

Côte d'Ivoire National Action Plan To Fight Trafficking, Exploitation And Child Labour 2025-2029

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Côte d'Ivoire's National Action Plan (NAP) 2025-2029, signed on 2 June 2025 in Abidjan, aims to intensify national efforts to reduce trafficking, exploitation and child labour by 2030. It is the fourth national strategy since 2012, and reflects the continued commitment of the Ivorian government under the leadership of the First Lady, Madame Dominique Ouattara, President of the National Oversight Committee (CNS).

The document builds on lessons learned from previous plans, and on a broad multi-stakeholder consultation undertaken through a scientific committee which involved among others the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), ILO, UNICEF, Save the Children and the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF). The development process of the NAP also mobilised several ministries (Labour, Women, Family, Education, Interior, Health, etc.) as well as local authorities.

This document summarises the main aspects of this NAP.

General framework and strategic diagnosis

The NAP presents an assessment of the child labour situation in the country and a review of previous national action plans, before focusing on the key challenges still to be addressed.

General framework

Recalling the international and regional context in which the NAP has been developed, the document presents an analysis of the child labour situation in the country, according to which Côte d'Ivoire has made significant progress over the past decade, with the prevalence of child labour declining from 39% in 2012 to 22% in 2021. Knowledge gained from the previous NAP regarding child labour prevalence reveals differences based on age, living environment and the economic situation of households: children aged 5 to 11 appear to be the most affected, the incidence is more marked in rural than urban areas, and the most vulnerable households experience rates much higher than those of wealthy households. A slight overrepresentation of girls and the persistence of hazardous activities is also observed.

Strategic diagnosis

Based on an evaluation of the NAPs 2012–2014, 2015–2017, and 2019–2023, the current Action Plan assesses progress made since 2012, with notable advances in terms of awareness-raising and capacity-building of stakeholders, access to education, child protection, economic empowerment of vulnerable families and communities, as well as labour inspection, control, and enforcement. Building on this, it highlights several remaining challenges, four of which are identified as being most urgent:

1. Achieving economic and social traceability of 100% of the cocoa supply chain
2. Achieving interoperability of public and private child labour monitoring systems
3. Deploy the Child Labour Observation and Monitoring System (SOSTECI)
4. Strengthening access to education, basic social services and social protection for vulnerable children and families

Strategic framework

Drawing on the strengths and weaknesses of previous plans, the NAP 2025–2029 seeks to address the root causes of child labour and adopts a holistic perspective in which combating child labour is an integral part of the Government's social programmes, aiming, among others, to ensure children's access to education and health, improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups, and fight poverty.

Theory of Change

The 2025-2029 NAP is based on a theory of change that commits public and private actors to:

- Promoting **sustainable supply chains**, free of child labour
- Supporting the **transition from the informal to the formal sector**
- Developing **thriving cocoa-growing communities**
- Helping to promote **access to quality, equitable and inclusive education** for all children

As such, the NAP indicates that it encompasses the vision of cocoa partners (ICI, WCF), United Nations agencies, social partners and civil society, while aligning with Côte d'Ivoire's NDP (National Development Plan) 2021-2025.

General objective and specific objectives

The overarching objective of the NAP 2025–2029 is to “**significantly reduce child labour in Côte d'Ivoire by 2030.**” To achieve this, it sets out four **specific objectives**:

- Specific objective 1: Achieve free Universal Health Coverage for cocoa farmers
- Specific objective 2: Address persistent challenges such as supply chain traceability issues (implementation of the social traceability system and operationalization of public and private child labour monitoring systems throughout the country), cross-border child trafficking, remediation of child labour in classified forests or artisanal mines, child domestic work.
- Specific objective 3: Strengthen the implementation of international commitments made by Côte d'Ivoire, including the *2024-2029 Framework for Action to contribute to the prevention and progressive elimination of child labour in cocoa communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana* signed on 27 November 2024 in Abidjan.
- Specific objective 4: Accelerate the pace and progress towards the elimination of child labour in terms of awareness-raising, access to education and vocational training, care for victims and capacity building of actors.

Results and strategic programming

In light of the aforementioned specific objectives, **the expected strategic result of the NAP** will be to reduce the proportion of children aged 5 to 17 involved in child labour from 21.6% in 2021 to below 10% in 2029, a decrease of 11 percentage points, while supporting the transition to decent work.

The actions leading to the achievement of this strategic outcome are based on **three strategic axes**:

- **Axis 1: Children's access to basic social services and/or decent work** - to improve access to education, vocational training and health, while promoting the integration of young people into decent jobs.
- **Axis 2: Reduction of the socio-economic vulnerability of families and communities** - to strengthen economic resilience through social protection programs, income-generating activities and the empowerment of women.
- **Axis 3: Strengthening the institutional, legal and programmatic framework** - strengthening the capacities of actors, the coordination of actions, the legal harmonization and the operationalization of monitoring mechanisms.

The document details a description of the expected impacts and key indicators supporting each of these axes, as well as a matrix of activities.

Provisional budget

The NAP is financed jointly by the government (CNS, Conseil Café-Cacao), civil society organizations, UN agencies (UNICEF, ILO, IOM) as well as the cocoa and chocolate industry for an **overall budget estimated at 165 billion FCFA** over the five years.