

Côte d'Ivoire

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 2002:	15% ¹¹⁸⁷
Minimum age of work:	14 ¹¹⁸⁸
Age to which education is compulsory:	Not compulsory ¹¹⁸⁹
Free public education:	Yes ¹¹⁹⁰ *
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2003:	72% ¹¹⁹¹
Net primary enrollment rate in 2002:	56% ¹¹⁹²
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2002:	55.9% ¹¹⁹³
As of 2000, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	88% ¹¹⁹⁴
Ratified Convention 138:	2/7/2003 ¹¹⁹⁵
Ratified Convention 182:	2/7/2003 ¹¹⁹⁶
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes ¹¹⁹⁷

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2002, approximately 14.4 percent of boys and 15.7 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Côte d'Ivoire.¹¹⁹⁸ In Côte d'Ivoire, many children work in agriculture on family farms. Children also work in the informal sector, including as street vendors, shoeshiners, errand runners, car washers and watchers, and as food sellers in street restaurants. They also work in small workshops and in family-operated gold and diamond mines. Ivorian girls as young as 9 years old work as domestic servants, and some are subject to mistreatment including sexual abuse.¹¹⁹⁹

Children work in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire. According to a study carried out by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in 2002, a majority of children work

¹¹⁸⁷ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007, Section 5.

¹¹⁸⁸ Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Code du travail, 1995*, no. 95/15, Article 23.8; available from <http://natlex.ilo.org/txt/F95CIV01.htm>.

¹¹⁸⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Côte d'Ivoire," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006* Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78730.htm>.

¹¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹⁹¹ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

¹¹⁹² Ibid.

¹¹⁹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁹⁵ ILO, *Côte d'Ivoire Ratified 34 Instrument(s)*, accessed October 19, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/ratifce.pl?Côte+d+Ivoire>.

¹¹⁹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁹⁷ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour- Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipec/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf.

¹¹⁹⁸ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

¹¹⁹⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire," Sections 5 and 6d.

alongside their families on farms owned either by immediate or extended relatives.¹²⁰⁰ Some of the working children come from outside the country's cocoa zone, either from other regions of Côte d'Ivoire or from neighboring countries such as Burkina Faso.¹²⁰¹ There are also credible reports of trafficked children from Burkina Faso, Mali, and Togo working on Ivorian cocoa and coffee farms.¹²⁰² According to the IITA study, approximately one-third of children who live in cocoa-producing households do not attend school.¹²⁰³ Children working on cocoa farms are at risk of being involved in hazardous tasks, such as carrying heavy loads, spraying pesticides without protection, using machetes to clear undergrowth, and burning vegetation.¹²⁰⁴ According to a 2005 Government of Côte d'Ivoire survey conducted in the district of Oumé, some 92 percent of children working on cocoa farms carry heavy loads, including children as young as 5 years.¹²⁰⁵

Pro-government militia and rebel groups recruit children for use in armed conflict, sometimes on a forced basis.¹²⁰⁶

Côte d'Ivoire is a source and destination country for trafficked children.¹²⁰⁷ Children are trafficked into the country from Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Mauritania to work as domestic servants, farm laborers, fishermen, and for sexual exploitation.¹²⁰⁸ In particular, trafficked boys from Ghana, Mali, and Burkina Faso work on cocoa, coffee, pineapple, and rubber plantations. Guinean boys are trafficked to work in the mining sector, while boys trafficked from Togo work in construction and those from Benin in carpentry.¹²⁰⁹

¹²⁰⁰ International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, *Child Labor in the Cocoa Sector of West Africa: A Synthesis of Findings in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria*, August 2002, 16. See also Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Child Labor Monitoring System in the Cocoa Sector in Côte d'Ivoire Pilot Project (CLMS PP)*, Abidjan, December 2005, 23-24.

¹²⁰¹ International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, *Child Labor in the Cocoa Sector of West Africa: A Synthesis of Findings*, 12.

¹²⁰² German Agency for Technical Cooperation, *La traite et les pires formes de travail des enfants dans les plantations de café-cacao en Côte d'Ivoire: La situation dans les départements Abengourou, Oumé, et Soubré* (Abidjan: 2005). See also International Cocoa Initiative official, Meeting with USDOL official, October 4, 2006.

¹²⁰³ International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, *Summary of Findings from the Child Labor Surveys in the Cocoa Sector of West Africa: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria*, IITA, July 2002. See also Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *CLMS Pilot Project*, 22.

¹²⁰⁴ International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, *Summary of Findings from the Child Labor Surveys in the Cocoa Sector of West Africa*. See also Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *CLMS Pilot Project*, 35. See also USAID, *USAID and Labor Department Release Data from Collaborative Survey on Child Labor on Cocoa Farms in West Africa: W. African Governments and Global Chocolate Industry Working Jointly with U.S. to Combat Problem*, press release, Washington, DC, July 26, 2002; available from http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2002/pr020726_2.html.

¹²⁰⁵ Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *CLMS Pilot Project*, 25 and 35.

¹²⁰⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire," Sections 5 and 6d. See also United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Rights of the Child: Annual Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu*, E/CN.4/2004/70, January 28, 2004, 11.

¹²⁰⁷ U.S. Embassy- Abidjan, reporting, August 23, 2004. See also U.S. Department of State, "Côte d'Ivoire (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65988.htm>.

¹²⁰⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire," Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire ". See also German Agency for Technical Cooperation, *La traite et les pires formes de travail des enfants dans les plantations de café-cacao en Côte d'Ivoire*, 28. See also U.S. Embassy- Abidjan.

¹²⁰⁹ U.S. Embassy- Abidjan.

Ivorian girls are trafficked to Gabon to work as domestic servants; girls from Ghana, Togo, and Benin are trafficked to Côte d'Ivoire to work as domestic servants and street vendors and from Nigeria, China, Ukraine, and the Philippines to work as waitresses and prostitutes in street-side restaurants. Girls are trafficked domestically to work as domestic servants, waitresses, and in prostitution.¹²¹⁰ Refugee and displaced children in the refugee zone in western Côte d'Ivoire are trafficked to work as domestic servants, in mines, and on palm oil plantations.¹²¹¹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, including for apprenticeships.¹²¹² Ivorian law requires parents or legal guardians to sign employment contracts on behalf of children under 16 years and to serve as witnesses to contracts signed by children between 16 and 18.¹²¹³ Night work by children under 18 is prohibited, and all children are required to have at least 12 consecutive hours of rest between work shifts.¹²¹⁴ The Labor Inspectorate can require children to take a medical exam to ensure that the work for which they are hired does not exceed their physical capacity.¹²¹⁵

Ivorian law prohibits forced or compulsory labor.¹²¹⁶ In 2005, the government adopted a decree defining hazardous work that is forbidden for children under 18 years. The decree outlines prohibited work in the categories of agriculture, forestry, mining, commerce and the urban informal sector, handicrafts, and transport.¹²¹⁷ The minimum age for both voluntary and compulsory recruitment into the military is 18 years.¹²¹⁸ Persons convicted of procuring a prostitute under 21 may be imprisoned for 2 to 10 years and charged a fine.¹²¹⁹

The constitution and law do not specifically prohibit trafficking in persons.¹²²⁰ However, traffickers may be prosecuted for kidnapping, mistreating, or torturing children with a punishment of 1 to 5 years of imprisonment and a fine. Alienation of a person's freedom is punishable with 5 to 10 years of imprisonment, with the maximum penalty enforced if the victim is under 15.¹²²¹ Individuals who receive or leave a person as financial security face a fine and a penalty of 6 months to 3 years in prison, which automatically increases to 5 years when the

¹²¹⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹¹ Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire".

¹²¹² Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Code du travail, 1995*, Article 23.8.

¹²¹³ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of States Parties Due in 1993, Addendum*, CRC/C/8/Add.41, prepared by Government of Côte d'Ivoire, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2000, para. 85.

¹²¹⁴ Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Code du travail, 1995*, Articles 22.2 and 22.3

¹²¹⁵ Ibid., Article 23.9.

¹²¹⁶ Ibid., Article 3.

¹²¹⁷ Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Arrêté n° 2250 portant détermination de la liste des travaux dangereux interdits aux enfants de moins de dix huit (18) ans*, (March 14, 2005).

¹²¹⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. "Côte d'Ivoire", *In Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=771.

¹²¹⁹ U.S. Embassy- Abidjan.

¹²²⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire," Section 5.

¹²²¹ U.S. Embassy- Abidjan.

victim is under 15 years. If labor is imposed on a person, the penalty is 1 to 5 years in prison and a fine.¹²²²

The Ministry of Civil Service, Employment and Administrative Reform is the government agency responsible for enforcement of child labor laws.¹²²³ Enforcement of child labor prohibitions is hindered by a lack of resources, weak institutions, and the lack of a regulatory and judicial framework.¹²²⁴ In 2006, the Ministry of Security created a department of child trafficking and juvenile delinquency within the criminal police division to centralize all police activities related to children in the government-controlled areas of the country.¹²²⁵ The government rarely investigates trafficking cases and only prosecuted five cases in 2006.¹²²⁶

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2006, USDOL awarded a 3-year USD 4.3 million contract to Tulane University to oversee the efforts of the international cocoa industry and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa sector. The project will assess progress being made toward implementation of a cocoa certification system free of child labor, covering at least 50 percent of the cocoa-growing areas in the two countries, and the establishment of child labor monitoring and verification systems in the cocoa sector.¹²²⁷ Between 2002 and 2006, Côte d'Ivoire participated in a USD 6 million, ILO-IPEC regional project funded by USDOL and the Cocoa Global Issues Group to combat hazardous and exploitive child labor in the cocoa sector. The project helped withdraw 6,154 children and prevent another 1,324 children from exploitive labor in Côte d'Ivoire through the provision of education or training opportunities.¹²²⁸ The Government of Côte d'Ivoire also is actively involved in a 6-year, USD 9.25 million regional USDOL-funded project implemented by ILO-IPEC to combat the trafficking of children for exploitive labor in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA). The project aims to withdraw and prevent 9,000 children from trafficking situations in the region.¹²²⁹ In 2006, the U.S. Department of State provided additional funding for Côte d'Ivoire under the LUTRENA project to strengthen the National Committee for Combating Trafficking and Child Exploitation.¹²³⁰ USAID and the international cocoa industry fund the Sustainable Tree Crops Program in Côte d'Ivoire, a public-private partnership that promotes sustainable tree crop systems, including coffee, cocoa, and cashews, and contains a component to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor on

¹²²² Ibid.

¹²²³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire," Section 6d.

¹²²⁴ U.S. Embassy- Abidjan.

¹²²⁵ Ibid.

¹²²⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire," Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire".

¹²²⁷ U.S. Department of Labor, *U.S. Labor Department Funds Project to Evaluate Effectiveness of Anti-Child-Labor Efforts in the Cocoa Industry*, press release, October 3, 2006.

¹²²⁸ International Child Labor Program U.S. Department of Labor, *West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture Program to Combat Hazardous and Exploitative Child Labor (WACAP)*, project summary, 2006. See also ILO-IPEC, *West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture Programme to Combat Hazardous and Exploitative Child Labour (WACAP) Final Technical Progress Report*, technical progress report, Geneva, June 2006, 40-41.

¹²²⁹ International Child Labor Program U.S. Department of Labor, *Combating Trafficking in Children for Labor Exploitation in West and Central Africa, Phases 1 & 2 (LUTRENA)*, project summary, 2006.

¹²³⁰ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 16, 2006.

farms.¹²³¹ GTZ is also partnering with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to combat trafficking and the worst forms of child labor.¹²³² UNICEF has demobilized and reintegrated 1,000 former child soldiers into society.¹²³³

In 2006, the government reinstated its Child Labor Task Force.¹²³⁴ The government is implementing a National Action Plan to Combat Child Labor and Trafficking, which contains strategies for providing education, shelter, and repatriation services to trafficking and child labor victims.¹²³⁵ The National Committee for the Combating Trafficking and Child Exploitation (NCFTCE), a joint Ministerial committee chaired by the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, coordinates the government's anti-trafficking efforts and is implementing a child trafficking monitoring system.¹²³⁶ Nine government ministries are involved in anti-trafficking efforts in Côte d'Ivoire, and, in 2006, many of these ministries created specific anti-trafficking units.¹²³⁷

The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs has conducted awareness-raising campaigns targeting children at risk of being trafficked and industries that employ child labor. The ministry has also provided school supplies to at-risk children to allow them to attend primary school.¹²³⁸ The government also provides a local NGO with a building, utilities, and staff for a shelter for trafficking victims; it also has given funding for reintegration services to trafficking victims.¹²³⁹

In July 2006, Côte d'Ivoire was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in the West and Central African Regions.¹²⁴⁰ As part of the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement, the governments agreed to put into place the child trafficking monitoring system developed by the USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC LUTRENA project; to ensure

¹²³¹ USAID, "Chocolate Companies Help West African Farmers Improve Harvest," *USAID Frontlines* (September, 2005); available from http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/fl_sep05/pillars.htm. See also International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, *Sustainable Tree Crops Program*, [online] [cited October 19, 2006]; available from <http://www.treecrops.org/index.htm>.

¹²³² Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Les efforts de la Cote d'Ivoire en matiere de lutte contre les pires formes de travail des enfants*, submitted in response to U.S. Department of labor Federal Register Notice (December 5, 2006) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", January 16, 2007. See also German Agency for Technical Cooperation, *Programs and projects in Côte d'Ivoire* [online] [cited April 7, 2007]; available from <http://www.gtz.de/en/weltweit/afrika/cote-d-ivoire/580.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire," Section 5.

¹²³³ UNICEF, *At a Glance: Côte d'Ivoire*, [online] [cited October 20, 2006]; available from <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cotedivoire.html>.

¹²³⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire ", U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire."

¹²³⁵ U.S. Embassy- Abidjan, *reporting*, October 4, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire ". See also Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Les efforts de la Cote d'Ivoire en matiere de lutte contre les pires formes de travail des enfants*.

¹²³⁶ U.S. Embassy- Abidjan.

¹²³⁷ Ibid.

¹²³⁸ Ibid.

¹²³⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Côte d'Ivoire ".

¹²⁴⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, technical progress report, Geneva, September 1, 2006. See also Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006.

that birth certificates and travel identity documents cannot easily be falsified or altered; to provide assistance to each other in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of trafficking offenders; to protect, rehabilitate, and reintegrate trafficking victims; and to improve educational systems, vocational training and apprenticeships.¹²⁴¹ Côte d'Ivoire is a signatory to a nine-member multilateral cooperative agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa in 2005, and while the government cooperated with international investigations of trafficking in 2006, the government did not prosecute any traffickers during the year.¹²⁴² On a bilateral level, the government cooperates with Malian authorities to combat child trafficking and to repatriate Malian children found in Côte d'Ivoire.¹²⁴³

The Ministry of National Education has opened primary mobile schools and community education centers in cocoa-growing communities to protect children from hazardous work.¹²⁴⁴ Through funding by the World Cocoa Foundation, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire is partnering with Winrock International to provide educational alternatives to child labor in cocoa-growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire.¹²⁴⁵

¹²⁴¹ ECOWAS and ECASS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006. See also ILO-IPEC, *LUTRENA technical progress report September 2006*. See also Goujon, Emmanuel, "African States Sign up to Fight Human Trafficking," *Agence France-Presse*, July 7, 2006.

¹²⁴² Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Child Trafficking in West Africa*, July 27, 2005.

¹²⁴³ Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Les efforts de la Cote d'Ivoire en matiere de lutte contre les pires formes de travail des enfants*. See also U.S. Embassy- Abidjan.

¹²⁴⁴ U.S. Embassy- Abidjan. See also Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Les efforts de la Cote d'Ivoire en matiere de lutte contre les pires formes de travail des enfants*.

¹²⁴⁵ Government of Côte d'Ivoire, *Les efforts de la Cote d'Ivoire en matiere de lutte contre les pires formes de travail des enfants*. See also World Cocoa Foundation, *Africa- West Africa Winrock CLASSE Program*, [online] [cited February 3, 2007]; available from <http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/difference/africa-classe.asp>.