

# ICI Briefing

## USDOL Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour 2020

1 October 2021

The U.S. Department of Labor's annual report on the [Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor](#) assesses progress made in the global fight against child labor. The launch webinar took place on 29 September 2021, including insights from Thea Lee (USDOL), Marty J. Walsh (USDOL) and Rosa DeLauro (Congresswoman).

During this event, speakers highlighted the government's commitment towards the eradication of child labour and the importance for US trade policies to raise labour standards. The role of workers' unions as well as wages of adult workers was highlighted. The US Department of Labor's research and capacity building capacities were mentioned as a means of supporting the fight against child and labour. In this context, ILAB has just launched a Compliance and Accountability Resource [tool](#), indicating which products imported into the US have a higher risk of child and forced labour.

As in previous years, the 2020 report includes country specific summaries for [Ghana](#) and [Côte d'Ivoire](#), which are largely the same as in the 2019 report.

In the summaries below, key changes are highlighted in [green](#).

### Ghana: summary of main findings and recommendations

**Ghana made a “moderate advancement” in 2020** to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. [This is an improvement on their 2019 rating of “minimum advancement”.](#)

According to ILO analysis of the *Ghana Living Standard Survey* (2016–2017), an estimated 13.0% **of children work** (927,591) across the country. Children most commonly work in agriculture, including the production of cocoa, palm oil, coffee, herding livestock and fishing. [These are the same figures quoted in 2019 report.](#)

**Noted efforts** include the development of [an Inter-Sectoral Standard Operating Procedure for child protection and family welfare](#); [the opening of a new government-run shelter for child trafficking victims](#); [significantly increased investigations and convictions of child labour crimes](#); [the launch of a training of trainers course for labour inspectors](#); and [the use of the Trafficking in Persons Information System \(TIPIS\) to enhance data collection to improve inter-ministerial coordinated responses.](#)

**Gaps** remain in Ghana's **legal framework** (notably around the use of children in commercial sexual exploitation); **law enforcement** (the authority of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations and authority of labour inspectors to assess penalties, financial resource allocation, poor inter-agency coordination); **policies** (mainstreaming child labour issues in other policies); **coordination** ([absence of reporting on efforts to address child labor](#)); and **social programmes** (heavy reliance on NGOs to implement policy, [the need to scale up programs to prevent and address child labour and forced labour, and limited funding](#)).

**Recommended actions for government** to advance the elimination of child labour include: increasing the recruitment and training of labour inspectors; establishing a mechanism to track cases of child labour for referral to law enforcement or social service providers; and

creating, replicating, and expanding effective models for addressing exploitative child labor. New recommendations for 2020 include: updating the hazardous work list for children to cover all hazardous types of work outlined in ILO Convention 182; and ensuring that the Trafficking in Persons Information System is used and publish any related activities.

Read the [full report for Ghana](#)

## Côte d'Ivoire: summary of main findings and recommendations

**Côte d'Ivoire made a “moderate advancement” in 2020** to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. This is the same rating as 2019.

According to ILO analysis of statistics from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 5 (MICS 5) in 2016, an estimated **25.6% of children work** across the country, and 21.5% in hazardous work. These figures include children working in cocoa-production, other forms of agriculture, industry and services. These same figures were quoted in the 2019 report. The 2020 report mentions [ICI's study](#), that found an increase in the number of children identified in child labour in monitored communities during the Covid pandemic.

**Noted efforts** include: an increase in the number of inspections, violations found and prosecutions; ongoing efforts to deliver birth certificates, build school canteens, train teachers; the establishment of a government support fund for low-income families known to be more vulnerable to the conditions that often engender child labour; and the work of the First Lady to marshal resources to fight child labour and child trafficking, and increase visibility of these issues.

**Gaps** remain in **inspection and law enforcement** (need to increase staffing and resources for labour inspectorate); **coordination** (particularly data collection and data sharing in relation to child labour among ministries and across different regions), **policies** (funding and mainstreaming child labour issues into relevant policies); and **social programmes** (the need to scale up programs like the Child labor monitoring and remediation system (CLMRS), access to quality to education, programs to increase farmer yields and household income need to be scaled and expanded to impact more families).

**Recommended actions for government** to advance the elimination of child labour include: increasing the allocation of resources to labour inspectorate; publishing information on labour law enforcement efforts; ensuring coordination bodies can carry out their mandates; and fully fund national action plan and integrate efforts into salaries. **New recommendations for 2020** include: ensuring that social programs to address child labor are active and report activities; ensuring that sufficient classrooms are available for all students enrolled.

Read the [full report for Côte d'Ivoire](#)