



## BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS United States Department of Labor

### Department of Labor Success Stories

*Over the past 11 years, the U. S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has provided more than \$221 million for projects to help eliminate exploitative child labor in 36 Sub Saharan African countries. These projects have raised awareness about child labor issues and protected approximately 435,000 children from exploitative labor situations. The following summaries describe how a number of these projects are helping to improve the lives of children and families affected by hazardous and exploitative child labor.*

In West Africa, USDOL is funding two regional projects, implemented by the International Labor Organization (ILO), to assist countries that are members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to address the worst forms of child labor. These two projects, which together total nearly \$13 million, include a specific focus on direct interventions to help children and their families in **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria**. In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the projects target children working in the cocoa growing areas, while in Benin and Nigeria, USDOL funding is helping to address cross-border trafficking of Beninese children to Nigeria to work in artisanal mines and quarries.

In December 2010, USDOL expanded its efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor in cocoa growing areas through a new \$10 million project in **Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana**, also implemented by the ILO. This project supports a new Joint Declaration and Framework of Action that seeks to reduce the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa producing regions of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana by 70 percent in the aggregate by the year 2020. Representatives of the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry, along with representatives of the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and the United States, came together in September 2010 to sign the Declaration, which is intended to support implementation of the commitments made under the Harkin-Engel Protocol. Parties to the Declaration agreed to step up and coordinate their efforts to identify and remove children from hazardous and exploitative child labor and provide remediation services including education, vocational training, and assistance to families and communities. The new project aims to address poverty and other the root causes of child labor. It will help improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and strengthen capacity in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana to deploy a child labor monitoring system across cocoa growing regions. In addition to the \$10 million dollars from USDOL, the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry is providing \$7 million in financial support.

In **Uganda**, USDOL supports a \$5.5 million project, implemented by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI), that provides direct educational services to children engaged in or at-risk of the worst forms of child labor, with a focus on children affected by armed conflict in the North. The project also improves the quality of basic education through curriculum improvement and teacher support. USDOL also funded a second \$4.8 million project through the ILO to improve the legal and regulatory framework in Uganda to combat child labor. The project supports finalization of a national plan to eliminate child labor and aims to withdraw or prevent over eight thousand children from exploitative child labor by providing formal and non-formal education, including vocational and skills training.

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