by the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire and comprises 14 international and domestic partners.(21, 62, 80, 82) In 2016, with the assistance of UNICEF, published a report on the expansion of SOSTECI that included prevalence data from three departments on child labor.(28)

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Interministerial Committee on the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor (CIM)	Design, coordinate, and implement all government actions to combat the worst forms of child labor, and monitor relevant programs implemented by partner organizations.(80, 82, 83) Chaired by MEPS, includes representatives from 13 other ministries.(21, 80, 82, 83) In 2016, in collaboration with CNS, hosted a meeting between the First Ladies of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire that resulted in a joint declaration and cooperative agreement against cross-border trafficking.(84, 85)
National Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking and Child Exploitation (CNLTdP)	Dedicated to combatting child trafficking and chaired by MWCPS.(56, 63, 69) In 2016, received an operating budget of \$10,210.(10) Research was unable to determine whether the committee was active in 2016.(43)

Although the National Monitoring Committee on Actions to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor (CNS) and Interministerial Committee on the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labor (CIM) coordinate strategic-level efforts, operational progress is hindered by a lack of coordination among the various ministries, which some NGOs and companies have also noted. The lack of coordination among ministries can also result in disjointed or duplicated efforts.(1, 13, 28, 56) The new Anti-Trafficking Law provides for the creation of a National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, expected to be created in 2017.(10, 28)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 9).

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor[†]

Policy	Description
<u>2010 Declaration of Joint Action to Support the Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol</u> (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.(60, 86, 87) Provides resources and coordinates with key stakeholders on efforts to reduce the worst forms of child labor in cocoa-producing areas.(86, 87) 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.(60, 86, 87) <u>USDOL-funded projects</u> and some industry-funded projects carried out activities in support of this policy during the reporting period.(88)
Partnership Agreement [‡]	Forms an agreement between the International Cocoa Initiative and CNS in support of the National Action Plan for the Fight Against the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Aims to reinforce and expand SOSTECL and improve school infrastructure.(85, 89)
Joint Declarations Against Cross-Border Trafficking [†]	In 2016, promulgated a bilateral declaration and cooperative agreement that Côte d'Ivoire signed with Ghana to combat the worst forms of child labor by targeting high-risk child labor sectors, providing protection to victims, improving coordination, and prosecuting offenders.(90-92) Also enacted a bilateral agreement to combat trafficking with Burkina Faso in 2016.(26)
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 to combat the worst forms of child labor in regional labor inspectorate offices; expands SOSTECL into 10 new departments; constructs 3 transit centers; and develops a national action plan to combat human trafficking, particularly of girls.(93)
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.(32, 94) 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.(32) In 2016, reopened applications for Pedagogical Training Centers to provide training for 5,000 teachers for the 2017–2018 academic year.(95, 96)
National Policy on Child Protection (PNPE) (2012–2022)	Led by the MSFWC, seeks to reduce the incidence of violence, abuse, and exploitation of children.(97) Regional coordination mechanisms, led by prefects, oversee implementation and bring together relevant actors to identify specific problems in the region.(53, 68)

[†] 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.(33, 34, 67, 69)

The Government has not included child labor elimination and prevention strategies in the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework.(98) A draft of the Decent Work Country Program (2016–2020) is awaiting validation and will include child labor concerns.(67, 99)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2016, the Government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor[‡]

Program	Description
National Action Plan for the Fight Against the Worst Forms of Child Labor (NAP) (2015–2017) [†]	Coordinated by the CNS and the CIM, \$25.8 million project aims to significantly reduce the number of children engaged in the worst forms of child labor by improving the legal framework, sensitizing high-risk communities to the dangers of exploitative child labor, improving victim services, building the capacity of law enforcement, and improving educational infrastructure.(14, 82) The Government provided \$15 million in funding.(78) In 2016, began construction on three shelters.(28)
National Action Plan and Strategy Against Human Trafficking (2016–2020) [†]	With the support of UNODC and coordinated by CNLTdP, \$14.8 million project drafted 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.(64, 77) The Government committed to provide \$3.2 million over 5 years to implement the plan.(2) In 2016, MWCPS, with support from UNODC and the Embassy of Japan, began a mapping project to identify all existing shelters and transit centers for victims of child trafficking.(28)
National Awareness Campaign Against Child Labor (2015–2017) [†]	CNS-led national awareness campaign against child labor, disseminates information to increase public awareness through television and radio broadcasts, billboards, and newspapers in French and local languages. Calls on national actors to take a greater role in media campaigns to raise awareness about child labor.(69, 77)
USDOL-Funded Projects in Support of the 2010 Declaration	USDOL projects in cocoa-growing areas of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire that aim to eliminate child labor, including its worst forms, through research, improved monitoring and enforcement, and implementation and expansion of SOSTECI. These project include: Survey Research on Child Labor in West African Cocoa Growing Areas (2012–2016) , \$1.5 million project implemented by the Payson Center for International Development at Tulane University; Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (CLEAR) (2013–2017) , \$7.95 million project implemented in at least 10 countries by the ILO; Assessing Progress in Reducing Child Labor in Cocoa-Growing Areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana (2015–2019) , \$3 million project implemented by NORC at the University of Chicago; and Eliminating Child Labor in Cocoa (2015–2019) , \$4.5 million project implemented by the International Cocoa Initiative.(100-103) Additional information is available on the USDOL Web site .
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 may be in support of World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)'s CocoaAction (2014–2020) strategy and the 2010 Declaration .(88, 104)
Centers for Vulnerable Children [†]	Operates approximately 110 MWCPS- and MEPS-funded social centers and mobile schools 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. International NGOs also operate additional centers that provide meals and basic education.(77, 105) In 2016, First Lady Dominique Ouattara and CNS initiated construction on three reception centers in Bouaké, Ferkessédougou, and Soubré in support of the NAP and the National Development Plan to house victims of child trafficking.(85, 93, 106)
School Feeding Programs [†]	These programs aim to raise school attendance rates in rural areas, particularly among girls, by providing school meals. Includes the Integrated Program for Sustainable School Feeding , a \$42.5 million WFP-funded program; the Ministry of National Education School Feeding Program; and the McGovern-Dole School Feeding Program , a \$31 million joint initiative between WFP and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Ministry of National Education.(64, 107, 108)
Emergency Support Project for Basic Education (2012–2017)	\$41.4 million World Bank-funded project to improve access to basic education by constructing and rehabilitating classrooms and school latrines.(109) By the end of 2016, built 1,000 new primary school classrooms, rehabilitated 267 classrooms, rehabilitated 8 teacher training centers, and trained 15,253 teachers.(110)
Community Animation Program for Child Protection (2015–2020) [†]	\$228,168 MWCPS 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.(10, 67, 111) Between 2015 and 2016, piloted the approach in 351 communities with plans to expand to 1,500 communities by 2020.(67)
National Solidarity Fund* [†]	\$2.5 million fund that provides assistance to poor households. In 2016, revised to include victims of human trafficking as project participants.(28, 112)

* Program was launched 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, including its worst forms.(10, 61, 68, 113, 114)

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Although the Government maintains programs and coordinates with stakeholders to help children working on cocoa farms, the scope of existing programs is insufficient to fully address the extent of the problem.(7, 64) SOSTECI has been implemented in several cocoa-growing communities, but it has not been expanded throughout the country because it requires a significant amount of resources for full implementation.(64, 77, 115) In addition, the Government primarily relies on NGOs to provide social services to victims of child trafficking. Research indicates that there is poor coordination among service providers, the distribution of services throughout the country is uneven, and existing programs do not adequately address all sectors where child labor is present.(2, 26, 28, 77)

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that the hazardous occupations and activities prohibited for children are comprehensive.	2016
Enforcement	Improve coordination among ministries related to exploitative child labor and ensure that victims receive appropriate services.	2016
	Ensure that labor inspectorates and criminal law enforcement agencies receive an adequate amount of funding to conduct inspections and investigations throughout the country, and that penalties are enforced according to the law.	2014 – 2016
	Strengthen the labor inspectorate by authorizing the inspectorate to assess penalties.	2014 – 2016
	Ensure that inspectors and investigators receive training on new laws related to child labor.	2016
	Publish information about whether routine inspections are conducted and whether they target high-risk sectors.	2016
	Increase the number of labor inspectors responsible for enforcing laws related to child labor in accordance with the ILO recommendation.	2009 – 2016
	Improve monitoring of activity along the borders to enable the Government to identify and prevent transnational human trafficking activity.	2015 – 2016
Coordination	Improve coordination among ministries included in CNS and CIM.	2012 – 2016
Government Policies	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into existing policies.	2013 – 2016
Social Programs	Improve access to education by eliminating all school-related fees, providing all children with birth certificates, 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 – 2016
	Replicate and expand models such as SOSTECI that address exploitative child labor to effectively implement government policies to combat the worst forms of child labor.	2009 – 2016
	Ensure that victims of the worst forms of child labor are able to access social services throughout the country.	2015 – 2016

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