

UNICEF COTE D'IVOIRE FIGHTING CHILD TRAFFICKING

Issue:

Child trafficking is one of the gravest violations of human rights. In the West-African region it is fed by the permeability of borders, migratory traditions and traditions of placing and circulating children within the extended family. The impoverishment of the population and the inequalities between rural and urban areas and between Côte d'Ivoire and its bordering countries contribute to a proliferation of the phenomenon. Amongst the axes of movement, migrations from rural to urban areas and from Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo, Benin, Niger towards Côte d'Ivoire occur for economic exploitation, particularly in the areas of cocoa and agricultural production, domestic work, the informal sector and mining.

It is difficult to give quantitative data on child trafficking in the country, but according to the latest findings in Côte d'Ivoire approximately 200,000 children work on cocoa farms and the vast majority of these children originate from Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo and the central and northern regions of Côte d'Ivoire.

Global Objective:

Strengthen protection of children against child trafficking and improve assistance and reintegration measures for victims.

Specific Objective:

- Reduce child trafficking from, towards and in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Strengthen national and trans-national protection and assistance responses for victims.

Expected results:

- Child trafficking trend has decreased.
- Targeted communities are aware of the rights of the child, dangers of precocious migration of children, dangers of worst forms of child labour, illegality of child trafficking and take preventive and protective measures;
- Employers are sensitized on the rights of the child, child trafficking, worst forms of child labour, illegality of child trafficking;
- The national referral system on child trafficking is strengthened;
- Capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors for the assistance of victims are strengthened and integrated assistance to children victim of trafficking is improved;
- Capacities of actors (police, drivers, social workers, immigration, NGO, grass roots and youth movements, communities) for the identification of victims are strengthened;
- Quantitative and qualitative information knowledge on child trafficking trends in Côte d'Ivoire is improved and a national surveillance mechanism is operational and effective;

Approach:

The approach will focus on the strengthening of the national referral system on child trafficking, as well as on the creation of a network of allies within the group of actors committed to this issue at the sub-regional level.

The strengthening of the referral system will be coupled with awareness raising and capacity building of communities and key actors in order to strengthen prevention of child trafficking and identification, protection and assistance measures at the community as well as at the national level.

The improvement of a national surveillance mechanism will accompany these measures in order to strengthen knowledge and understanding of child trafficking trends to provide appropriate responses to the problem.

Key activities:

1. Awareness raising campaigns, mobilization and training of communities on child trafficking, child rights, child labour, etc. In particular, Malian, Burkina be, rural communities and the Northern and Western part of the country will be targeted;
2. Capacity building of community based child protection committees;
3. Awareness raising activities and training of drivers, police, social workers, immigration, NGO, grass roots and youth movements, communities and transporters on child trafficking, victim identification, national referral system and standard national procedures;
4. Awareness raising activities and training of employers on the child rights, child trafficking, child labour, illegality of child trafficking and legal framework
5. Capacity building of key actors at the institutional and civil society level on national standard procedures for the protection of victims and response techniques;
6. Advocacy activities and provision of technical support for the strengthening and enforcement of a legal framework;
7. Set up and strengthen coordination and provision of services to assist children victim of trafficking (temporary shelters, psycho-social support, repatriation and reintegration)
8. Support the governmental network on child trafficking for data collection;
9. Develop inter-country collaboration and an effective sub regional network to prevent and monitor child trafficking and exchange experiences with other countries.

Budget:

Description	Total Cost (in US\$)
Awareness raising and capacity building	50,000
Advocacy and strengthening of legal framework	10,000
Situation analysis and data collection	20,000
Social mobilization and community involvement	30,000
Identification and care, reunification and reintegration	80,000
Operational costs	19,000
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>209,000</i>
Cost Recovery at Headquarters (7%)	14,630
TOTAL	223,630