

ANNEXES

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Annex 2. Glossary of terms

Child

A “child” is defined as any individual below the age of 18 years¹ and who by global standards, is ineligible to work except within the framework of two International Conventions which require compliance with the national minimum age for work, as well as exemption from all work of a hazardous nature.²

Child labour

The term “child labour” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. It refers to work that:

- is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children;
- and/or interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed, and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as from sector to sector within countries.

“Child labour” is work by children that is prohibited or targeted for elimination because the child is below the minimum age for that type of activity, or because the nature of the work or the conditions under which it is performed makes it unsuitable for children.

Minimum ages for employment are established by national laws. In accordance with international conventions, the minimum age for employment is, in general, 15 years or the age of completion of compulsory schooling, if higher, but 18 years for work likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons, and 13 years for “light work”, that is, work not likely to be harmful to the child’s health, development, schooling or vocational training.

The two broad categories of children affected by child labour include situations of children working below the minimum legal age of work; and children working in the worst forms of child labour, including hazardous work.³ Consequently, the concept of child labour admits some level of permissible work for children that is appropriate to their level of development, and which enables children to acquire practical skills and learn responsibility; without compromising on the time for schooling or recreation. The work must not be hazardous in nature, nor expose children to any form of moral danger. (ECOWAS, 2021)

Light work

“Light work” is work that is not likely to be harmful to child’s health or development and does not prejudice child’s school attendance, participation in vocational orientation or training programmes, or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received. Light work shall be designated on the basis of national laws or regulations, where they exist.

Hazardous work

“Hazardous work” refers to work that, by its nature or circumstances, is likely to harm children’s health, safety or morals.

¹ ECOWAS Child Policy; the 1979 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children; and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

² ILO Convention No.138 on the minimum age for work (1973); and ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1998)

³ ILO; <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/WorstFormsofChildLabour/Hazardouschildlabour/lang--en/index.htm>

“Hazardous work” is work that is performed by children in dangerous and unhealthy conditions that can lead to the death, injury or illness of a child, due to poor safety and health standards or conditions at work.⁴ This includes work in dangerous places, the use of dangerous tools or materials, forcing children to carry very heavy objects, and domestic work which is carried out for long hours in an unhealthy environment. Children may be at greater risk of involvement in hazardous work in the informal sector, and in small size business establishments that are less regulated and tend to have poor knowledge of the labour laws that protect children (ECOWAS, 2021).

Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL)

The “worst forms of child labour” are defined⁵ as: (a) all forms of slavery or similar practices (e.g., child trafficking, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced labour); (b) use of children in prostitution or pornography; (c) use of children in illicit activities (especially production and trafficking of drugs); and (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children, usually referred to as hazardous work, as defined in Recommendation No. 190.⁶ The worst forms of child labour constitute a subset of child labour.

Domestic work

Following ILO Convention No. 189, “domestic work” means work performed in or for a household or households and “domestic worker” means any person engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship.

The term “domestic work” covers a wide range of tasks and services that vary from country to country and that can be different depending on the age, gender, ethnic background and migration status of the workers concerned, as well as the cultural and economic context in which they work. This means that a definition of domestic work and the workers involved on the basis only of the tasks being performed, risks being perpetually incomplete. Rather, the Convention No. 189 draws on the common and distinctive characteristic that domestic workers are employed by, and provide services for, third party private households.

Child domestic work and child domestic labour

“Child domestic work” refers to children’s work in the domestic work sector in the home of a third party or employer (with or without remuneration). Generally speaking, a child domestic worker is a person who is hired to carry out household chores in somebody else (or employer)’s home. This general concept encompasses both permissible as well as non-permissible situations.

As for “child labour in domestic work” or simply “child domestic labour”, it refers to situations where child domestic work is harmful and thus unacceptable. According to the ILO, child domestic labour is undertaken by children below the relevant minimum age (for light work and for full-time non-hazardous work), or by children in hazardous conditions or in a slavery-like situation. Since child domestic labour is harmful to children, it needs to be prevented and eliminated.

Confiage/Vidomegon

“*Confiage*” (as in Burkina Faso) and “*vidomegon*” (as in Benin) is a traditional practice of foster care of children. It also refers to an educational concept that requires the child to work as part of his or her

⁴ ILO Recommendation No. 190

⁵ Article 3 of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

⁶ The ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999 (No. 190) identifies the following as some of the criteria for determining hazardous work: (i) work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse; (ii) work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces; (iii) work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads; (iv) work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health; and (v) work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

socialisation. For this purpose, the child can be sent to a close relative or to a craftsman (boss) to learn work by helping the latter. Nowadays, these situations are transformed into situations of exploitation of the child, through an overload of work (in hours and volume) entrusted to the child. However, it is of importance to note that some children leave their villages to big cities to look for a job. This is not *confiage/vidomegon* because it is the decision of the child.

Forced labour

“Forced labour” refers to situations in which a person is coerced to work involuntarily. Coercion can take different forms, for example the use of violence or intimidation or subtler means such as manipulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities. Forms of forced labour include debt bondage, human trafficking, vestiges of slavery or slavery-like practices, and other types of modern slavery.

Child trafficking

It is defined as the “*recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt*” of a child for the purpose of exploitation.

Human trafficking

“Human trafficking” or “trafficking in persons” is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Annex 3. Relevant normative instruments

International Instruments

- a. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1945
- b. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989
- c. ILO Convention 138, Minimum Age for Work, 1973
- d. ILO Convention No. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1998
- e. ILO Recommendation No. 190, Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999
- f. ILO Convention 189, Domestic Workers Convention, 2011
- g. ILO Recommendation 201, Domestic Workers, 2011
- h. ILO Convention 29, the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention.

Continental Normative Instruments

- a. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), 1981
- b. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990
- c. African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons, 2009.

Regional Normative Instruments

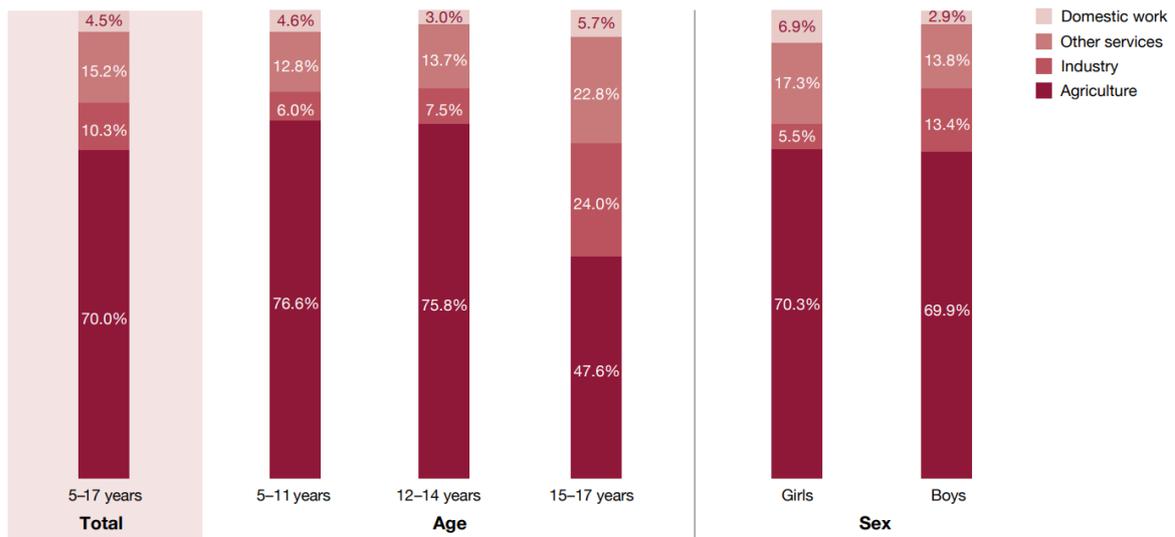
- a. ECOWAS Child Policy and its Strategic Action Plan (2019-2023)
- b. ECOWAS Strategic Framework for Child Protection, 2017; and the Guidelines for Implementation of the Strategic Framework
- c. ECOWAS Regional Action Plan for The Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour in West Africa (2021-2030).

Annex 4. Child labour prevalence, with a focus on child domestic labour

4.1. At the global level

According to the latest global estimates on child labour (Unicef and ILO, 2020), **the agricultural sector accounts for the largest share (70%) of child labour worldwide**, as shown below in the percentage distribution of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by sector of economic activity, age and sex. According to this breakdown, domestic work accounts for 4.5% of child labour in total.

Child labour by economic sector, age and sex

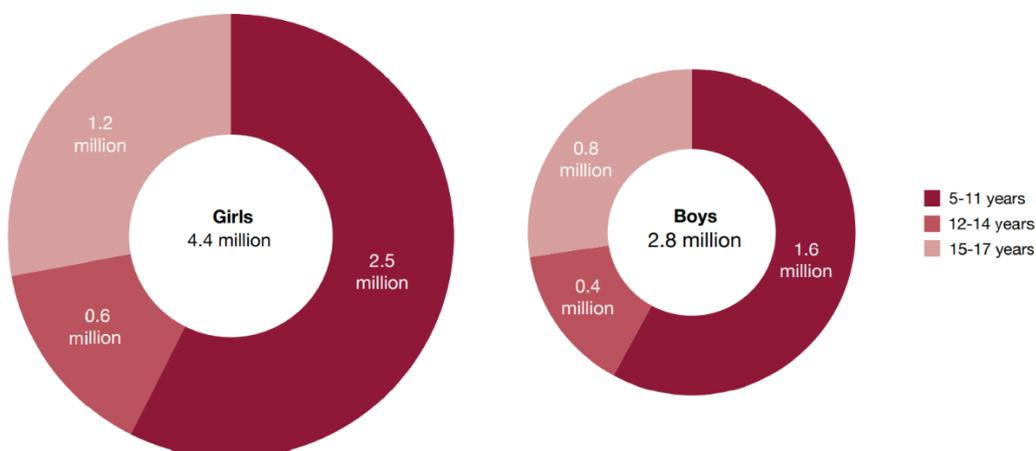


Source: Unicef and ILO (2020)

Globally, the report indicates that boys outnumber girls in child labour, accounting for 97 million of the 160 million children in child labour, while 63 million are girls. The gender gap is however said to narrow down, if the performance of household chores for more than 21 hours a week is taken into account.

Domestic work accounts for 5% of all children in child labour and affects approximately 7.1 million children (4.4 million girls and 2.8 million boys), as shown in the distribution per age and sex below.

Child domestic labour per age and sex



Source: Unicef and ILO (2020)

While all age groups from 5-17 years are engaged to some extent in child domestic labour, it is regrettable to note **the large majority of child domestic labourers belongs to the 5-11 age group** - the youngest one and mostly concerned by mandatory school⁷.

In addition, child domestic labourers are predominantly girls – 4.4 million girls versus 2.8 million boys.

The report acknowledges that there are still many pockets of exploitation and abuse that remain hidden, such as child domestic work and child trafficking.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a real risk that overall, years of progress in the elimination of child labour will be reversed, unless appropriate action is taken according to the ILO.

4.2. In Africa

The prevalence of child labour in Africa has always been high. According to the 2020 ILO-UNICEF global estimates, this region has seen an increase in both the number and percentage of children in child labour since 2012, in contrast to other regions where child labour continued to decline. **One in five African children is engaged in child labour** according to the same report. Sub-Saharan Africa represents the region with the highest prevalence and largest number of children in child labour – 23.9% or 86.6 million children between 5 to 17 years. **There are now more children in child labour in sub-Saharan Africa than in the rest of the world combined.** The same report added that in this region, population growth, poverty, high levels of informality, education exclusion, lack of social protection and recent crises have led to an additional 16.6 million children in child labour over the past four years (from 70 million to 86.6 million from 2016 to 2020). The findings also indicate that the incidence of hazardous work in countries affected by armed conflict is 50% higher than the global average.

According to the projections (which do not take into consideration the COVID-19 pandemic), without accelerated action, **close to 88.9 million children from 5 to 17 years will be in child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2025 and 90 million children in 2030.** It is evident that the global child labour goals will not be achieved without a breakthrough in Africa.

It is recalled that these global estimates were released as part of the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, with a call for member States, business, trade unions, civil society, and regional and international organizations to redouble their efforts in the global fight against child labour by making concrete action pledges. See below in Box 1 an example of a pledge born from this call to more engagement.

The Government of Burkina Faso's pledge (2021)

The Government of Burkina Faso, represented by the Ministry of the Civil Service, Labour and Social Protection, pledged in 2021 to create an Operational Action Plan (2022-2023) in line with its National Strategy to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2019-2023). Its main focus is three-fold: Prevention of the worst forms of child labour; Protection against the worst forms of child labour; Rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of the worst forms of child labour.

“Through these three focal areas, all partners fighting child labour in Burkina Faso are committed not only to ending child labour, particularly its worst forms, but to rehabilitating children who have already been subjected to it. The Operational Action Plan is a national benchmark for the incorporation of local actions on the issue.”

⁷ Of all regions, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of education exclusion. Over one-fifth of children between the ages of about 6 and 11 are out of school, followed by one-third of youth between the ages of about 12 and 14.
<http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/education-africa>

Source: <https://endchildlabour2021.org/>

This pledge has been followed through.

In contrast, no pledge was made by the Government of Benin on the same occasion.

4.3. In West Africa

In the ECOWAS regional action plan for the elimination of child labour and forced labour in West Africa (2021-2030), an estimated **30% of all children in West and Central Africa are said to be in child labour**⁸. For the first time in two decades, child labour figures rose to 160 million globally [almost 1 in 10 children], representing an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years (2016-2020); and with a further nine million additional children at risk of child labour as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, the lives and development of millions of children in West Africa, continue to be at risk from exposure to child labour, especially in its worst forms.

The action plan notes that the trends and occurrences of child labour in West Africa have not changed significantly from the period when a regional action plan was first adopted in 2012; with high prevalence rates in the semi-formal and informal sectors. Some children are said to be either trafficked or recruited through intermediaries who exploit them.

The action plan pinpoints the fact that girls especially work under degrading conditions as domestic servants with little or no pay, and often as live-in relatives who have no clearly defined status in the family.

4.4. Prevalence in Benin and Burkina Faso

It is important to keep the following caveats in mind before looking at the statistics available on the prevalence of child labour, particularly, child domestic labour and its related aspects, in the following sections.

△ The figures presented in the following sections should be read with some caution since there is a lack of sufficiently disaggregated and recent employment data for many African countries, including Benin and Burkina Faso, to effectively determine the scope and extent of child labour, including child domestic labour. For various reasons, official statistics also tend to undercount domestic workers in general. Currently there are very few studies measuring the prevalence of child domestic work, including child domestic labour, in both countries. Many children involved in this type of work are likely to remain hidden based on most commonly used methods, which rely on household head, industry and occupational approaches (International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 2021).

One plausible explanation for the low number of domestic workers in official statistics in general, and particularly in Africa, including Benin and Burkina is added below:

Domestic workers may not be recognized as workers in labour force surveys. First of all, many children carry out housework and other duties for households that are not their own, whether for cash, a meal and shelter, or virtually nothing. Second, where domestic work carries a social stigma, domestic workers would refuse to identify themselves as such. Third, it is not uncommon for domestic workers to be related to their employer by kinship, unpaid and thus not identified as “paid employees”. In fact, domestic work is often embedded in practices of support, reciprocity and interdependence between relatives, friends or people belonging to a

⁸ by citing as source the ILO 2020 child labour database.

same community. A case in point is child fostering: “confiage” in West Africa and “vidomegon” in Benin. (ILO, 2013).

☞ In some societies, the notion of the child domestic worker’s employer as a benefactor has been legitimized by the description of this relationship as “adoption” by strangers or “fostering” by extended family members – practices which still prevail across much of sub-Saharan Africa. Characterizing child domestic work situations as “adoption” or “fostering” invokes perceptions of caring kinship relations and community support for raising children, while in reality concealing their potential vulnerability to child labour in domestic work. (Dottridge, M. and Feneyrol, O. 2007).

4.5. Prevalence in Benin

The lack of robust statistical data and national studies regarding child labour, and even more when you look at child domestic labour, in Benin is flagrant. The topic is complex and poorly documented.

Nonetheless, three main sources – albeit limited and somewhat outdated – are considered below to provide an idea of the prevalence and incidence rates of child labour in the country:

- the USDOL/ILAB (2020) Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Benin,
- the National Child Labour Survey (ENTE), and
- the 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

4.5.1. USDOL/ILAB (2020) Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Benin

According to the latest United States Department of Labor (USDOL)⁹’s findings on child labour (2020), children in Benin perform dangerous tasks in domestic work and street vending. Table 3 below provides key indicators on children’s work and education in the country.

Statistics on Children’s Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	24.7 (unknown)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	67.9
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	16.8
Primary Completion Rate (%)		64.4

Source: USDOL/ILAB (2020)

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2019, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021.

Source for all other data: International Labour Organization’s analysis of statistics from Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2017–2018.

This table, however, does not give a full picture of child labour, i.e. covering the 5–17 years’ age bracket. Nonetheless, the report cites among categorical Worst Forms of Child Labour (to be eliminated among all children) in Benin:

- Forced labour in domestic work, vending, construction, handicraft activities, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking;
- Forced begging;
- Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking.

Child trafficking occurs mostly within Benin but also to other countries, primarily Gabon, Nigeria, and the Republic of the Congo, and for purposes of domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation, and work in vending, agriculture, and mining. **Children living in the northern regions of Benin are the most vulnerable to human trafficking.** The USDOL’s report highlights that traditionally, under the practice of *vidomegon*,

⁹ which regularly provide an assessment of national and regional advancement in combatting child labour, especially its worst forms.

children live with relatives or family friends and perform household services in exchange for educational opportunities. **A majority of these children are girls, and many become victims of labour exploitation and sexual abuse.**

With regard to child trafficking and forced labour, which affects some children that are in situation of child domestic labour of apprenticeship, the 2021 US Department of State trafficking-in-persons report¹⁰ reveals that trafficking in the country is predominantly internal and involves Beninese **children from low-income families exploited in forced labour** or sex trafficking. Vulnerable populations most at risk of trafficking frequently lack formal education or basic identity documents, including birth certificates and national identification. Officials reported that parent illiteracy and single-parent households also increase children's risk of exploitation.

Some community members and relatives use the promise of education or employment to recruit Beninese children from northern rural areas to the more urban southern corridor and exploit them in forced labour in domestic servitude, markets, farming, as "apprentices" engaged in various trades, and in handicraft manufacturing. Beninese traffickers include farmers, traders, artisans, small factory owners, and civil servants; some belong to criminal networks and others may have been former trafficking victims.

And traditionally, under the practice known locally as '*vidomegon*' (Hounyoton, 2019; Ilse Kok, 2020), **children, up to 95 percent of them girls, live with relatives or family friends to perform household services in exchange for educational opportunities**; however, many children become victims of labour exploitation and sexual abuse.

Criminal elements operate in urban areas under the guise of informal employment agents and recruit children for domestic work in private residences, where house managers and families exploit them in domestic servitude.

4.5.2. National Child Labour Survey (ENTE) and 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)

The National Action Plan (NAP) to combat the worst forms of child labour in Benin (2019-2023) uses the 2018 ENTE and the 2014 MICS as main statistical sources and references.

The ENTE revealed that out of a child population in the 5 to 17 age brackets, estimated at 1,969,605, **the proportion of economically occupied children is 664,537**, or 34% or one in three children. Among them, **598,521, or 90.01%, are found in the worst forms of child labour (WFCL)**, i.e. in work that needs to be abolished. Work to be abolished includes hazardous work with a proportion of 69.3%.

More recent statistics, drawn from the results of the 2014 MICS, revealed that the proportion of working children, of the same age group, increased to 52.5% and nearly 4 in 10 children (40%) work in hazardous conditions. More findings about the report are outlined below.

SITAN Report, Benin, Unicef, 2017

The phenomenon of child labour is also clearly worsening compared to 2008, with **more than one child in two (52.5%) involved in child labour and nearly four out of ten (40%) working in dangerous conditions**. The departments most affected by this phenomenon are Couffo (82%), Plateau (68%), Alibori (62%) and Borgou (60%). Apart from traditional family domestic work (housework, small-scale agricultural work, etc.), children are employed as domestic servants in their own homes, to do small-scale trade or are subcontracted for large-scale work (agriculture, mining) in Benin or in neighbouring countries. The phenomenon of prostitution of girls aged 12 to 17 seems to be widespread and tolerated in urban areas. Available data on child trafficking estimates their population at 40,317 girls and boys aged 6 to 17. These children and adolescents, who come from the different departments of Benin but also from neighbouring countries, are most often recruited by organised networks for domestic work, begging, prostitution, work in the mines and in agriculture. The exact

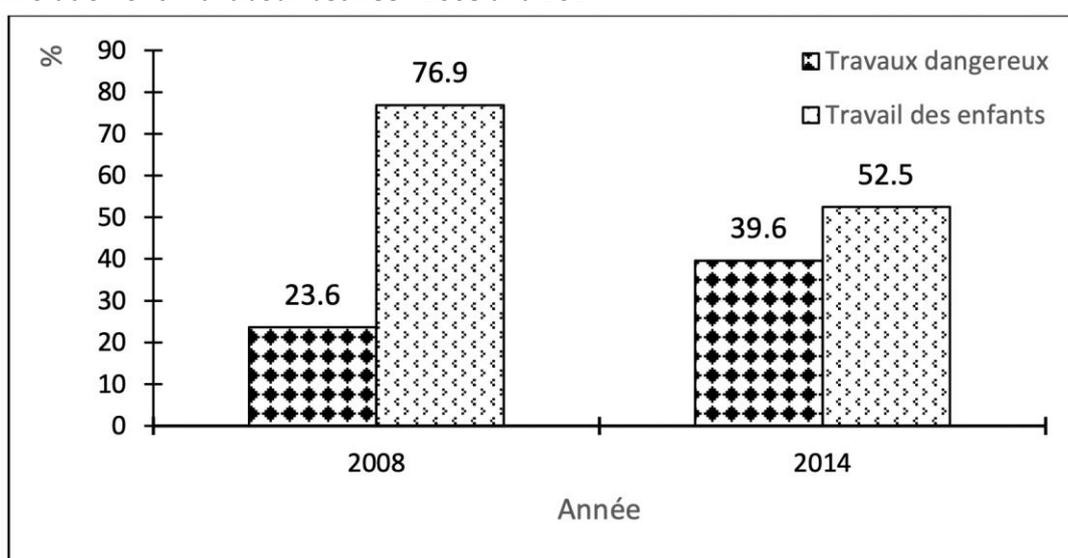
¹⁰ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/benin/>

extent of the problem and the situation of street children are not well known, as they are overshadowed by the more visible phenomenon of child beggars. Begging is estimated to account for 54% of the street child population.

Referring to the same MICS, Saidou Ouedraogo added in his 2021 cartography¹¹ that some of the children are said to be involved in the worst forms of child labour (WFCL), mainly in agriculture and domestic work. **The phenomenon of child labourers was more common in rural areas (61%), among children aged 12 to 14 (61%), among those who are not in school (58%), among those whose mothers have no level of education (58%) as well as among those who belong to poor households (66.8%).** And more than 8 out of 10 children aged 15 to 17 and 7 out of 10 children for the youngest are involved in household chores.

According to Dramani et al. (2021), despite the legal and regulatory provisions, child labour remains an important issue. The graph below, extracted from their report, is based on the same references (ENTE 2008 and MICS 2014) and shows the evolution of child labour and hazardous work in four years.

Evolution of child labour between 2008 and 2014



Source : Dramani et al (2021) using data from the ENTE 2008 and MICS 2014

Out of a total number of children aged 5-17 of 1,952,227 children, 23.6% of children (or 460,297) were performing hazardous work and 76.9% of them were performing activities considered as child labour in 2008. In 2014, the proportion of children aged 5-17 in child labour was 52.5% and the percentage of children performing hazardous work was 39.6%.

The number of economically active children has increased by 19% in six years (from 2008 to 2014) and the number of them who are engaged in hazardous work has increased by more than 16%. Against this background, it is possible to assume that **domestic labour is also on the rise**. To explain such prevalence, a key stakeholder from an international organization (Unicef) that we met suggests that the prevalence of domestic labour is high in Benin because of the high rate of informality of the Beninese economy.

Although it is imprudent to make a simple comparative analysis of child labour between periods because of the different bases of calculation and estimation, the figure above nevertheless provides us with an idea of the extent of the phenomenon in Benin.

¹¹ while referencing the 2017 Situation Analysis of Children and Women (SitAn) report, conducted by UNICEF in collaboration with the Beninese government, which outlines some of the 2014 MICS findings.

4.6. Prevalence in Burkina Faso

According to the USDOL/ILAB (2020) Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Burkina Faso, **35% of children (around 850,000) from the 10 to 14 age group**, thus under the minimum age for work (16), **are working**. Under the 'service' economic sector which constitutes 14.4% of all children's work, these children engage in domestic work and street work, including vending. They are also subjected to the worst forms of child labour, including in domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking, and forced begging in unregistered Koranic schools. The following table provides key indicators on children's work and education in Burkina Faso.

Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	10 to 14	35.7 (849,922)
Working children by sector	10 to 14	
Agriculture		80.0
Industry		5.6
Services		14.4
Primary Completion Rate (%)		64.5

Source: USDOL/ILAB (2020)

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2019, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021.

Source for all other data: International Labour Organization's analysis of statistics from *Enquête Multisectorielle Continue* (EMC), 2014.

One important aspect to consider is that **the majority of child domestic workers are away from their own families and move long distances into employers' households**. Continued insecurity has led to the mass displacement of over one million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the last 2 years, including a large number of vulnerable children, according to USDOL in 2020.

According to a report by UNICEF in 2021, 511,221 children (243,528 girls) were out of school with an increased risk of long-term non-enrolment and drop-out and 14,901 teachers (4,697 women) were affected by school closures in 2021. Compared to the situation on 31 December 2020, the end of 2021 saw an increase of 51 percent in number of schools closed due the crisis, affecting access to education in 8 out of 13 regions in Burkina Faso.

From the same source, in 2021, the United Nations was able to verify 27 cases of attacks on schools in Burkina Faso depriving hundreds of thousands of children of access to education. These attacks include the abduction of teachers and students, killings and threats against teachers, the destruction of school infrastructure, and the looting of school property resulting in forced closure of schools.

The situation of children in domestic work in Burkina Faso is clearly correlated with migration. 92.23% of child domestic workers are in a situation of migration to a region other than their region of origin and these migrations can have various reasons: "confiage", child trafficking, or displacement due to conflict and violence. The cities that host most of these children remain Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso. (Saidou Ouedraogo, 2021).

During the past decades, this traditional practice has turned into a system of exploitation and abuse. This is partly due to impoverishment in the country. Less families are willing to take in a confiage, due to the economic burden that it brings for the household. Some have taken advantage of this situation. They offer to take the children as confiage, but in fact traffic or exploit them. In 2007, about 5% of the Burkinabe children

up to 14 years old had been taking part in confiage. 48% of them were girls. 26.8% of the households in urban areas has at least one foster child compared to 19.7% in rural areas. (Ilse Kok¹², 2020)

USDOL confirm this in their 2018 findings on WFCL that child trafficking occurs within Burkina Faso. The report states that the practice of confiage, which involves sending a child to live with a relative or friend to attend school in a larger town or city, may place children at risk of internal human trafficking.

USDOL noted in their 2020 report that the government was in the process of carrying out a new survey called the National Survey on Child Labour (Enquête Nationale sur le Travail des Enfants - ENTE). This ongoing survey is conducted by the ministry in charge of labour. It began in June 2019 and ends in December 2021. The results have not yet been published.

¹² Citing as references Younoussi, Z. (2007). Les déterminants démographiques et socio-économiques du confiage des enfants au Burkina Faso. *African Population Studies*, 22(2) and Lachaud, J., LeGrand, T. K., & Kobiané, J. F. (2016). Child fostering and children's human capital in Ouagadougou. *Population Review*, 55(1).

Annex 5. Causes of child domestic labour in West Africa, applicable to Benin and Burkina Faso

Building on the underlying causes of child labour, particularly child domestic labour, from the supply and demand sides in West Africa, here are those that **apply to Benin and Burkina Faso to a large extent**.

Causes of child labour, including child domestic labour, from both supply and demand sides

	Supply Side	Demand Side
Governmental	<p>Poverty creating deprivations and vulnerabilities to income shocks and exposure to debt</p> <p>High levels of unemployment and underemployment</p> <p>Limited labour protections leave workers [especially informal ones such as domestic workers] unprotected and unable to exert their rights</p> <p>Absence of social safety nets</p> <p>Conflicts and natural disasters result in internal displacements, disrupt livelihoods and schooling, heighten insecurity, force migration of children, and recruitment of children in informal sectors such as domestic work.</p>	<p>Weak legal frameworks for preventing labour exploitations</p> <p>Weak enforcement of applicable laws</p> <p>Governance gaps</p> <p>Insufficient financial and technical resources</p> <p>Corruption</p> <p>Absence of system for tracing and monitoring children's movements</p>
Societal	<p>High levels of illiteracy; long distances to school, poor access to quality education and/or vocational/skills</p> <p>Lack of awareness of the nature, risks, hazards, and consequences of child labour</p> <p>Poor access to social services</p> <p>Inadequate economic infrastructure in rural communities, rudimentary agricultural practices, requiring intensive cheap and low-skilled labour</p>	<p>Reliance on unskilled and low-skill labour in the urban informal sectors, including domestic work</p> <p>Lack of capacities of agencies and actors</p> <p>Unfair recruitment processes and practices</p> <p>Lack of coordination between concerned organizations</p> <p>Low collaboration for denouncing cases of abuse</p>
individual	<p>Discrimination, including ethnic and gender discrimination affecting girls particularly</p> <p>Socio-cultural, religious and traditional practices such as child of placement (<i>confiage/vidomegon</i>)</p> <p>Migration trends- undocumented migrants, such as child domestic workers, are especially vulnerable to abusive situations</p>	<p>Employers' desire to cut costs</p>

Sources: ECOWAS (2021), literature review and data from the field

Sources: ECOWAS (2021), literature review and data from the field

Push factors for child labour in the on-going health pandemic which may stall progress and put more persons at the risk of child labour

- Loss or reduction in family income as a result of lockdowns or quarantine
- Weak social security systems; reduced access to essential services, friends and support networks.
- The closure of schools which can escalate the number of out of school children in the future as many may fail to return to school due to loss of jobs, illness or death of their parents or caregivers.
- Likelihood of additional roles for the girl child in care giving and domestic roles to support the family, could deprive them of education and heightens the risk of commercial sexual exploitation.
- More families may resort to child labour, child marriage and other strategies to cope.

Source: ECOWAS (2021)

Annex 6. Existing response analysis

6.1. Targets

6.1.1. Global call to action

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, particularly in Target 8.7, the world expressed in 2015 their commitment to: "*Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.*"

This call to action presents an opportunity to bring about a world free of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. It is a call to work together in innovative new ways. The so-called SDG Alliance 8.7 was subsequently created in 2016 to join forces globally to this end by assisting all member States of the United Nations in achieving this target. So far, "26 pathfinder countries" are committed to going further and faster to achieve Target 8.7 by accelerating efforts, trying new approaches and collaborating with others. So far, neither Burkina Faso nor Benin has joined the Alliance for such a commitment.

6.1.2. Africa's commitments

6.1.2.1. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

African countries made ambitious commitments in 1990 to work together for the rights and welfare of the Child in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

In its preamble, the African Member States of the Organization of African Unity note with concern that "*the situation of most African children, remains critical due to the unique factors of their socio-economic, cultural, traditional and developmental circumstances, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation and hunger, and on account of the child's physical and mental immaturity he/she needs special safeguards and care.*"

They also recognize that "*the child occupies a unique and privileged position in African Society and that for the full harmonious development of his personality, the child should grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding*" and "*... due to the needs of his physical and mental development requires particular care with regard to health, physical, mental, moral and social development, and requires legal protection in conditions of freedom, dignity and security.*" "*Taking into consideration the virtues of their cultural heritage, historical background and the values of the African civilization should inspire and characterise reflection on the concept of the rights and welfare of the child.*"

In Article 15, they clearly state on child labour that:

"1. *Every child shall be protected from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development.*

2. *States Parties to the present Charter take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure the full implementation of this Article which covers both the formal and informal sectors of employment.*"

6.1.2.2. African Union's Ten Year Plan of Action on Child Labour

This plan is considered as a step forward towards achieving the targets of the Article 15 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) as well as those of the AU Agenda 2063 on child labour.

It was adopted in February 2020 and is to be implemented in juxtaposition with the ILO Convention 182, an instrument that emphasizes the subset of worst forms of child labour requiring immediate action, while listing other forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery.

The move to implement the Ten Year Plan is seen as a big push toward eradicating the issue as it establishes a clear legal framework in that countries in Africa, including Benin and Burkina Faso still need to enforce and ensure effective implementation through labour inspection and other means and provide decent work for adults and young people of legal working age.

The Plan also draws inspiration from another ILO Convention, the C138 on Minimum Age which calls on Member States to set a general minimum age for admission to work or employment of at least 15 years of age, and a higher minimum age of not less than 18 years for employment or work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of young persons, i.e., hazardous work (Art. 3.1 of C138).

The Action Plan focuses on a critical set of interventions that can bring rapid results. These involve: strengthening national programmes through advocacy and policy monitoring by AU organs and relevant structures; contributions to capacity building of national institutions and other key actors; awareness campaigns to encourage parents to remove young children from child labour and tackle the problem of hazardous work by children, along with measures complementing and contributing to national education policies with a view to ensuring quality education for all children, particularly the large numbers that are out of school; and the scaling up of efforts to address child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery in sectors where large numbers of victims are found, especially agriculture, the extractive industries, **domestic work** and other areas of the urban informal economy.

In terms of strategies, it call on Member States to:

- Strengthen the capacities of labour inspectorates, anti-trafficking units and other law enforcement agencies to effectively address issues relating to the Agenda 2063¹³–SDG 8.7 target at both national and decentralized levels, as well as in the informal and rural economy, including hard-to-reach workplaces such as private homes. This work should include the creation of monitoring mechanisms that ensure protections for workers in the informal economy, particularly **domestic workers**.
- Expand and improve victim identification measures to extend protections for victims of forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery. These measures should focus, as a priority, on the sectors with large numbers of victims, e.g., **domestic service**, commercial sexual exploitation, construction, manufacturing and agriculture. Work with RECs, AUC, employers’ and workers’ organizations and concerned CSOs to develop generic protocols and standard operating procedures for adaptation and use by the concerned departments and agencies.
- Sign, ratify and/or accede to relevant conventions, notably the **Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)**

In partnership with employers’ and workers’ organizations, business, concerned CSOs, and other stakeholders, it also call on AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States to develop and implement a programme of work aimed at promoting decent work in the informal economy, including **domestic work**.

¹³ The African Union (AU) strategic framework for socioeconomic development in Africa is commonly known as **Agenda 2063**

6.1.3. West Africa's commitments

The commitments of West African countries are expressed through two main policy documents: the ECOWAS Child Policy 2019 – 2030 and the ECOWAS regional action plan for the elimination of child labour and forced labour in West Africa, 2021-2030.

6.1.3.1. ECOWAS Child Policy (2019-2030)

The Child Policy and Strategic Plan of Action aims to provide a comprehensive conceptual architecture and concrete guidance for coordinating the efforts of all stakeholders in the ECOWAS region towards achieving the goals of extant international instruments relative to child rights.

Among the goals that are proclaimed, three goals are relevant to our study. Goal 5 addresses gender disparity and child, early and forced marriage. Goal 8 requires States to take immediate measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and to end child labour in all its forms by 2025. Finally, Goal 16 calls for an end to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. All the targets relating to children are said to be closely linked and cannot be realised in isolation.

Within this framework, ECOWAS developed ten Commitments for ECOWAS and the Member States to propose a system that helps to reduce child vulnerability, build children's resilience and prevent and protect children from abuse, exploitation and violence.

The Strategic Framework integrates the SDG targets, especially those relating to protection rights, and focuses on Five Priority Areas: preventing and responding to violence against children (including sexual, physical and emotional violence and FGM); child marriage; child labour; birth registration and vital statistics; and children on the move.

Given the weight of gender norms and practices that affect girls' development and education, the Policy put an emphasis on the need to further promote educational system options, as stated below:

Educational system options for girls

Educational curricula and teaching practices often reinforce negative gender norms, perpetuating gender stereotypes rather than promoting gender equitable relations between boys and girls through education. The situation can be reversed by using education as an entry point to vehicle important gender equitable socialisation among boys and girls, improve teaching practices and pedagogical methodologies, and introduce life-skills education as a vehicle to equitable gender roles and positive comprehensive sexual education. The multiple benefits of girls' education are widely recognised: equal educational outcomes for boys and girls can not only close the gender gap in education, but have a high impact on preventing child marriage, reducing maternal and child mortality, promoting smaller and more sustainable families, improved employment, better wages and economic growth, better parenting practices, reduction in domestic violence and harmful practices. A recent World Bank Analysis showed that if universal secondary education were achieved in West and Central Africa, child marriage would be virtually eliminated and the prevalence of early childbearing would be reduced by up to three-fourths.

Source: ECOWAS (2020)

6.1.3.2. ECOWAS Regional Action Plan for the elimination of child labour and forced labour in West Africa (2021-2030)

As discussed previously in the section related to prevalence in West Africa, in West and Central Africa, an estimated 30% of all children in the region are said to be in child labour.¹⁴ Indications are that the lives and development of millions of children in West Africa, continue to be at risk from exposure to child labour, especially in its worst forms.

The expected long term outcome of implementing the Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2021 is that, the Community citizens, including girls, boys and vulnerable adults, particularly those affected by humanitarian or emergency situations, are prevented and removed from child labour and forced labour; and such labour exploitations are eradicated.

The objectives and goal of the RAP 2021 is in line with existing regional commitments, and establishes linkages to key framework documents including the ECOWAS Strategic Framework for Child Protection [child labour is a Priority area], and its implementation guidelines; the AU Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour; and the SDGs, as well as the Alliance 8.7 goals.

The RAP also adopts an integrated approach towards the eradication of child labour and forced labour. Its strategies are framed around five priority areas that help to achieve this objective as follows:

1. Legislation and operationalization of child labour and forced labour laws
2. Systems strengthening
3. Advocacy and community mobilisation
4. Response to child labour in priority sectors, conflicts, emergencies and humanitarian situations
5. Regional coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

The measures adopted in the RAP are intended to prevent child labour, especially the WFCL and identified hazardous work; and to remove, protect and provide rehabilitation and social integration to children engaged in the worst forms of child labour, providing for the rehabilitation or appropriate vocational training of all rescued children. In that regards, the elimination of the worst forms of child labour remains a primary objective, with specific attention given to addressing concerns in the key sectors of agricultural and mining.

¹⁴ ILO 2020- Child-labour-database_Oct-2019_West and Central Africa

The key strategies advocated address the identified gaps and include implementing social protection policies, access to free qualitative basic education, child protection in emergencies, advocacy and community mobilisation, as well as fair labour and decent work standards.

Another significant consideration was the heightened risks and vulnerabilities resulting from the COVID-19 global lockdown in 2020, and the continuing impact it has had on the lives of children everywhere.

Even if specific attention is given to addressing concerns in the key sectors of agricultural and mining in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, the ECOWAS RAP makes a few relevant provisions and recommendations on domestic work in relation to child labour and forced labour, as outlined below:

- Most countries in West Africa are identified source, transit and destination countries of trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation. In terms of prevalence, the exploitation of women and girls and, to a much lesser extent, boys in **domestic service** takes the lead, occurring internally within countries in the region, as well as in cross border trafficking of persons for **domestic work**, forced prostitution or construction work.
- The risk of occurrences of forced labour is particularly heightened in the unregulated or under regulated and/or labour intensive sectors, such as, agriculture and fishing, domestic work.
- Violence, threats, intimidation and vulnerability are also tools in the hands of unscrupulous employers to gain or retain control over workers who are subjected to forced labour. **Domestic workers** including children who are separated from their families, undocumented migrants who risk being prosecuted for illegal entry to a country, desperate job seekers and others who are literarily dependent on the job for survival are most at risk of this forms of forced labour.
- The RAP encourages MS to **ratify the ILO Convention 189**, Domestic Workers Convention, 2011, and **regulate the domestic work sector in line with this convention, as well as the practice of informal adoption and child fostering.**
- In response to child labour in priority sectors, conflicts, emergencies and humanitarian situations, the integration of child labour and forced labour prevention strategies in priority sectors [Agriculture, Mining, and/or **domestic servitude**], humanitarian response, emergency protection, armed conflict and other state fragility situations, should be improved.
- National programmes should target the elimination of child labour and labour exploitations in identified national priority sectors [**Domestic work sector**, Agriculture and Mining/Extractive industries] in target communities. Programmes design and implementation should adopt a participatory approach; preventing, removing, rehabilitating and reintegrating victims of child labour and forced labour in the target communities, and offering viable alternative practices to households in these communities.
- National programmes should promote **age-appropriate work** by young people in the informal economy, [including in **domestic work**]. Application of minimum age statutes should be extended to the informal economy.
- MS should adapt and implement ECOWAS Decent Work agenda promoting decent work standards in both the formal and informal economy, including **domestic work**, by establishing mechanisms that enable informal economy workers (including workers in mining sector) to enjoy labour and social rights, including transparent contracts, minimum wage regimes, social security and easy access to legal protections and remedies in case of abuse, harassment, exploitation and violence.
- Mechanisms and programmes should be established to raise awareness about the rights and responsibilities of both workers and employers; enabling and encouraging self-organizing of informal economy workers, including **domestic workers**; preventing forced labour and protecting victims; **regulating the traditional child fosterage systems**; and for protection against hazardous work, abuse, harassment and violence to children of working age.
- MS should harmonize their sectorial laws and policies to the NAP, to prevent exploitation of children in agriculture, mining/extractive industries, domestic and other unregulated sectors; and provide for the removal and rehabilitation of child labourers from the worst forms of child labour.

- Collaboration between the Member States (MS) and the ECOWAS Commission should produce generic protocols and standard operating procedures for adaptation and use by agencies responsible for implementing victim identification mechanisms. Victim protection is enhanced with priority focus on the sectors with large numbers of victims, e.g., **domestic service**, commercial sexual exploitation, construction, manufacturing and agriculture.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Referral pathways should be established and implemented in MS for the identification, rescue, and protection and rehabilitation, particularly of victims of WFCL, younger children; victims in hidden work situations, including forced labour and/or **domestic servitude in which girls are especially at risk**; IDPs and children affected by conflict or other humanitarian crisis.

In the development of National Action Plans, ECOWAS Member States are recommended to take cognisance of the prevailing forms of child labour and forced labour in their country, the availability of resources, and the level of local expertise or other conditions prevailing in the country. In that vein the MS shall identify the target groups to receive focused attention, giving priority attention to younger children, children in hidden work situations such as **in domestic servitude where girls are at special risk**, children on the move, internally displaced children, and any other identified groups of children affected by conflicts or humanitarian crises, and who are vulnerable to child labour.

In the same vein, both Benin and Burkina Faso have recently developed their 2019-2023 national strategy/action plans in which they expressed their commitment towards the eradication of child labour, including child domestic labour, especially the WFCL, by outlining their respective pillars of intervention as we shall see in the following sections.

6.2. Existing response analysis - Benin

6.2.1. Institutional framework

Benin has 3 main policies/plans which indirectly address child domestic labour:

- the National National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2019–2023),
- the Child Protection Policy (PNPE), and
- the National Action Plan to Fight Trafficking in Persons (2020–2024)

6.2.1.1. National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2019–2023)

Adopted in 2018, the Plan aims to reduce the worst forms of child labour in Benin by 70 percent by the end of 2023. It targets six focus areas: strengthening the legislative and institutional framework related to child labour; information, awareness, and social mobilization; education and training; victim monitoring, protection and referral; inspection and suppression; institutional mechanisms, and monitoring and evaluation of the plan.

Building on the previous NAP, the current 5-year plan aims to intensify the fight by setting the following goals:

- intensify inspection visits to hazardous workplaces for children. To this end, the legal framework should be strengthened by the implementation of specific standards for monitoring in hazardous sectors that rely on child labour, particularly the agricultural sector;
- strengthen the institutional framework by deconcentrating the fight against child labour in all departments;
- dissuade the use of child labour by repressing the perpetrators of offenses committed against children involved in WFCL;

- increase social mobilization around the fight against WFCL in a context of trivialization of the phenomenon;
- continue efforts to enroll children, keep them in school as well as alternative options in terms of vocational training for children who are victims of and at risk of WFCL;
- provide effective care for all child victims and at risk of WFCL in an integrated and multi-sectoral approach;
- put in place an effective mechanism for coordinating actions to combat the WFCL.

In this plan, the government of Benin aims to reduce WFCL by 70 per cent.

Comments:

- The National Action Plan recognizes that there is a need to intensify inspection visits to hazardous workplaces for children but the focus of the attention is agriculture. As discussed in the following sections, apprenticeships in sectors such as construction, are also under scrutiny by the labour inspections. There is no information about inspections related to child domestic labour though.
- The NAP has an interesting passage about *vidomegon* children and/or child domestic helpers [the use of child labour in farms, mining and quarrying, on construction sites, markets, as “*vidomegon*” or househelp, etc. hardly resembles socializing work. Even when carried out within the family, the work done by children ceases to enter into the process of socialization that it represented. The constraint of profitability of the work ended up taking precedence over any other consideration and the **working conditions of the children became difficult, even unacceptable.**] This is very interesting since it is taken from the NAP itself, which means there is a recognition by the government within a legal document which acknowledges that the tradition of *vidomegon* has changed its purpose over the course of time and became something that is “unacceptable” for children.
- USDOL commented during the 2020 reporting period that even though Benin made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, the national action plan for the elimination of the WFCL was not pushed forward to further advance the policies.

6.2.1.2. National Child Protection Policy (PNPE)

The PNPE is a guiding document for integrated child protection actions. Its aim is to ensure that by 2025, all children in Benin live in a family, community and institutional environment free from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation against them.

Comments:

According to our assessment, this a very good document in that it recognizes all the key areas which need to be improved. The actions are divided in seven axes where axis 1 focuses on information and training of children. Basically, the plan aims to giving children a voice and participation rights in society while also educating them on their own rights so they can recognize for themselves when they find themselves in an abusive situation, and also know where and how to report it. The plan also includes important axes for intervention, including social mobilisation, prevention and implementation. It is an extremely ambitious and detailed plan, with many areas where NGOs for instance could step in to support. Without any external support, this plan might fail though, since Government alone might not be able to realize all the interventions planned.

6.2.1.3. National Action Plan to Fight Trafficking in Persons (2020–2024)

This plan aims to eradicate human trafficking in Benin by strengthening governmental systems and institutional framework. During the reporting period, the government provided resources to implement this policy; however, research showed that these resources were inadequate.

Comment:

USDOL commented during their 2020 reporting period that the action plan to fight trafficking in persons proved to have inadequate resources.

CEACR noted with regret in 2021 that the national evaluative study on the fight against child trafficking in the context of the National Action Plan to Combat Child Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Burkina Faso (PAN-LTVS) had not progressed (CEACR, 2021).

Benin has signed a cooperation agreement with Togo and Burkina Faso to protect children in the situation of cross-border trafficking on 23 September 2019 (CEACR, 2021).

6.2.2. Coordination and networking

Different committees and working groups are in place to enhance coordination and networking in Benin around the issues of child labour and child protection. These are:

- the National Executive Committee to Combat Child Labour (*Comité Directeur National de Lutte contre le Travail des Enfants, CDN*), spearheaded by the Ministry in charge of labour and civil service,
- the National Monitoring and Coordination Working Group for Child Protection (CNSCPE),
- the Inter-Ministerial Task Force to Combat Trafficking in Persons,
- the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance.

6.2.2.1. National Executive Committee to Combat Child Labour (Comité Directeur National de Lutte contre le Travail des Enfants, CDN)

It coordinates efforts to address child labour and falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry in charge of labour and social services, and includes delegates from ILO, UNICEF, trade unions, employers' organisations, local NGOs, and other government ministries.

6.2.2.2. National Monitoring and Coordination Working Group for Child Protection (CNSCPE)

It includes five technical committees: trafficking and exploitation, juvenile justice, violence against children, orphans and vulnerable children, and early childhood. Each committee has an action plan and may propose other activities to CNSCPE. It has 40 members drawn from various organizations involved with children's issues, including government ministries, NGOs, donor agencies, and international and bilateral technical partners.

Comment:

During their 2020 reporting period, USDOL commented that CNSCPE met for the first time since 2017 in June 2020. Thus, the working group has not been very active.

6.2.2.3. Inter-Ministerial Task Force to Combat Trafficking in Persons

It coordinates government efforts to address trafficking in persons through five committees: prosecution, prevention and protection, statistics, intellectual, and policy. Led by the Ministry of Planning and Development and includes representatives of other key ministries and NGOs.

Comment:

This Inter-Ministerial Task force did not apparently meet in 2020 according to USDOL.

6.2.2.4. Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance

It provides social assistance and social support services to vulnerable populations and is the lead agency for child protection in Benin. Through its Office of Family, Childhood, and Adolescence, it provides assistance to trafficking victims by means of 85 Social Promotion Centers (*Centres de Promotion Sociale* or CPS), which work to improve the living conditions of children, across the country. Through the Family and Child Monitoring Office, it maintains a database on child trafficking. In 2020, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance continued to assist foreign trafficking victims, predominantly minors, before repatriating them to their home countries.

Comment:

According to USDOL, research found that there was a lack of effective coordination among agencies responsible for addressing the needs of vulnerable children in 2020.

6.2.3. Laws and regulations, including law enforcement

Benin has made efforts to outlaw systematic violations of children's rights, including **vidomegon**. **According to article 7 of the 2006-04 Law:** *"No child can be moved out from his or her country of birth and be separated from his or her biological parents or from the person having authority over him or her without the special permit from the competent administrative authority of his place of residence except judicial decisions or matters especially recommended by the social and health services."*

Children must be protected from exploitation, which is defined as follows in **Article 4** of the same law: *"exploitation means ... all forms of slavery and similar practices, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced or compulsory labor, using children in armed conflicts or for the removal of organs, using or offering children for prostitution the production of pornographic works or for pornographic performances, using or offering children for illicit activities, the works that by their nature and/or their conditions in which they are carried out, are likely to harm the health, the security and the morality of the child or to release himself or herself."*

Other important laws are related to:

- the prohibition of forced labour,
- the minimum age for employment and apprenticeship: The minimum age for work is 14 whereas the minimum age for apprenticeship was raised from 14 to 15 in 2020¹⁵,
- Prohibition of child Labour and minimum age for hazardous work: The law prohibits the worst forms of child labour. The country has a list of hazardous occupations and has set 18 as the minimum age for employment in hazardous work.
- Decree No. 2008-423 of 28 July 2008 laying down the substantive conditions, effects and measures for monitoring the performance of the apprenticeship contract,
- the prohibition of the worst forms of child labour,
- Law No. 2002-07 of 27 August 2004 (Personal and Family Code) ensuring the safety, development and morality of the child,
- Order No. 026/MFPTRA/DC/SGM/DT/SRT of 14 April 1998 laying down the general conditions of employment of domestic workers in Benin,
- Law against sexual exploitation of children: The penal code provides penalties for conviction of rape, sexual exploitation, and corruption of minors, including procuring children for commercial sexual exploitation; it increases penalties for cases involving children younger than age 15,
- Law against rape and domestic violence: Sentences for conviction of rape range from five to 20 years' imprisonment.

¹⁵ As reported by USDOL.

- Sexual harassment: The law prohibits sexual harassment and offers protection for victims, but sexual harassment was common in the workplace and in schools. The law also provides for penalties applicable to persons who are aware of sexual harassment but do not report it.
- Child abuse: Violence against children was common. The law bans a wide range of harmful practices and provides for substantial fines and up to life imprisonment for persons convicted of child abuse.
- Prohibition of forced or compulsory Labour: The law prohibits forced or compulsory labour, with certain exceptions.

Comments:

- Minimum age for employment and apprenticeship: This is actually a very important point and Benin differentiates substantially from Burkina Faso in the legal framework here. The downside is that the minimum age for employment and apprenticeship is 14 [according to USDOL, the minimum age for apprenticeships was changed to 15 in 2020 which could be considered as a good step], while the compulsory education age is 16. This might encourage children to leave school or parents to take them out of school earlier when they reached the legal working age (14). But interestingly, the law does not only mention employment, but also apprenticeship. Benin has a law which requires an apprenticeship contract as well. Therefore, while it is unclear how it is monitored or if this contract is mandatory for children employed in domestic child labour, at least it sets a legal age boundary for *vidomegon*. As seen in the example of Burkina Faso, few child trafficking interceptions result in prosecution. This is assumed to be partly related to the “legal grey area” which *confiage* provides. Once there are an appropriate minimum age, in line with the end of compulsory education, and a contract obligation to be adhered to like in Benin, the legal situation would be much more obvious to reduce child labour, particularly child domestic labour, and increase child trafficking interceptions.
- Order on the general conditions of employment of domestic workers in Benin: This is an interesting law as it does, for example, limit the weekly work hours for domestic workers to 50 hours, grants 48 hours off time per week, warrants paid leaves and extra pay for overtime and mentions some other benefits the employees are entitled to by law¹⁶. However, Unicef and the Ministry of Labour found that the laws and regulations which protect domestic workers are not applicable to partial work. This causes a legal grey zone. Child domestic labour is already extremely difficult to track due to the fact that labour inspectors usually do not enter private homes. But if legal protection continues to be only applicable to full time domestic workers, the employer will always be able to get away from any possible prosecution by arguing that the child working as a helper at his or her place only works part time. Hence the child is not protected by the law, nor enjoys the rights and benefits which domestic workers are entitled to. If these legal protection mechanisms can be circumvented by the employer by simply claiming that the domestic employee is only a part time worker, it would open the door to a huge scale abuse schemes without any way to prosecute the perpetrators. These aspects need to be clarified. The general finding is that domestic workers, who should generally enjoy legal protection, are subject to discrimination in the implementation of the texts that protect them. In addition, **the labour inspectorate responsible for monitoring the application of the provisions relating to their working conditions and their protection in the exercise of their profession is absent**. To ensure compliance with the national legislation about the protection of domestic workers, ILO Convention 189 and its related recommendation (201) place labour inspection at the forefront (Gertrude Gazard, 2021).
- Law against rape and domestic violence: Enforcement was weak due to police ineffectiveness, official corruption, and victims not reporting cases due to fear of social stigma and retaliation. The primary form of evidence used to prove sexual assault required physician certification. Since physicians were only accessible in large cities, survivors in rural areas were effectively precluded from pursuing charges. Women remained reluctant to report cases, and judges and police were reluctant to intervene in domestic disputes. (US Department of States, 2021). In this context, children falling victim to any type of abuse in a domestic labour setting might find it hard to find legal protection.

¹⁶ [Conditions générales d'emploi des employés de maison](#)

Corruption is also an enormous problem in the police; police officials can engage in corruption without impunity; this contributes to underreporting: about 80% of the population does not report a crime to the police (Ilse Kok, 2020).

At least, it is noteworthy that Benin has regulations on apprenticeship for which a contract is mandatory and that there is a minimum age to be observed in this area. Benin has also clearly laid out general working conditions for domestic workers.

However, as for light work, **there is a legal vacuum that needs to be filled: the law has to be clear on what is considered light work and what age children are allowed to engage in it.** This is even recognized as an action point in the National Child Labour Action Plan (2021-2023).

Two main agencies are responsible for child labour law enforcement in the country: the Ministry of Labor and Civil Service (MOLCS) and the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security.

MOLCS enforces child labour laws and investigates labour code infractions, including those related to child labour. It refers cases of child labour to Social Promotion Centers (Centres de Promotion Sociale or CPSs).

Comments:

In 2020, MOLCS, with the support of UNICEF, organized a meeting with ministries involved in child labour prevention to discuss ways to curb child labour in sectors in which it is most prevalent (USDOL, 2020).

During the reporting period (2020), officials from the Ministry of Labour and Civil Service General Directorate of Labour conducted more 2,070 inspections, a dramatic increase over the previous year according to the same source (USDOL) since the labour inspectorate had nearly tripled the number of inspections conducted over the previous year. This was due, in part, to the government decentralizing labour inspections and basing inspectors close to their designated inspection areas. Inspections were conducted in **open-air markets** [in Dantokpa (Cotonou), Ouando (Porto-Novo), and Arzeke (Parakou)], **workshops, bars, restaurants, and other worksites** with high risks of child exploitation, including construction sites. The Ministry of Labour stated it identified 1,273 violations related to child labour during the reporting period¹⁷. They are mostly **violations of labour standards and provisions related to child labour, including failure to observe the minimum age of employment, lack of apprenticeship contracts, and poor hygiene and safety conditions.** UNICEF provided additional financial support that contributed to this increased number of inspections. It is reported that warnings were issued and follow up inspections conducted upon discovery of child labour.

However, the scope of labour law enforcement may not have been sufficient as there were no inspections conducted in the agriculture or mining sectors [and also domestic work]. In addition to 35 full-time labour inspectors, the government has employed an additional 25 administrators and controllers to conduct labour inspections.

Comments:

It shows that the law which requires an apprenticeship contract does in fact help with the conduct of labour inspections. But it also leaves the question of how the number of child domestic labourers could be known if the labour inspectors solely focus their efforts on other areas such as agriculture and construction.

It is noted that the number of labour inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Benin's workforce, which includes more than 3.5 million workers. According to ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 40,000 workers in less developed economies, Benin would employ about 92 inspectors. Sources indicate that the labour inspectorate's **continued lack of financial resources** hampered its ability to conduct labour inspections. At the departmental level, the government conducted labour inspections in

¹⁷ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/benin/>

marketplaces, workshops, bars, restaurants, and other places in which children are exploited. Nonetheless, the national level labour inspection team did not have funding to supervise any inspections completed at the departmental level (USDOL, 2020).

The Ministry of the Interior and Public Security enforces criminal laws related to the protection of minors, including the worst forms of child labour, through the Central Office for the Protection of Minors (OCPM) under the Criminal Police Department. Through OCPM, it maintains a child trafficking database—Benin’s Children (Enfants du Bénin)—to track and process child trafficking cases, and implements standard operating procedures that seek to improve the quality of services, harmonize police activities, and create a stronger working relationship between the police and other actors involved in child protection. In 2020, OCPM continued to expand local offices throughout the country and provide police with specific training for addressing child abuse. Through its vice squad (Brigade des Mœurs), the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security addresses human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Comments:

Although the government allocated a budget of approximately \$118,000 (70 million CFA) to OCPM in 2019, an increase of 34 percent from the previous year, the budget allocation for this reporting period is not yet available (USDOL, 2020).

CEACR also notes the Government’s indication that, in January-May 2020, the Central Office for the Protection of Children and Families and the Elimination of Trafficking in Persons (OCPM) identified 10 cases of trafficking of children in Benin. The Government further indicates that statistical data on the number of investigations, prosecutions, convictions and penal sanctions imposed for trafficking of children is being currently collected. The Committee further notes in the Government’s report concerning the application of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) the establishment of the branches of the OCPM in risk areas and the adoption of identification procedures of child victims of trafficking. The Committee, however, notes that the CRC, in its concluding observations of 2018, expressed concern about the prevalence of cases of trafficking in children from and into neighbouring countries, particularly for **domestic servitude and commercial** sexual exploitation in cases of girls, and for forced labour in mines, quarries, markets and farms in cases of boys, especially in diamond-mining districts. The CRC further noted that the system in place for identifying child victims of sale and trafficking, is inadequate and inefficient (CRC/C/OPSC/BEN/CO/1, paragraphs 20(f), 32(a)) (CEACR, 2021).

In general, the government did not provide information on its criminal law enforcement efforts regarding the number of investigations, the number of violations found overall, the number of prosecutions initiated, or the number of convictions (USDOL, 2020). In addition, the 2021 US Department of state trafficking in persons report for Benin states that the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. Authorities investigated fewer trafficking cases, did not report clear statistics on convictions, and **failed to sanction perpetrators** with sentences corresponding to the designated penalties under the country’s penal code.

6.2.4. Knowledge

As discussed in the prevalence section, there are no recent studies that allow to assess the incidence and extent of child domestic labour in Benin.

In terms of scale, in Benin, two key informants - one from an international organization and another one from an NGO - stated that the phenomenon is in decline in the country thanks to massive action from various actors, especially awareness raising interventions (of communities, parents and children) and thanks to the reinforcing of the legal and regulatory framework.

However, many interlocutors and reports seem to contradict this assertion. According to the Representative of Unicef in Benin “*child work is an epidemic of great scale that affect 1 child over 2 in Benin*”¹⁸. And according to the General Director of Labour of Benin, from 34% in 2008 the prevalence of child labour has increased to 52% in 2014. She added that according to the survey conducted by her directorate in partnership with Unicef in the three biggest markets of Cotonou (Dantokpa, Ouando et Arzèkè), 7.882 vidomegons are working in these markets, in majority girls¹⁹. To her, this means that the situation does not improve.

In addition, during an interview with a key informant from a public institution (Ministry of Labour), it came out that the country has been put on the red list of ILO with regard to the implementation of C182 (Convention on the worst forms of labour), among which some forms of domestic labour can be included, and that negotiations are underway to lift the country from this sanction.

Indeed, our desk review revealed that CEACR has expressed **deep concern** about the continuing distortion of the practice of vidomegon under the WFCL and forced labour categories of child labour, as outlined below:

CEACR’s deep concern about the persistence of abuse towards vidomegon children

In its previous comments, the Committee noted with concern that *vidomégon* children, namely children who are placed in the home of a third party by their parents or by an intermediary in order to provide them with education and work, face various forms of exploitation in host families. The Committee further noted that section 219 of the Children’s Code (Act No. 2015-08 of 8 December 2015) establishes the obligation for the child placed in the family to attend school and prohibits the use of such children as domestic workers. The Committee, however, noted that the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in its concluding observations of 2016, expressed concern at the distortion of the traditional practice of *vidomégon* into forced labour and that children placed outside their families, particularly *vidomégon* children, face sexual exploitation. The United Nations Human Rights Committee, in its concluding observations of 2015, also expressed concern at the persistent misuses of the placement of *vidomégon* children, who had become a source of financial and sometimes sexual exploitation. The Committee notes the Government’s indication in its report that the identification of cases of labour exploitation of *vidomégon* children is hampered by the fact that labour inspectors cannot access households. The Government, however, points out that in case of identified abuse or violence against *vidomégon* children, perpetrators of such actions are prosecuted and convicted. The Government further indicates the launch of a helpline for child victims of violence and abuse, including *vidomégon* children, with a view to combat mistreatment and physical violence against children. It further points out that the phenomenon of *vidomégon* children has declined since more parents are aware of the exploitation of children in host families. The Committee, however, notes that the CRC, in its concluding observations of 2018, expressed concern about the persistence of harmful practices in Benin, such as *vidomégon*, and recommended to investigate and prosecute persons responsible for such harmful practices (CRC/C/OPSC/BEN/CO/1, paragraphs 20(e), 21(e)). The Committee further notes the indication in the 2017 Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that 90 per cent of *vidomégon* children do not go to school and that they are employed at markets and in the street trade, in addition to performing unpaid domestic tasks. The 2017 Report further indicates that young *vidomégon* girls, in addition to being exploited economically, were reportedly often victims of prostitution (A/HRC/WG.6/28/BEN/2, paragraph 38). The Committee notes with **deep concern** the continuing situation of *vidomégon* children exposed to various forms of exploitation in host families.

Source: ILO Website²⁰

¹⁸ Extracted from the documentary entitled “Vie des enfants dans les marchés Dantokpa, Ouando et Arzèkè” <https://ipc2021.popconf.org/uploads/210267>

¹⁹ Extracted from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-yXVsHb8Mk>

²⁰ https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4117386,103028:NO

*Also, the US Department of State Human Rights Report 2021 states that **forced labour occurred in Benin, including domestic servitude and bonded labour by children. Many traffickers were relatives or acquaintances of their victims, exploiting the traditional system of vidomegon whereby a child, usually a daughter, is sent to live as a servant with a wealthier family, despite NGOs and government efforts to raise awareness of the risks associated with this practice.***

Please refer to Section 4.5 on prevalence for more information.

6.2.5. Direct action for children

Here is a snapshot of general actions and some targeted ones for children, taken by some stakeholders that might impact on child labour and related aspects:

Ministry of Labour and Civil Service (MOLCS)

It enforces child labour laws and investigates labour code infractions, including those related to child labour. It also refers cases of child labour to Social Promotion Centers (Centres de Promotion Sociale or CPSs).

Ministry of the Interior and Public Security

It enforces criminal laws related to the protection of minors, including the worst forms of child labour, through the Central Office for the Protection of Minors (OCPM) under the Criminal Police Department.

Government-Funded Shelters

CPS provide food, shelter, education, and vocational training to vulnerable children, including victims of labour exploitation, in 85 centers. OCPM also operates an interim care facility for human trafficking survivors before their placement in a long-term shelter.

Government-Funded Retraining Centers

MOLCS, with the assistance of UNICEF, maintains a vocational school program to train survivors of child trafficking in a trade.

McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (2019–2022)

U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded project implemented by Catholic Relief Services in the Alibori and Borgou regions. It aims to improve the literacy and attendance of school-age children, improve the health and dietary practices of students, and increase government capacity of and investment in school meal programmes.

Integrated National School Feeding Programme (2017–2021)

It is a \$87 million Government of Benin-funded programme managed by the World Food Programme. In 2020, the programme covered 3,995 schools across Benin and helped reduce the number of school dropouts.

Rapid Pro

In November 2018, the government and UNICEF launched a platform (Rapid Pro) to allow parents to declare births through SMS text message, sparing parents the challenges related to the issuance of birth certificates. In 2020, the program registered the births of 1,679 children less than 1-year-old (USDOL, 2020)

Comments:

None of these actions are reported to specifically target or include child domestic labourers.

As noted by USDOL in their 2020 findings, the Government of Benin has specifically implemented programmes to protect children from human trafficking. Research was unable to determine whether the government implements programmes to assist children engaged in other worst forms of child labour, including in domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation though (USDOL, 2020).

CEACR Committee observes that, according to the 2020 report on labour statistics of the Ministry of Labour and Public Service, in 2020, 38 children, mostly between 10 and 14 years of age, were removed from the worst forms of child labour. The Committee further notes that, in its concluding observations of 2018, although noting the establishment of the children's reception and transit centre and other measures taken to support the recovery and reintegration of victims, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) expressed concern that **most services, including shelters and temporary accommodation for child victims,**

are provided by non-governmental organizations, with very limited support from the Government. The CRC also expressed concern about **very limited services available to support the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of victims** and that the Decree No. 2012-416 establishing the norms and standards applicable to children’s shelters and protection centres is not enforced. In addition, the Committee notes that the Committee against Torture (CAT), in its concluding observations of 2019, urged to make all child and adolescent protection centres effectively operational by strengthening their human and material capacities, and ensure adequate training for their staff.

6.2.6. Education

Primary education is compulsory for all children between ages six and 11. Public school education is tuition free for all primary school students and for female students through grade nine in secondary schools.

Children ages 12 to 13 were particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labour, as they may have completed primary school but were younger than the minimum legal working age of 14. Some parents indentured their children to “agents” recruiting farm hands or domestic workers, often on the understanding that the children’s wages would be sent to the parents (US Department of State, 2021).

Girls did not have the same educational opportunities as boys and the literacy rate for women was 18 percent, compared with 50 percent for men. In some parts of the country, girls received no formal education (US Department of State, 2021).

A girl is only expected to complete 11 years of formal schooling, whereas boys usually receive education for about 14 years. Consequently, the Beninese literacy rate for men and women differs, for men it stands at 54% and for women only at 31% (Ilse Kok, 2020).

In rural areas, children are often unregistered due to parents’ limited understanding of the procedures for receiving a birth certificate and the associated costs. Since birth certificates are required to enrol in school, some unregistered children may be denied access to education.

Evidence suggests that incidences of abuse, including corporal punishment and rape of students by teachers, hamper education access even though the government outlawed corporal punishment in 2015.

The government has established laws and regulations related to child labour. However, gaps exist in Benin’s legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labour, including a minimum age for work that is lower than the age for compulsory education.

6.2.7. Monitoring and surveillance

In collaboration with its partners, the Ministry of Social Affairs launched a child protection hotline in March 2020, which received 546 actionable tips regarding child abuse—including exploitation—as of March 2021. The government ensured the hotline remained operational 24 hours a day throughout the reporting period despite the pandemic and staffed it with French and local language speakers. The hotline is available domestically and internationally (US Department of State, 2021)²¹. According to 2020 USDOL report, this child assistance **hotline**, is also used by the government to refer cases of child labour, **particularly those involving domestic servitude**, because the hotline allows for anonymous tips. the Government has additionally a mechanism to enable criminal authorities and social services to reciprocally refer children found in the worst forms of child labour and human trafficking, and civil servants regularly refer cases.

²¹ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/benin/>

Comments:

Burkina Faso was working on a similar system where children could report other children in abusive circumstances they know of. The hotline aspect might make it easier for the whistleblower/reporter's side to preserve anonymity. This system might be one of the most practical ways currently used in both countries to **report cases of domestic servitude** although it needs improvement and follow up of cases.

6.2.8. Advocacy and awareness raising

Here are some key actions led by the Government with support from NGOs and civil society in the area of advocacy and awareness raising:

- According to the US Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2021 - Burkina Faso, despite the government's limited capacity to enforce child labour laws, the government took steps to educate parents on the labour code and prevent compulsory labour by children, including through media campaigns, regional workshops, and public pronouncements on child labour problems. These initiatives were part of the Labour Office's traditional sensitization programme. The government also worked with a network of NGOs and journalists to educate the population regarding child labour and child trafficking. The Ministries of Justice and Labour supported capacity building for officials and agencies responsible for enforcing child labour laws. (US Department of State, 2021).
- In addition, several local NGOs led public education and awareness campaigns to decrease the practice of *vidomegon* according to the same report.
- CEACR also notes the Government's indication that awareness-raising activities were carried out with the UNICEF's support in the municipalities at high risk of child trafficking. (CEACR, 2021).

6.3. Existing response analysis - Burkina Faso

6.3.1. Institutional framework

These are the two main policy documents in place which address the issue of child domestic labour directly or indirectly in Burkina Faso:

- the National Strategy to End the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2019–2023) (SN/PFTE), Ministry of Civil Service, Labour and Social Protection, 2019,
- the National Child Protection Strategy (2020–2023), January 2020, Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action.

The National Child Protection Strategy aims to create a strengthened institutional, community, and family environment to ensure effective protection for children by 2023.

Comment:

Yet, the national child protection strategy does not specifically mention child domestic labour and does not provide any recommendations or framework for addressing the problem. This could be seen as an indicator that in a society where "*confiage*" is widely still considered as a traditional way of socialization, child domestic labour is not seen or felt as a major issue.

6.3.2. Coordination and networking

Different committees and working groups are in place to enhance coordination and networking in Burkina Faso around the issues of child labour and child protection. These are:

- **National Coordination Committee for the National Strategy Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour** (CNC-SN/PFTE). It defines appropriate strategies for mobilizing the resources necessary to implement the National Strategy to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour (SN/PFTE). Created

in July 2020 by order of the Minister of Labour, it comprises representatives from other ministries, civil society organizations, NGOs, unions, and employers. It promotes consultation and synergy of action between the actors involved in SN/ PFTE implementation.

- **Ministry of Civil Service, Labour and Social Security (MFPTSS) Directorate to Combat Child Labour and its Worst Forms.** It coordinates and leads interagency efforts to combat child labour, including its worst forms; collects information on child labour; and conducts awareness-raising activities. It also serves as the Secretariat for CNC-SN/ PFTE.
- **National Committee for Vigilance and Surveillance Against the Trafficking in Persons and Assimilated Practices.** It coordinates actions at the national level to combat the worst forms of child labour, including human trafficking. **During the reporting period, (2020) this committee took the lead in organizing patrols, intercepting migrating children, reporting suspected trafficking cases, and offering care for victims of human trafficking.**
- **Child Protection Networks** assist the National Committee for Vigilance and Surveillance Against the Trafficking in Persons and Assimilated Practices with bringing together state and non-state actors, coordinating and facilitating the collection of statistical data on human trafficking, specifically the trafficking of women and children.

Comments:

The CNC-SN/PFTE is made up of representatives from the various ministries responsible for the fight against the worst forms of child labour, representatives from civil society organizations working in the protection of children's rights, social partners (workers' unions and employers), and NGOs. However, all other mechanisms suffer from poor coordination among ministries and a lack of resources, such as computers and electricity, which continued to hamper the government's ability to coordinate efforts to fully address child trafficking (USDOL, 2020).

6.3.3. Laws and regulations, including law enforcement

The country has a legal framework against child labour. There is a minimum working age of 16 in Burkina Faso, which is rightfully in line with the compulsory education age of 16. In the domestic labour and agricultural sectors, the law permits children who are 13 and older to perform limited activities for up to four and one-half hours per day. The country has a hazardous list for children²².

The law mandates a standard workweek of 40 hours for non-domestic workers and a 60-hour workweek for household employees. The law provides for overtime pay, and there are regulations pertaining to rest periods, limits on hours worked, and prohibitions on excessive compulsory overtime. The Ministry of Civil Service, Labour, and Social Security is responsible for enforcing the minimum wage and hours of work standards (US Department of State, 2021).

The legal system also prohibits forced labour and sets the minimum age for hazardous work at 18, which is in line with international standards. It states that children should not be employed in a work that is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. This is considered one of the worst forms of child labour. The minimum age for such hazardous work is 18 years.

²² Decree No. 2009-365/PRES/PM/MTSS/MS/MASSN of 28 May 2009 determines the list of hazardous types of work prohibited for children in Burkina Faso. This Decree, which defines a child as any person under 18 years of age, determines the list of hazardous types of work prohibited for children. Section 2 of the Decree specifically prohibits: work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of children; work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse; work performed underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces; and work performed with dangerous machinery, equipment or tools, or which involves the handling or carrying of heavy loads. Moreover, section 5 of the Decree establishes a list of hazardous types of work prohibited for children by sector of activity, including agriculture, stock rearing, fishing, agro-forestry and hunting, industry, mining, quarries and small-scale gold mines, construction and public works, the informal sector, craft industries, performing arts, transport, and the human and animal health sector.

Comments:

However, the law does not define the kinds of “light” work appropriate for these children, especially those younger than 16. This has been pointed out by many observers and also in different reports such as the U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2021. This lack of definition in the law continues to be a cause for concern over the last few years since there is no legal basis upon which for example a labour inspector could act in this regard. “Light work” as it is called could literally be anything. This remains a big problem because it encourages school drop outs. This concerns most often girls.

Furthermore, there are other problems with the legal framework, especially in regard to child domestic labour. For instance, law enforcement agents, such as labour inspectors, do not usually enter people’s private homes. Thus, there is no sure way for them to conduct unannounced visits at private homes, in addition to the fact that their number is low. In 2020, the government reported that it employs 159 labour inspectors and 107 labour controllers—the first time it has published this information in recent years. However, the number of labour inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Burkina Faso’s workforce, which includes over 8.5 million workers. According to the ILO’s technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 40,000 workers in less developed economies, Burkina Faso would employ roughly 213 labour inspectors. Moreover, the government did not publicly release information on its labour law enforcement efforts (USDOL, 2020).

Since 2018, the government provides a free hotline “116” which enables people to report violence or abuse against children to the municipality’s social service which is expected to act immediately to find a solution once alerted.

Despite a promising launch, the 116 telephone line, has been somewhat forgotten in recent times. The COVID-19 pandemic crisis, which has been a reality in Burkina Faso since March 2020, has changed the situation. Globally, COVID 19 has led to increased abuse of children and women, primarily due to the combination of stay-at-home measures and school closures. Children and women end up at home, where they are not necessarily safe, contrary to popular belief.

There were some attempts to restore the visibility of the hotline. For instance, the General Directorate for Family and Children (DGFE), the directorate responsible for child protection within the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action (MFSNFAH) solicited PRO-Enfant, a German Cooperation project included in the Sahel Alliance portfolio, for support to restore visibility to the 116 call line, given that the COVID restriction measures, including school closures, risked encouraging the resurgence of violence against children. The sensitization film is available in French and in 4 national languages: Moore, Gourmantché, Ffulde and Dioula. It was broadcast on national and local channels.²³

Comments:

It is unclear what action labour inspectors could possibly take if a case of child domestic labour was reported via hotline.

In the case a labour inspector can talk to both parties to see if a contract, especially verbal in most cases, has been respected or not there is a legal basis to act upon. But in case of child labour exploitation, even with a contract to discuss, the labour inspector would not have much legal backing to step in in favour of the abused child, since it would be one statement against the other. Protection of the child against retaliation is also important.

In general, it is difficult to find data on the work of the labour inspectors and controllers in Burkina Faso. According to the USDOL website, Burkina Faso does provide the number of labour inspectors and controllers it hires each year, but does not provide any numbers related to child labour. The statistics for the years 2019 and 2020 provide no information about child labour violations – no numbers of violations, no number of inspections conducted (USDOL, 2020).

²³ <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/actualites/116-un-numero-pour-la-protection-des-droits-de-lenfant-a-burkina-faso/>

Research indicates that the labour inspectorate lacks adequate resources to enforce labour laws throughout the country, including the human and financial resources needed to carry out a sufficient number of preliminary labour inspections and follow-up inspections. “Criminal law enforcement efforts related to child labour” also do not provide any numbers (USDOL, 2020).

Some of the numbers related to child labour which are known from the period are the numbers of international organisations who provided help in the sector. For example, during the reporting period, USDOL 2020 findings on worst forms of child labour indicated “**1,993 children, including 726 girls**, who were victims of child labour and its worst forms in artisanal gold mines in the Plateau Central and Centre Nord regions received appropriate care and services through UNICEF-supported programmes.”

International organizations such as UNICEF seem to focus their efforts on child labour in the mining and agriculture sectors. The ILO “Clear Cotton” project, focusing on child labour in the cotton sector, is another example. There has not been any data from international organizations specifically addressing domestic child labour. Since the majority of children involved in domestic child labour are girls, and neither the labour law enforcement nor these international organizations get involved much with this sector, it seems that girls do not have a good chance to get out of an abusive domestic labour situation by relying on the law.

According to the study cited by Saidou Ouedraogo on the situation of children in domestic work in Burkina Faso, which was carried out in 2015 by the Ministry in charge of labour with the financial support of the German Children’s Fund, **92.23%** of child domestic workers are in a situation of migration to a region other than their region of origin. These migrations can have various reasons, it could be motivated by “*confiage*”, it could be child trafficking, or it could be children being displaced due to violent conflicts in their area.

Comments:

In terms of child domestic labour it is especially important to point out the legal “grey area” between child trafficking and “*confiage*”. Even though there is a law against child trafficking, the number of prosecutions made against traffickers are very low. This might partly be related to the social acceptance of *confiage* and the resulting legal “grey area”. The lack of birth certificates in rural areas gives traffickers who are caught an ‘easy way out’ since they can claim to have picked up family members to take them under their apprenticeship.

CEACR notes in the 2021 government report that the action of the National Vigilance and Surveillance Committee (CNVS) enabled the interception of 2,303 child victims of trafficking in 2019 (including 172 for the purpose of sexual exploitation and 2 131 for the purpose of labour exploitation. And yet, only 5 prosecutions of child trafficking were recorded in the year of the report.

Due to the large displacement of families and the limited amount of work and resources for the families, it is feared that many more children are expected to end up in domestic child labour in the following years.

These are the three offices for child labour law enforcement:

- **Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Security (MFPTSS)** enforces labour laws, including child labour laws and laws on the worst forms of child labour, and establishes a government policy to combat child labour.
- **Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, and Family (MFSNF)** removes children from exploitative child labour, provides reintegration services through its mobile unit for intervention, and works with local village surveillance committees on awareness-raising efforts through participation in joint routine inspections with MFPTSS, the lead agency on child labour law enforcement. It operates a free hotline to report child abuse. Maintains civil registry offices in maternity wards to register new-born babies. It uses its National Council for Childhood to oversee all policies for the survival, protection, development, and participation of children in broader policy initiatives.
- **Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Interior Security (MATDSI)** oversees criminal cases involving children and women, which are referred to the Ministry of Justice for

prosecution, through its Morals Brigade in the MATDSI National Police Force. It assists MFPTSS through joint routine inspections related to child labour in the course of actions against traffickers.

Comments:

The Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family (MFSNF) has the responsibility to remove children from child labour, and to reintegrate them. The USDOL document states that gaps within the operations of the Ministry of Civil Service, Labour and Social Security (MFPTSS), who is solely responsible for the law enforcement regarding child labour offenses, hinder their operations. Hence the law enforcement is a weak point.

6.3.4. Capacity building of actors

Labour inspectors received training on the 2019–2023 National Strategy to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour (SN/PFTE) and its Plan of Operational Action 2019–2021, and on general information concerning child labour. In addition, a session of the permanent labour administration/jurisdictions consultation framework was held in Ouagadougou in October 2020. It strengthened the capacities of labour inspectors, judicial personnel, and those involved in the enforcement of criminal labour legislation (USDOL, 2020).

The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR)²⁴ notes the information provided by the Government in its report according to which the implementation of the national child labour action plan has made it possible, among other things, to build the capacity of the labour inspection services and thus strengthen control actions in sectors of activity with a high potential for the worst forms of child labour. In this regard, 258 checks were carried out in the areas of gold mining, cotton production and the informal sector. The national child labour action plan also made it possible to train 2,203 people in charge of prevention and protection in the fight against the worst forms of child labour; to train 6,178 children and provide them with working materials, scholarships and financial support; and to contribute to the operation of the toll-free number "116" on violence against children (1,389 children were rescued in this way). Finally, the Government indicates that 12,385 child victims of the worst forms of labour have been removed and taken care of through the measures taken (CEACR, 2021).

To improve quality education, UNICEF trained 1,317 teachers (584 women) on psychosocial support and on the Safe School approach. In addition, 53 trainers were trained (seven women) on national and international minimum standards for education in emergencies 12, 619 actors were trained (167 women) on peace and mine risk education, and 139 teachers (58 women) were trained on education curricula in emergencies. Remedial classes were also implemented in the five regions, reaching 20,020 students (9,465 girls, 47.2 percent/including 9,426 displaced students (4,920 girls, 52 percent) against a target of 50,522 (UNICEF, 2021)²⁵.

1,083 multi-sectoral actors (border security officers, social, educational and health workers) were trained on child mobility, case management and the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) (CEACR, 2021).

6.3.5. Knowledge

Generally speaking, there are very few writings or reports of specific studies on the subject of child domestic work, particularly child domestic labour and exploitation. Available studies are mostly related to child labour in general, especially child labour in mining, child trafficking, and children on the move.

²⁴ It is an independent body composed of 20 high-level legal experts at the national and international levels, charged with examining the application of ILO Conventions, Protocols and Recommendations by ILO Member States.

²⁵ <https://www.unicef.org/media/114946/file/Burkina-Faso-Humanitarian-SitRep-31-December-2021.pdf>

It came out during our exchanges with institutional stakeholders that the phenomenon of *confiage* and child domestic labour is on the rise in the country, as a result of the insecurity crisis that is driving thousands and thousands of children and young people out of their places of residence (rural areas) towards the capital city and province capitals. However, there is no available recent statistics that could help understand the scale and the evolutive dynamics of the phenomenon.

Building on the existing ones, we can try to understand the patterns and dynamics though.

According to the National Survey on Child Labour (ENTE) carried out by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) with the support of the International Labour Office (ILO) in 2006, 41.1% of children aged 5 to 17 and 38% of children aged 5 to 14 were engaged in economic activity in Burkina Faso. This phenomenon affects both girls (34.0%) and boys (47.7%). The phenomenon is more common in the agriculture and livestock sectors, gold mining sites and artisanal quarries, as well as in domestic work, and more generally in the informal sector (SITAN Burkina Faso, 2017). Children in gold mining sites were estimated at over 27,000 at the time of the survey. With the mining boom of the last years, which has turned Burkina Faso into a vast gold panning and mining site, child labour in artisanal gold sites and quarrying has increased and concerns both girls and boys, whether in school or not.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity, more than 5.185 trafficked children were intercepted from 2011 to 2015, 80% of which involved internal trafficking.

A study on the situation of children in domestic work in Burkina Faso was carried out by the Ministry in charge of labour in 2015 with the financial support of the Children's Fund of German Cooperation. According to this study, 92.23% of child domestic workers are in a situation of children who have migrated to a region other than their region of origin. The cities that host most of these children remain Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso.

Saidou Ouedraogo's report on child exploitation for WD found that despite the efforts made by the State and its partners, challenges remain to be met at institutional level. These include:

- the implementation of legislation on trafficking and exploitation of children;
- the allocation of substantial resources to the technical services in charge of child protection to better carry out their missions;
- increasing the knowledge of children, parents and the wider community about the risks of domestic work and child exploitation;
- the popularization of texts with a view to their knowledge by all stakeholders;
- economic support for vulnerable families (Saidou Ouedraogo, 2021).

Comments:

It should be noted that the decentralized services of ministries often lack the means to carry out their missions; moreover, there is no specific legislation on child domestic work to further guide actions in this area. In addition, existing texts are poorly applied. At the level of policies, programmes and plans, there is a lack of clear guidance on prevention and response to the phenomenon of domestic child labour. Also, there is little knowledge about the phenomenon and its contours due to the lack of national studies on the theme (Saidou Ouedraogo, 2021).

Forced child labour occurred in the agricultural (particularly cotton), domestic labour, forced begging, and animal husbandry sectors, as well as at gold panning sites and stone quarries. Women from other West African countries were fraudulently recruited for employment and subsequently subjected to sex trafficking, forced labour in restaurants, or domestic servitude in private homes. Traffickers also exploited Burkinabe women in domestic servitude in the Middle East. (US Department of State, 2021)²⁶.

²⁶ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/burkina-faso>

Educators forced some children, sent to Quranic schools by their parents, to engage in begging. Such children suffered from occupational illnesses, and employers sometimes physically or sexually abused them. Child domestic servants worked up to 18 hours per day. Employers often exploited and abused them. Criminals transported Burkinabe children to Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Niger for forced labour or sex trafficking (US Department of State, 2021).

According to the US Department of State report, the number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) has been rising from 71.000 in 2015 to an estimated 83.000 in 2020. Recalling that OVC are at greater risk of becoming involved in the worst forms of child labour, CEACR urges the Government to take effective and immediate measures to protect this category of vulnerable children from the worst forms of child labour, following the results of the Demographic and Health Survey carried out by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) in 2018, which state that the percentage of children not living with a biological parent increases with age, from 5 percent among 0-4 year olds to 29 per cent among 15-17 year olds.

Comments:

The stakeholders that we have interviewed agree on the fact that most child workers are often exploited in household work, or petty trade activities in urban markets, or in both petty trade and household work at a very young age (particularly in Benin) and in Burkina Faso, exploitation happens mostly in mines and quarries and in drinking bars.

However, with the insecurity crisis, these stakeholders admit that the situation of child labour and exploitation is getting worse even if there are no clear statistics that support it.

It is also crucial, as was raised by one stakeholder interviewed, to note that domestic labour is not the only prevalent form of child abuse and exploitation; other inter-related forms such as children's exploitation in market, in agriculture, in drinking bars, in commercial sexual exploitation and also in mines and quarries need to be equally considered.

Please refer to Section 4.6 on prevalence for more information.

6.3.6. Direct action for children

Actors in charge of child protection in general do not focus on specific themes such as child domestic labour but address child protection issues as a whole.

The systems approach is therefore the option chosen to offer a package of services to each vulnerable child according to his or her situation.

Comments:

However, there are organisations that focus on the sexual exploitation of children, on child marriage, on violence in schools, on children in street situations, on violence based on the fight against child trafficking; but they are rare to address children's domestic work. Yet, it was not possible to find policies or data on organisations specifically focusing on protecting children against domestic child labour.

There were examples of rehabilitation efforts for children such as those by "Terre des Hommes Lausanne" and the project for the assistance and protection of children on the move. UNICEF partners with Terre des Hommes Lausanne and Association for the Communal Development and the Promotion of the Rights of Children (Association pour le Développement Communautaire et la Promotion des Droits de l'Enfant) worked with government entities to provide appropriate care to children. During the reporting period, **899 children**, including **189 girls**, who were victims or presumed victims of human trafficking, benefited from social services that were technically and financially supported by UNICEF. In addition, **13,064 children**, including **5,727 girls**, "in a situation of mobility" and at risk of being victims of human trafficking, benefited from child protection and information or referral services through inter-sectoral one-stop shops.

CEACR further notes the Government's indication in 2021 that Burkina Faso has been implementing, since 2018, the subregional project for the assistance and protection of children on the move (DFID), with the assistance of UNICEF. Among others, the following results were achieved: (i) **9,894 children on the move** or other vulnerable children received quality protection services; (ii) 2,871 children and young people benefited from psychosocial care; (iii) 3,769 children on the move, including 769 migrant children in transit, 457 returnees and 349 internally displaced, were supported through 13 regional social action directorates; (iv) **803 children on the move benefited from sustainable reintegration** and 4,319 children received a birth certificate (CEACR, 2021).

Additionally, the information the government provided for the CEACR 2021 report was that they provided shelter and care for 1274 OVC.

Comment:

This provision for care and shelter concerns only approximately 1,5% of all OVC.

CEACR also notes from the government report that from August 2018 to June 2021, 16,839 local residents were made aware of the phenomenon of street children and young people and 5,904 street children and young people were placed in care centres (emergency reception). The government indicates that in June 2021, 239 children and young people were present in emergency reception centres, 177 children and young people were continuing their stabilization in other specialized education structures, and 102 children were returned for follow-up in the regions by the regional directorates for women, national solidarity, the family and humanitarian action, including 55 in school and 47 placed in vocational training. The government also reports the placement of 414 children in education and vocational training centres, 189 of whom came from the operation to withdraw street children and young people (CEACR, 2021).

The Government also indicates in particular that 685 vulnerable children have been sponsored, 10,890 people have been made aware of child trafficking, mobility and the worst forms of child labour and **29,337 vulnerable children have been enrolled or re-enrolled in school**.

Some projects to combat human trafficking by the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family (MFSNF) aim to combat human trafficking. They include the operation of transit centres that provide food, medical assistance, and counselling to child trafficking victims and children vulnerable to trafficking. Transit centres aim to reintegrate victims into their communities and facilitate repatriation of foreign victims when possible. The National Parenting Programme assists parents in managing and educating their children to combat child trafficking. Nationwide media campaigns to combat human trafficking provide advocacy, raise awareness, and build capacity for key actors involved in child protection issues, including child trafficking. Watchdog and monitoring committees ensure that all cases of alleged trafficking of children are reported to the justice system by social workers. During the reporting period, the 34 transit centres run by the MFSNF continued to operate with significant NGO and international organization support (USDOL, 2020).

A campaign to remove street children project, funded by NGO MinWomen, with coordination by the MFSNF that began in August 2018 and includes outreach missions in the streets to identify and refer vulnerable children, including forced begging victims, to one of the four youth shelters established in the Somgandé, Basjuy, Nongremassom, and Cissin districts of Ouagadougou. In August 2020, the MFSNF launched its third campaign to remove vulnerable children from the streets, including Koranic school students (talibés) exploited in forced begging. As a result of the campaign, the government identified and provided care to 275 vulnerable children (USDOL, 2020).

Comments:

Considering all the data collected during the desk review there was no clear indication about how a child who faces a situation of abuse in domestic child labour could possibly have legal support to get out of the situation.

There seems to be a lack of rehabilitation centres which do not only offer shelter and food, but at the same time provide support to educate children and help them to integrate themselves into society.

6.3.7. Education

The findings indicate that completion of compulsory education is a key factor which play a big part in the prevention of child domestic labour. The age of completion of compulsory education is 16 and which is also the minimum legal age for work.

Comment:

Most children who are not enrolled in school are involved in child labour, with the primary completion rate being at 65% for 2020, and likely lower now due to the closure of many schools according to the World Bank²⁷.

According to the World Bank²⁸, the completion rate of lower secondary school for girls in Burkina Faso for 2020 was about 49²⁹. 2020 marked a record high for this number and considering the security situation and the subsequent school closures and mass displacements of people in the country this number is likely to drop over the next years. Girls are more likely to be taken out of school earlier to help with domestic chores or due to fear of sexual misconduct from the educators to name two factors which studies often refer to. Another aspect is the number of “children on the move”, mostly out-of-school. “On the move” here includes children who were displaced, trafficked, or are in a situation of *confiage*. Both factors influence the likelihood of children (especially out-of-school girls) to end up in a child domestic labour setting.

World Bank-Funded Projects include a \$51 million Education Access and Quality Improvement Project to support the government in increasing access to preschool education in the two poorest regions and to secondary education in the five poorest regions, and to improve teaching and education; and a \$50 million Social Safety Net Project to provide income support to poor households and lay the foundation for a basic safety net system in Burkina Faso. Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement World Bank-Funded Projects during the reporting period (USDOL, 2020).

In light of the shortcomings and gaps observed in the above-mentioned areas, recommendations in relation to the prevention and elimination of child domestic labour are as follows.

6.3.8. Monitoring and surveillance

The government did not consistently enforce the law, in part due to the insecurity imposed by violent extremist groups. The Ministry of Civil Service, Labour, and Social Security, which oversees labour standards, lacked transportation and access and other resources to enforce worker safety and the minimum age law. No data were available on number of prosecutions and convictions during the year (US Department of State, 2021).

In 2020, the government reported that it employs 159 labor inspectors and 107 labor controllers—the first time it has published this information in recent years (USDOL, 2020).

6.3.9. Advocacy and awareness raising

Secondly, as the analysis shows, part of the problem is unawareness about the dangers related to child migration and *confiage*. Many parents are not aware of the risk of child exploitation and child trafficking. Therefore, it would be highly beneficial to launch awareness campaigns to inform families about the dangers

²⁷ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.CMPT.ZS?locations=BF>

²⁸ Quoting as source UNESCO Institute for Statistics (<http://uis.unesco.org/>). Data as of September 2021.

²⁹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.SEC.CMPT.LO.FE.ZS?locations=BF>

of *confiage* and the risks that their children are exposed to. These programmes should target both the children and their families (Ilse Kok 2022).

Comments:

The government undertook some efforts to make people aware of child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour, yet the problem remains that “*confiage*” is not seen as trafficking or child labour in society. However, no specific information about the dangers of “*confiage*” as part of these actions was found despite the increasing harmful practices linked to it.

Nonetheless, some awareness raising activities on the general topic of child labour have been reported. According to the US Department of State Report on human trafficking³⁰, the government undertook activities to implement the national action plan to combat the worst forms of child labour and to reduce significantly exploitative child labour in 2021. The plan coordinated the efforts of several ministries and NGOs to disseminate information in local languages, increase access to services such as rehabilitation for victims, revise the penal code to address the worst forms of child labour, and improve data collection and analysis. The government organized workshops and conferences to inform children, parents, and employers of the dangers of exploitative child labour (US Department of State, 2021).

The Government indicates that 10,890 people have been made aware of child trafficking, mobility and the worst forms of child labour (CEACR, 2021).

³⁰ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/burkina-faso/>

Annex 7: Recommendations

For ease of reference, the listing of recommendations for Benin and Burkina Faso has been divided into different key areas: Institutional framework; Coordination and networking; Laws and regulations, including law enforcement; Capacity building of actors; Knowledge; Direct action for children; Education; Monitoring & surveillance; Advocacy and awareness raising, Poverty and inequalities reduction.

However, some findings may apply to one or more categories given the multidimensional aspect of child domestic labour.

7.1. Recommendations for Benin

List of recommendations for Benin

Key area of intervention	Recommendation	Justifications
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7.1.1. Institutional framework	1. Support the government in the implementation of the National Child Protection Plan with regard to child domestic labour and exploitation.	This plan, which we found particularly relevant, encompasses different aspects that could directly or indirectly influence the elimination of child domestic labour and exploitation. It would be advisable to select some of the suggested actions in the plan and adapt them in order to amplify their component on child domestic labour. For projects, this plan could be an interesting material for developing strategies and implementing interventions in a holistic approach in this area.
	2. Design and implement projects and programmes that address the worst forms of child labour in domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation of children and market/street vending, with a focus on girls; and monitor and report annually on the progress of these programmes.	So as not to leave child domestic labourers behind and unprotected, in addition to the existing interventions focusing on child labour in mining and agriculture, there should be projects and programmes that address the worst forms of child labour in domestic work, commercial sexual

exploitation of children and market/street vending, three inter-related activities in which many children.

Girls should be the focus of these projects and programmes because they are the most vulnerable, even among *vidomegon* children (about 95%). They are the ones most likely to end up in a situation of domestic child labour or exploitation. Boys are said to more likely be offered opportunities for training or further education or be to be employed in other sectors. Also particular attention should be given to the children in the age group 10-14, orphans (especially maternal ones) and to children who carry significant domestic workloads in their own homes who are, according to the literature, exposed to a higher risk of working (either combining school and work or working alone).

The monitoring and reporting component of the interventions would be crucial in supporting the government since they already have challenges with the reporting and monitoring of other sectors generally mentioned among the top priorities such as mining and agriculture.

7.1.2. Coordination and mechanisms

1. Enhance collaboration between the National Monitoring and Coordination Working Group for Child Protection (CNSCPE) and the Inter-Ministerial Task Force to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Their areas of intervention are overlapping and complementary. Both deal with child trafficking, notably for the purpose of labour exploitation. The Inter-Ministerial Task Force to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in particular, consists of 5 committees in charge of prosecution, prevention and protection, statistics, intellectual, and policy.

In order to improve child trafficking of *vidomegon* children, it is important that these two entities coordinate between each other and have a consistent flow of information between each other. Both of these groups have not been very active in recent years. If possible, a project managing consistent work and involvement of these two groups on the issue while also supporting the coordination in between them could provide much progress. It could also help to raise statistics of *vidomegon* children by tracking the number of children who are trafficked for that specific purpose.

7.1.3. Laws and regulations, including law enforcement

1. Raise the minimum age for work to the age up to which education is compulsory.

Benin's minimum age for work is still 14 (and the minimum age is 15 for apprenticeship) while the age for compulsory education is 16. The education system has a vital role to play as it is still the most important alternative to child domestic labour, especially for vulnerable young female workers (ILO, 2013). A project could be advocating for adjusting the ages and promoting education. Many girls under the age of 16 are in fact taken prematurely out of school to start working in child domestic labour.

2. Advocate for the definition of “light work” and clarify the minimum age for light work to fill the legal vacuum in this area.

This will improve the legal protection for child domestic labour. But the lack of labour inspectors for the domestic sector and the exclusion of part time domestic workers from legal protection should be solved primarily before the application of the definition of “light work” for child domestic labour can have a real effect.

3. Apply effective and dissuasive penalties for the trafficking of minors and crimes involving labour exploitation, and other child exploitation (sexual abuse and forced labour), especially towards *vidomegon* children.

Benin already has some important laws in place which theoretically should protect children from domestic labour. The child trafficking law provides penalties for conviction of all forms of child trafficking, including child commercial sexual exploitation, prescribing penalties if convicted of 10 to 20 years’ imprisonment. Individuals convicted of involvement in child commercial sexual exploitation, including those who facilitate and solicit it, face imprisonment of two to five years and substantial monetary fines. (US Department of State, 2021).

Nonetheless, even though Benin does have slightly better numbers than Burkina Faso in terms of trafficking interceptions and prosecutions, the number of prosecutions is still very low compared to the interceptions in our assessment.

CEACR strongly recommends that prosecutions be conducted of persons subjecting children (especially *vidomegon* children) under 18 years of age to forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation, and that sufficiently effective and dissuasive penalties are imposed in practice (CEACR, 2021).

4. Reconsider the working hours of intermittent or part time staff excluded from the scope of Order 026/MFPTRA/DC/SGM/DT/SRT of 14 April 1998 on the general conditions of employment of domestic workers or commute this duration to partial work to extend the scope of the legislation to a greater number of domestic workers.

Unicef and the Ministry of Labour found that the laws and regulations which protect domestic workers are not applicable to partial work. This causes a legal grey zone. Child domestic labour is already extremely difficult to track due to the fact that labour inspectors usually do not enter private homes. But if legal protection continues to be only applicable to full time domestic workers, the employer will always be able to get away from any possible prosecution by arguing that the child working as a helper at his or her place only works part time. Hence the child is not protected by the law, nor enjoys the rights and benefits which domestic workers are entitled to. These aspects need to be clarified.

For these reasons, projects advocating about the need to clarify these legal grey zones (with the aim to change the law and enable labour inspectors to monitor child domestic work) and helping with the training of labour inspectors, as recommended earlier, would be a good initiative.

5. Promote and disseminate legal and regulatory framework (texts, regulations, etc.)

In addition to the 3 supramentioned policies/plans, Benin has voted laws and drafted other documents that if promoted can help prevent and protect *vidomegon*. Among others, we can quote for instance: i) The Charter of market users for the prevention and fight against economic exploitation of children, adopted on 10th October 2014; ii) The Child labour monitoring procedures and protocols document in Benin which is a key document of the

Ministry of labour, etc. Our interviews with institutional stakeholders showed that several actors are not aware of such legal and strategic provisions. Awareness raising and dissemination of such instruments through a project can help reinforce the institutional and regulatory system in place in favor of addressing the worst forms of exploitation.

7.1.4.
Capacity building of
actors

1. Increase the number and strengthen the capacities of labour inspectors to handle cases of child domestic labour and other related activities such as trade and crafts, market/street vending, sexual exploitation of children.

This would ensure that all forms of work related to domestic work (household chores, help with the guardian's trade or workshop as apprentice) are encompassed by the interventions. This seems to be very specific to Benin and requires more training of labour inspectors who should specialize in different types of domestic work. Since there are no up-to-date statistics or numbers on child domestic labourers, it is challenging to grasp the distribution of children's work in this regard.

The legal framework which sets rules about the working conditions for domestic work and the necessity of an apprenticeship contract and the required minimum age for apprenticeships (15) are already in place although this minimum age is still lower than the compulsory school age (16). In addition, training and employing monitors for domestic child labour would be crucial.

A project could focus on training the labour inspectors to handle cases of child domestic labour and at the same time collaborate with psycho-social experts and counsellors for children, with whom the labour inspectors and other partners specialized in child protection could get appointments for child domestic workers if they suspect that the child is a victim of abuse during the inspection.

2. Enforce the laws regarding the protection of domestic workers, extend the existing legal protection to part time child domestic workers and engage labour inspectors in the monitoring.

Despite the legal protection for (child) domestic workers, there is still no labour inspectorate to monitor the conditions and apply penalties. The general finding is that domestic workers, who

3. Train the police and judicial actors on how to handle cases of child domestic labour and other related activities
4. Enhance the role of the social partners and extend freedom of association to domestic workers and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining in domestic work. Support children associations, in particular child labourers movements if they exist.

should generally enjoy legal protection, are subject to discrimination in the implementation of the texts that protect them. In addition, **the labour inspectorate responsible for monitoring the application of the provisions relating to their working conditions and their protection in the exercise of their profession is absent.** To ensure compliance with the national legislation about the protection of domestic workers, ILO Convention 189 and its related recommendation (201) place labour inspection at the forefront (Gertrude Gazard, 2021). Therefore, the labour inspectors must step in to monitor the conditions and apply penalties. And the hiring and the training of labour inspectors who specialize their expertise on domestic labour, with a special focus on child domestic labour, will be necessary.

Social partners bring unique knowledge and competence to bear in discussions regarding the world of work, and are in a commanding position to influence policy development and reform in key national and international socio-economic arenas, including debates around education, social welfare and employment. In addition, they play a critical role in preventing and eliminating child labour in domestic work and in protecting young workers in the sector. It is of key importance to assist domestic workers to organize themselves and to extend their trade union representation so as to improve their voice and representation in the mainstream trade

union movement. Similarly, efforts should be encouraged towards tackling the lack of representative organizations of employers of domestic workers. The presence of representative organizations, both from the workers and the employers side, would facilitate social dialogue to bridge decent work gaps in domestic work, including collective bargaining arrangements on working, living and employment conditions. In addition, young domestic workers of legal working age must be ensured their right to join or form unions (ILO, 2013).

Children associations, or particularly child labourers' movements, with the support of social partners, can help denounce all forms of exploitation domestic workers are facing to, demand better conditions (decent work and regulated work) and prevent more child from entering into domestic labour.

7.1.5.
Knowledge

1. Conduct a nationwide study on child labour, particularly child domestic labour, and/or include a module on these topics in the next household surveys such as MICS.

It is recognized that there are currently very few studies measuring the prevalence of child domestic work in Benin. The latest survey that was funded and produced numbers about child labourers is from 2014. Many children in domestic work are likely to remain hidden based on most commonly used methods, which rely on household head, industry and occupational approaches. As household head, occupation and industry-based questions are included in standard labour force surveys and child labour surveys, we recommend that an additional task-based module be included in household surveys to improve estimates. Some experts even recommend including nieces/nephews, non-relatives and other relations as potential child domestic workers from the household roster, when combined with occupation, industry and or task-list data. Here, a collaboration with the national institute of statistics and ministerial statistics departments can be useful.

2. Encourage projects and organisations (NGOs, universities and research institutes) to produce both qualitative and quantitative data to support advocacy and awareness raising and enhance policy making. Develop or support database.

To effect change and to raise awareness with the public and in the political arena, it is important that child domestic labour is not something that is invisible to the law and the public. Therefore, projects involving collecting and quantifying data would help support advocacy campaigns and would support accelerating policy making after public pressure. Against this background, collaborating with universities and research institutions to initiate or fund studies, analyses and policy and technical papers would be helpful. In addition, knowledge

7.1.6. Direct action for children

3. Support the Government to provide statistics on the number of children prevented, protected and withdrawn from child domestic labour and exploitation and child trafficking and indicate the protection, rehabilitation and social integration measures from which they have benefited.
1. In collaboration with the Government, provide direct support to prevent children at risk of child domestic labour and exploitation, to remove those already engaged in it, especially those that are victims of the worst forms of child labour, including in domestic work and sexual exploitation and child trafficking and ensure their rehabilitation and social integration, and protect those already working in the sector, and provide information on the measures taken and the results achieved in this regard.
2. Strengthen the capacities of existing centres and other social institutions that are working in the rehabilitation and social integration of child victims of child domestic labour, trafficking, and exploitation, and in the protection of child domestic workers.

database can be created or support provided to existing ones for screening, monitoring and update of the knowledge base on child domestic labour.

7.1.7.
Education

1. Increase access to education by raising awareness of guardians/employers on compulsory education and incentivizing them to promote school attendance, ensuring the safety of children, (especially girls) in schools, providing education for children vulnerable to child domestic labour (especially girls, age group (10-14), and orphans), and increasing birth registration rates, as part of prevention efforts.

This review found in a 2017 study that 90% of the *vidomegon* children (who consist of 95% girls) do not go to school. In order to help their transition from domestic child labour to a self-reliant life, it will be imperative to provide education and/or (vocational) training for them.

Girls do not have the same educational opportunities as boys and the literacy rate for women was 18 percent, compared with 50 percent for men. In some parts of the country, girls received no formal education (US Department of State, 2021). This finding shows that girls, who are the ones most likely to end in child domestic labour, face various problems when it comes to receiving education. Particular attention should be given to the following other categories: i) children in the age group 10-14 who are according to the literature the most susceptible group to be placed, therefore to leave school, combine work and school or work only; ii) orphans (especially maternal ones) are exposed to a higher risk of working (either combining school and work or working alone); iii) children who carry significant domestic workloads in their own homes face many comparable problems and abuses (as do other kinds of live-in workers such as shop helpers or hotel workers).

2. Improve teacher training, recruiting (e.g. more female teachers), upgrade school facilities and make schools safe for girls in particular, and transform discriminatory attitudes towards them.

Considering the fact that rape of students by teachers is prevalent in some schools (USDOL, 2021), there is much need to train teachers

(especially female teachers) and make the school a safer place and more accessible especially for girls.

Projects could involve training female teachers, as well as working together with schools to develop plans which ensure the safety of children within the school premises and address all forms of discriminatory practices against girls.

The general concern about violence and corporal punishment in school by educators not only calls for the training of new teachers, but also for providing training and education to existing teachers.

3. Provide formal and non-formal education (including second chance education and literacy and numeracy courses) and/or (vocational) training for child domestic labourers in order to ensure them good transition from domestic child labour to a self-reliant life.

As indicated earlier, the education system has a vital role to play. Schools provide the most important alternative to child domestic labour, especially for girls and young female workers.

It also suggests that there is a high number of young women who are illiterate within the country. Providing training for them and/or re-enrolling them in the education system would provide them with the chance of choosing a career path rather than being bound to one.

However, this education and vocational training should be adapted to *vidomegon* children's life project, age, situation and schedules.

7.1.8.
Monitoring and
surveillance

1. For projects: Contribute to raising statistics about the tips about abuse in child domestic labour and exploitation the hotline (that is used to report cases of child violence, abuse and exploitation) receives and the government follow up actions, with the aim of raising awareness and holding the government accountable.

In March 2020, the government introduced a child protection hotline which over the course of 1 year received 546 actionable tips regarding child abuse. Yet the government did not provide any information on its criminal law enforcement efforts regarding the number of investigations, the number of violations found, the number of prosecutions initiated, or the number of convictions. It is also unclear if the children who have been victims received any type of care.

The government did a good job by providing a hotline which is apparently available 24h day in French and local languages. But since the hotline currently seems to be the only way to report abuse in child domestic labour, it should be imperative to have follow up actions such as law enforcement and centers where victims of abuse would receive care and shelter.

2. Monitor and support the existing hotline.

This would be necessary since the government did not release any numbers about it as mentioned previously. It is also not clear what happens to cases reported to the hotline. It is unknown what happens to the victims and the perpetrators afterwards. This is another area where an NGO could step in to take care of the children who get reported by the hotline and also help raise statistics about the cases of child domestic labour in the country.

7.1.9.
Advocacy and
awareness raising

1. For projects: facilitate group meetings of child domestic workers to allow them to be educated about their rights and exchange between themselves.
2. Run advocacy campaigns to adjust the minimum age for work (currently 14) and the minimum age for apprenticeship (currently 15) at 16.
3. Advocate for the rights of child domestic workers and educate them about child sexual abuse.

They can eventually form a workers' association or union to step in for their rights and bargain domestic working conditions as a group.

As previously mentioned, the difference between the minimum age for work (16) and the age for compulsory education (16) poses a huge problem. This leads to children being taken out of school earlier (especially girls) to start working. In addition, a girl is only expected to complete 11 years of formal schooling, whereas boys usually receive education for about 14 years. This further highlights that the minimum age to work needs to be adjusted to 16, and that there not only need to be schools which are adapt for the needs and security of girls specifically, but also that there needs to be a change in the public mindset about the education for girls. ~~Advocacy campaigns who~~

So far, laws against sexual child abuse and domestic violence are weakly enforced due to police ineffectiveness, official corruption, and victims not reporting cases due to fear of social stigma and retaliation according to different sources. The main proof for sexual assault required physician certification. Even though different documents stated that sexual abuse often occurs in child domestic labour, there seem to be no official numbers on police interventions or prosecutions related to these cases. The problem that especially child victims would face to prove sexual assault and

4. Raise awareness among parents, children, elders and other opinion leaders in selected domestic worker sending communities about the benefits of a completed education, and working alongside local schools to help them improve their current state/system.

5. Organise public campaigns about the hazards and risks of *vidomegon*, child domestic labour and child trafficking.

6. Advocate for the ratification of ILO Convention 189 by Benin by taking into consideration the subsequent ILO Recommendation (201)³¹

the fear of social stigma make them invisible to the law and the public.

Advocating for the rights of child domestic workers and educating them about child sexual abuse could be an essential part of a project activity.

Awareness raising of parents has been mentioned by the children interviewed during our field research as one of the important avenue to address child placement and the subsequent exploitative domestic labour. However, they pointed out the need to raise awareness of mothers because for majority of the children mothers play an important role in influencing decision making of placement or improving conditions of domestic life and work. From the institutional stakeholders, it has been put forward the need to sensitize all the community members, for example to identify and denounce cases of children violence, abuses, exploitation.

There are already existing campaigns to educate the public about the hazards and risks of *vidomegon*, *child domestic labour* and child trafficking, but since these issues are persisting, more projects involving in these behavior change campaigns with would allow greater reach.

The ratification of ILO Convention 189 by the country would offer specific protection to all domestic workers, including child domestic workers

³¹https://www.ilo.org/travail/areasofwork/WCMS_190450/lang--en/index.htm
https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C189
https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:2551502

7. Implement and extend the protection of domestic workers and regulation of their work to child domestic workers and part time domestic workers, and promote and support union organizations of domestic workers, including young domestic workers of legal working age.

who have attained the legal minimum age, whose work is often hidden while their vulnerability is high, thus improving their living and working conditions.

As mentioned in the recommendations about the law section, it would be very beneficial for child domestic workers to be educated about their rights and to form trade unions. But in order to do so, there should be no legal boundaries for trade unions. Some points of non-conformity between the national legislation and ILO Convention 189 have been highlighted in a recent report (Gertrude Gazard, 2021). Article 83 of the Labour Code is one of them. This makes the recognition of trade unions subject to the filing of their statutes with certain authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior. It is contrary to Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to organise and may constitute an obstacle to the creation of trade union organizations of domestic workers, young domestic workers of legal working age.

7.1.10.
Poverty and
inequalities
reduction

1. Address the root causes of child placement and exploitative domestic labour through initiatives aiming at reducing poverty, known to be one of the major determinants.

Of the economic determinants of child labour, poverty is by far the most recurrent factor in the literature. Poverty is undoubtedly the most important of all causes of child labour, as it is especially in the poorest families that the contribution of children to household income is significant. It is this importance of children's contribution to household and family survival that also reveals the complexity of campaigns and programmes to eliminate child labour.

Although child labour is unacceptable, most developing countries cannot afford to end it immediately, as families depend in part on the money earned by children. Without alternatives, attempts to end child labour usually only worsen the situation for children.

Therefore, initiatives aiming at reducing poverty and inequalities can strategically help to address the issue of child placement and domestic labour. And given, the importance of agriculture to the livelihoods of households, resilience and agricultural development projects will be useful.

7.2. Recommendations for Burkina Faso

List of recommendations for Burkina Faso

Key area of intervention	Recommendation
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Justifications

7.2.1.
Institutional
framework

1. Include the issue of child domestic labour in the implementation plans of the National Strategy to End the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2019–2023) (SN/PFTE) and the National Child Protection Strategy (2020–2023).

Since none of these strategies and plans explicitly address child domestic labour, it would be important to advocate for an inclusion of the issue within the strategies and interventions. It can be assumed that “*confiage*” in Burkina Faso is widely not seen as a problem, and therefore child domestic labour is not specifically addressed in these strategies. So advocacy campaigns would need to focus on highlighting the problems and dangers of *confiage* as well. These campaigns should take into consideration the fact that most (child) domestic workers are female.

Vidomegon in Benin is inherently the same problem, but the government of Benin at least did include the dangers of it in an official document and thereby officially recognized the problem. Burkina Faso in terms of legal framework seems to be a few steps behind Benin although its minimum age for work coincides with the age for compulsory education (both 16). Benin does have laws to protect domestic employees, requires a minimum age for apprenticeship (15), and requires domestic employees to have a contract in theory. Projects focusing on advocacy to improve policies and legal framework could take Benin as an example to see which legal frameworks can be the next step forward realistically.

7.2.2.
Coordination
mechanisms

and

1. Support the coordination between the criminal authorities and the social services and vice versa (reciprocal referral mechanism) and between the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, and Family (MFSNF) and the Ministry of Civil Service, Labour, and Social Security (MFPTSS)

There is room to support the coordination between these different categories of actors.

For now, the government hotline which is operated by the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, and Family (MFSNF) is one of the few ways of alerting authorities of cases of child domestic labour aside from collaboration with associations and NGOs. MFSNF work together with the Ministry of Civil Service, Labour, and Social Security (MFPTSS) who is responsible for the enforcement of labour laws and establishing the government policy to combat child labour.

MFPTSS might have gaps in their operations which result in hindering their actions (USDOL, 2021). Since the labour inspectors do not conduct inspections in private homes and the existing legal framework does not sufficiently protect domestic employees, the increased synergy of interventions between these two ministries will be instrumental in tackling the complex issue of child domestic labour and exploitation.

7.2.3. Laws and regulations, including law enforcement

1. Ensure that laws determine the activities in which “light work” may be permitted.
2. Ensure that labour law enforcement receives sufficient human and financial resources to fulfill its mandates, including hiring enough labour inspectors to meet ILO recommendations, conducting an adequate number of inspections, and following up after preliminary inspections to ensure remediation of notices to comply with labour law obligations.

The lack of the definition of “light work” still poses a big problem because it encourages school drop outs. This concerns most often girls.

Advocacy campaigns should aim at educating the public and stakeholders about the distinction between permissible work and not permissible one. This is why the definition of “light work” by the law would be important to keep children safe from premature and harmful work which could deprive them of education and other opportunities.

It is unclear if labour law enforcement does not consider child labour in the domestic sector as part of their duty, or if they do not have the legal basis to conduct inspections in private homes. In any case, this is an area where advocacy campaigns could be effective to make sure inspections are also conducted in private homes. It would likely need a campaign with a focus not only on the extension of the field of application of labour inspectors, but also on introducing new laws and regulations or revising existing ones. Without further changes in the law (e.g. obligatory contracts for apprenticeship/ clear minimum age for apprenticeship and domestic work), the labour inspectors would not be able to take proper action in terms of monitoring and application of penalties. The issue of gathering accurate numbers on child domestic labour infringements would also remain unsolved.

Bringing child domestic labour on the radar of law enforcement and social services would only be beneficial

for children if child domestic labour is the latter starts to be recognized as a problem.

Thus, a project focusing on providing statistics and evidence about child domestic labour would also be very beneficial since currently the problem is not visible for the public and policy makers statistically speaking.

3. Promote and disseminate legal and regulatory frameworks (texts, regulations, etc.)

In addition to the two main policy documents addressing the issue of child domestic labour directly or indirectly, there are laws and regulations that have been voted but they remain unknown to the majority of actors, including local communities. Therefore, supporting the dissemination of these provisions can help strengthen the regulatory framework and institutional action against child domestic labour and exploitation.

7.2.4. Capacity building of actors

1. Enhance the role of the social partners and extend freedom of association to domestic workers and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining in domestic work. Support existing children movements.

Social partners bring unique knowledge and competence to bear in discussions regarding the world of work, and are in a commanding position to influence policy development and reform in key national and international socio-economic arenas, including debates around education, social welfare and employment. In addition, they play a critical role in preventing and eliminating child domestic labour and in protecting young workers in the sector. It is of key importance to assist domestic workers to organize themselves and to extend their trade union representation so as to improve their voice and representation in the mainstream trade union movement. Similarly, efforts should be encouraged towards tackling the lack of representative organizations of employers of domestic workers. The presence of representative organizations, both from the workers and the employers side, would facilitate social dialogue to bridge decent work gaps in domestic work, including collective bargaining arrangements on working, living and employment conditions. In addition, young domestic workers of legal working age must be ensured their right to join or form unions (ILO, 2013).

Children movement of defense of their rights in Burkina Faso are more advanced in terms of organizations and actions. However, a lot remain to be done. Raising awareness of these organizations on the phenomenon of child domestic labour and exploitation and supporting them in capacity building and advocacy is advisable at many extend. In addition, supporting

the existing associations of domestic workers, be it formed of adults, can help because as elders that went through the system they understand and can effectively help address the issue of child domestic labour, if they are given the means.

2. Build capacities of informal intermediaries and hosting sites' responsables to better frame and address exploitation

The NGO Terre des Hommes has conducted a project that mapped, trained and reinforced the capacities of informal intermediaries who are in charge of the placement of the children. This has yielded positive results in terms. Therefore, exploring ways of improving the conditions of recruitment, placement, and monitoring can help reduce exploitation, but taking care to respecting the legal framework such as Convention on Minimum age, etc.

7.2.5.
Knowledge

1. Raise statistics not only about the number of children in child domestic labour but also about their working hours, wages and general working conditions.

The law mandates a standard workweek of 40 hours for non-domestic workers and a 60-hour workweek for household employees. The law provides for overtime pay, and there are regulations pertaining to rest periods, limits on hours worked, and prohibitions on excessive compulsory overtime. The Ministry of Civil Service, Labour, and Social Security is responsible for enforcing the minimum wage and hours of work standards (US Department of State, 2021).

It is unclear how the Ministry monitors these wages and hours, especially in the case for child domestic labour where labour inspectors do not have the scope of reach to inspect private homes. Raising statistics not only about the number of children in child domestic labour but also about their working hours, wages and general working conditions could help to highlight the issue in a more holistic way and hold all involved ministries and government bodies accountable.

It is reported that children in child domestic labour do not have any legal protection. ***“Child domestic servants worked up to 18 hours per day. Employers often exploited and abused them.”*** » (US Department of State, 2021).

2. Make statistics available on criminal law enforcement efforts, including initial training, refresher courses, inspections conducted at worksites, the number of child (domestic) labour violations found, prosecutions initiated, convictions obtained, and penalties imposed.

As the suggestion above there is room to advocate for child domestic labour inspections and to provide support to raise statistics. Domestic workers have traditionally suffered from statistical invisibility, and

child domestic workers are no exception. This has hindered action and their protection in this sector.

It is key to make available statistics on criminal law enforcement efforts, including initial training, refresher courses, investigations undertaken, violations found, prosecutions initiated, convictions obtained, and penalties imposed.

3. Highlight statistics about child domestic labourers in the current National Survey on Child Labour which is yet to be published and improve data collection and statistical tools to better capture child domestic labour and decent youth employment in domestic work in future surveys.

As mentioned in the key findings, a National Survey on Child Labour (Enquête Nationale sur le Travail des Enfants – ENTE) was conducted by the ministry in charge of labour from June 2019 to December 2021. The results have not yet been published.

Efforts to improve data collection and statistical tools to better capture child (domestic) labour in future surveys are crucial to informing meaningful policy, awareness raising and action against child labour and for decent youth employment in domestic work.

4. Advance the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Child Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Burkina Faso (PAN-LTVS) and conduct a national evaluative study on the fight against child trafficking in this regard.

CEACR noted with regret that the conduct of a national evaluative study on the fight against child trafficking as part of the National Action Plan to Combat Child Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Burkina Faso (PAN-LTVS) had not progressed (CEACR, 2021).

A project or research institute helping the government with the evaluative study on the fight against child trafficking could help to advance the PAN-LTVS development process. This would prevent cases of child domestic labour since many trafficked children end up in that sector.

7.2.6. Direct action for children

5. Support the creation or reinforcement of a database of policies, interventions and studies for continuous update on the fight against child trafficking and domestic labour.
1. Enhance the prevention of child trafficking and the prosecution of perpetrators.
2. In collaboration with the Government and other civil society organizations, provide direct support to prevent children at risk of child domestic labour and exploitation, to remove those already engaged in it, especially those that are victims of the worst forms of child labour, including in domestic work and sexual exploitation and child trafficking and ensure their rehabilitation and social integration, and protect those already working in

A collaboration with universities and research institutions is advisable. In addition, knowledge database can be created or support can be provided to existing ones for screening, monitoring and update of the knowledge base on child domestic labour.

Prevention of child trafficking is one important aspect of preventing child domestic labour. To ensure that child trafficking can be prevented, not only do the existing laws play an important role, but so is the prosecution of perpetrators. In 2019, Burkina Faso reported that they intercepted 2,303 cases of child trafficking; 2,131 of these cases were trafficked for the purpose of labour. That same year Burkina Faso recorded only 5 prosecutions related to child trafficking.

Linkages with awareness raising: Projects which raise awareness about these problems are still needed in Burkina Faso. Attention should be on *confiage*, the practice of which creates a lot of dangerous legal grey zones which let child traffickers and other perpetrators get away easily from prosecution.

the sector, and provide information on the measures taken and the results achieved in this regard.

3. Extend the scope of government and NGO work in the placement of vulnerable children in education and vocational training centres and collaborate with the existing social service centres to provide shelter as appropriate.

The government reported in 2021 the placement of 414 children (street children and young people) in education and vocational training centres, 189 of whom came from the operation to withdraw street children and young people (CEACR, 2021).

It is not clear how many of them who have been protected from the worst forms of child labour, including forced or compulsory labour such as begging, rehabilitated and integrated socially within the framework of the various measures taken for this purpose. In any case, a project could focus on extending the scope of this initiative so that children could be withdrawn from abusive child domestic labour situations and other related forms of exploitation and would have access to such education and vocational training centres which can facilitate their integration in society and autonomy. Since a lot of children in child domestic labour come from rural areas and usually do not have a home other than the place where they work, a project focusing on this aspect would also need to collaborate with the existing social service centres to provide shelter, or find their own solution to address this.

For projects, it will be advisable to expand the social services offered by existing centres. Some social service centres already seem to be active in supporting different needs, but they do not seem to enable children to break the cycle of dependency vis-à-vis abusive employers in our assessment.

4. For projects: offer appropriate care and mentoring support to girls who are in domestic work for above the age of employment

It is important to learn lessons from different initiatives, such as the past project of Terre des Hommes (TdH) aimed to support child domestic workers who migrated from rural areas to cities. The project set up community-based drop-in centres, called “Point d’Espoir”, to ensure care and mentoring for adolescent girls in domestic labour in Burkina Faso where they could meet up twice a month, in a safe and neutral place to share experiences and access support. The Points d’Espoir also served as a bridge between a total of 1,000 young domestic workers and various child protection services, such as police and social services, who visited the centres periodically to interact with the girls and discuss their situations, and to provide information on how to report violence or other abuse in the workplace. The project also had a peer-to-peer support and mentoring system called the Big Sisters, created by the local communities and supported by TdH. The Big Sisters were older adolescent girls aged 17 to 19 years, who were current or former domestic workers and who acted as mentors to the newly arriving young domestic workers aged between 10 and 14 years old. (Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2020)

5. For projects: Provide training or education facilities along with food and shelter for displaced and vulnerable children and options/support for children withdrawn from an abusive child domestic labour situation in order to rehabilitate them and allow them to have a new start in life. Provide support to children in hosting sites.

It is reported that the government did make an effort to provide shelter for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) but they only managed to do so for about 1.5% of them. Therefore, it is assumed that the government would not have the capacities to support all children coming from a child domestic labour situation. Considering the high number of displaced children, a project providing training or education facilities along

with food and shelter could prevent many displaced children to be forced into child domestic labour, while at the same time providing an option for the children already being in a child domestic labour situation to get out and to have a new start.

By providing support to children (potential child domestic labourers) in the hosting centers, it is possible to improve their livelihoods, train and equip them as income generating activities could be an entry point.

7.2.7.
Education

1. Promote quality education, particularly for girls, train female teachers, work together with schools to develop plans which ensure the safety of children within the school premises.

Bearing in mind that education and schools are viable alternatives to child domestic labour, further attention is needed to promote quality education, improve teacher training, recruit – as relevant – more women teachers, upgrade school facilities for girls in particular, and transform discriminatory attitudes towards them. Projects could involve training female teachers, as well as working together with schools to develop plans which ensure the safety of children within the school premises.

According to a report by UNICEF in 2021, 511,221 children (243,528 girls) were out of school with an increased risk of long-term non-enrolment and drop-out and 14,901 teachers (4,697 women) were affected by school closures in 2021. Compared to the situation on 31 December 2020, the end of 2021 saw an increase of 51 percent in number of schools closed due the crisis, affecting access to education in 8 out of 13 regions in Burkina Faso.

From the same source, in 2021, the United Nations was able to verify 27 cases of attacks on schools in Burkina Faso depriving hundreds of thousands of children of access to education. These attacks include the abduction of teachers and students, killings and threats against teachers, the destruction of school infrastructure, and the looting of school property resulting in forced closure of schools.

To reduce the vulnerability of school-aged children to school closures in areas where children have become

inaccessible to the MENAPLN (Ministry of National Education, Literacy, and National Languages Promotion) and most education partners, two strategies have been implemented: strengthening the humanitarian situation analysis before any intervention to minimize risks to beneficiaries (Do no harm); implementing projects in such a way that they are not compromised by threats from armed groups.

The numbers of children who are currently not enrolled in education is likely to grow even higher over the course of this year and leaves a lot of room for projects who want to help to prevent child domestic labour by encouraging education, especially for girls. Since there are already two key strategies in place on the national level, projects interested in this sector should try to coordinate with the MENAPLN.

Also particular attention should be given to the children in the age group 10-14, orphans (especially maternal ones) and to children who carry significant domestic workloads in their own homes who are, according to the literature, exposed to a higher risk of working (either combining school and work or working alone).

7.2.8.
Monitoring
and surveillance

and

1. Support the existing mechanisms such as the government hotline and community child protection units for reporting cases of child abuse, violence and exploitation so that more cases related to child domestic labour get reported to help improve the monitoring systems.
2. Establish and publish data on a mechanism to log all calls to the government child protection hotline and to track cases of child (domestic) labour for referral to law enforcement or social services providers.

According to our findings, the government hotline still provides the best way to report child domestic labour abuse. There is a lot of room to work together with the government and the social service providers as suggested earlier.

There are community child prevention and protection units in different districts of Ouagadougou and other cities that have been set up with the support of Red Cross and few other partners. These units help to identify and denounce cases of child abuses. Supporting such groups can be a good entry point.

Same as the above.

7.2.9.
Advocacy and
awareness raising

1. Advocate for a legal framework which supports domestic labour inspections and actions against perpetrators.
2. Set a minimum age for domestic workers that is not in line with the general minimum age for work at least.
3. Formalize the employment relationship in domestic work.

To make domestic labour inspections possible, it is mandatory to advocate for a legal framework which supports these inspections. Labour inspection is a delicate mission because labour inspectors must be able to strike a balance between the right to protect domestic workers and the right to privacy of household members.

Therefore, it is important to raise awareness about the dangers and problems of child domestic labour and exploitation, particularly through *confiage*, and to advocate for laws which would allow labour inspectors to monitor the situation and act against perpetrators.

Clarify the minimum age for employment in the domestic sector.

Written contracts are an important way of regulating the employment of domestic workers and formalizing their protection. Efforts to develop model employment contracts for domestic workers, including young workers in domestic work, should be encouraged and pursued. Model contracts should include specific clauses aimed at protecting young workers in domestic work. Such clauses should pay special consideration to their specific protection requirements, including social protection, as well as to their right to compulsory education and to participate in further education or vocational training.

4. Organize campaigns around the dangers and problems of child domestic labour and exploitation, particularly related to the practice of *confiage*.

Burkina Faso still has a need to recognize the dangers and problems of the *confiage* practice and therefore there is a lot of room for advocacy campaigns around this topic. Parents should be made aware of the dangers of sexual exploitation, extensive work hours, non-regulated wages, no professional development chances (Benin at least has a law which grants domestic workers a raise in wage according to their years of experience), lack of trade union organisations for domestic workers, and no real legal protection from the system, plus all the other problems related to the issue.

5. Raise awareness among parents, children, elders and other opinion leaders in selected domestic worker sending communities - where security allows - about the benefits of a completed education, and working alongside local schools to help them improve their current state/system.

Awareness raising of parents has been mentioned by the children interviewed during our field research as one of the important avenue to address child placement and the subsequent exploitative domestic labour. However, they pointed out the need to raise awareness of mothers because for majority of the children mothers play an important role in influencing decision making of placement or improving conditions of domestic life and work. From the institutional stakeholders, it has been put forward the need to sensitize all the community members, for example to identify and denounce cases of children violence, abuses, exploitation.

6. Organize campaigns towards the ratification of ILO Convention 189, by taking into consideration the subsequent ILO Recommendation (201)³².

The ratification of ILO Convention 189 by the country would offer specific protection to all domestic workers, including child domestic workers who have attained

³²https://www.ilo.org/travail/areasofwork/WCMS_190450/lang--en/index.htm
https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C189

7.2.10.
Poverty and
inequalities reduction

1. Address the root causes of child placement and exploitative domestic labour through initiatives aiming at reducing poverty, known to be one of the major determinants.

the legal minimum age, whose work is often hidden while their vulnerability is high, thus improving their living and working conditions.

Of the economic determinants of child labour, poverty is by far the most recurrent factor in the literature. Poverty is undoubtedly the most important of all causes of child labour, as it is especially in the poorest families that the contribution of children to household income is significant. It is this importance of children's contribution to household and family survival that also reveals the complexity of campaigns and programmes to eliminate child labour.

Although child labour is unacceptable, most developing countries cannot afford to end it immediately, as families depend in part on the money earned by children. Without alternatives, attempts to end child labour usually only worsen the situation for children.

Therefore, initiatives aiming at reducing poverty and inequalities can strategically help to address the issue of child placement and domestic labour. And given, the importance of agriculture to the livelihoods of households, resilience and agricultural development projects will be useful.

Annex 8. Contacts of University/Research institutes for partnership

Name	Contact
Jacques NANEMA	Head of the University Center of Pedagogy (CPU) Professor of Philosophy Coordinator of the AGRINOVIA Master Programme UFR- Human Sciences /University Joseph KI ZERBO BURKINA FASO www.agrinovia.net info@agrinovia.net jacquesnanema@yahoo.fr 11 BP 48 OUAGADOUGOU 11 (+226) 78.20.31.21 ou +226.70.24.97.12
Imorou ABOU-BAKARI	Professor of Socio-Anthropology UFR- Faculty of Socio-Anthropology/University of Abomey Calavi Former Director of LASDEL (Laboratoire d'Analyse et de Recherche sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local) (+229) 97007733 aimorou@yahoo.fr BENIN

Annex 9. List of institutional stakeholders interviewed in Burkina Faso

N°	Name of the Organisation
1.	Wara Alliance
2.	Secrétariat Permanent des Organisations Non-Gouvernementales (SPONG)
3.	Association Lydie
4.	CREDO
5.	Informal business of placement of child domestic labourers
6.	Centre for hosting young girls in difficulty “Pan Bila”
7.	Centre d'Etudes et d'Appui-conseils en Travail Social (CEATS)
8.	Centre de Formation des Aides Familiales
9.	Association Burkinabé des Caméristes et des Diurnes Episodiques (ABCDE)
10.	Association Keogo
11.	Coordination Nationale des Associations des jeunes et travailleurs (CN-AEJTB)
12.	Syndicat National des Transporteurs et Voyageurs Routiers du Burkinabé (SNTRVB)
13.	Syndicat National des Emplois de Maison et Gardiennes du Burkina (SYNEMAG/B)
14.	Direction de la lutte contre le travail des enfants
15.	Direction de la lutte contre le travail des enfants
16.	UNICEF Burkina
17.	EDUCO
18.	Brigade régionale de protection de l'enfant

Annex 10. List of institutional stakeholders interviewed in Benin

N°	Name of the Organisation
1.	CICPRE
2.	DEDRAS
3.	Faculté de Socio-Anthropologie, Université Abomey-Calavi
4.	Ministère de la famille et des affaires sociales et de la microfinance
5.	Ministère du travail
6.	Unicef
7.	Ministère de la justice
8.	SOS Vidomegon (Association des sœurs salésiennes)

Questionnaire for Children

General information

Enter the name of the area of investigation

Record your current location

This information will be used to plot the data you collect on a map

Enter today's date

This is the date that data was collected

yyyy-mm-dd

*Number the questionnaire: BENCHI001, BENCHI002, etc. for children in Benin, BURCHI001, BURCHI002 for those in Burkina Faso
e.g. "Questionnaire No. _____" as follows:*

B E N C H I 0 0 1

Number the questionnaire

Respondent details

1. What is your name?

This is the name of the person being interviewed

2. How old are you?

In years (full years)

3. Gender

Male

Female

4. **What is your education level?**

- Primary education
- Secondary education
- Higher education
- Other:

5. **Have you stopped your studies?**

Yes or No

5.1. **If yes, how old were you when you left your studies?**

5.2. **If yes, why?**

5.3. **If yes, how do you feel about it?**

5.4. **If no, are you combining it with work?**

Yes or No

5.4.1 **If yes, how are you managing both?**

6. **Where are you from or where is your region of origin?**

7. **What is your ethnic group?**

8. **What are your parents' jobs/occupations?**

Practices of *confiage/vidomegon* and child domestic work/labour

9. **Are you currently employed or have you been employed by somebody else than your parents to carry out household chores or other menial tasks for them?**

Yes or No

10. **Or have you been placed to be raised by somebody else than your parents or to work for them?**

Confiage/Vidomegon

Yes or No

[If the answer to questions 9 and/or 10 is yes, proceed with the questions below. If the answer is no, jump to question 65.]

11. Who mainly took this decision about your employment or placement?

- Your parents
- Yourself
- The employer(s)/guardian(s)
- Other:

12. Who chose your employer(s)/guardian(s)?

- Your parents
- Yourself
- An intermediary/intermediaries
- Other:

13. Are your employer(s)/guardian(s) your relatives?

Yes or No

14. Are your employer(s)/guardian(s) from the same ethnic group or tribe as yourself and your family?

Yes or No or I don't know

15. According to you, what was the motivation for the choice of the employer(s)/guardian(s)?

16. Could you please describe how and where you have found or met your employer(s)/guardian(s)?

17. Could you please tell us about the reasons why you (have) found yourselves doing this kind of work?

Causes and drivers

Use child-friendly words to substitute the term child domestic work/labour

18. At what age did you start this work?

19. What are/were your main activities and obligations as such?

20. In addition to household chores, are you engaged in any of your employer/guardian's business, farm or trade?

Yes or No

20.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

21. In addition to household chores, are you taking care of your employer/guardian's children?

Yes or No

21.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

22. Could you please describe your typical day at work from morning to evening, on the weekdays and during week-ends and holidays?

23. What do you think about your workload?

Only one answer is expected

Very heavy

Heavy

Manageable

Light

Very light

24. Have you agreed on these activities with the employer(s)/guardian(s) before starting this work?

Yes or No or Not applicable

25. Could you please describe your living and working conditions at their place?

26. Have these living and working conditions been discussed and agreed with you before you started working for them?

Yes or No or Not applicable

27. Have your parents given their consent to these living and working conditions?

Yes or No or Not applicable

Tell us more about the implementation of your rights and how happy you are with them at your workplace

Remuneration, privacy, accommodation, food, education/vocational training, healthcare, rest/holidays, contact with the family, contact with friends, leisure and play

28. Do/did you receive any remuneration as a result of your work?

Yes or No

28.1. If yes, are/were you happy with the job remuneration?

Yes or No or Not applicable

28.2. If yes, who benefit/benefitted from this remuneration?

More than one answer is possible

Myself

My parents

My guardian(s)/tutor(s)/host family

An intermediary/intermediaries

Other:

28.3. If yes, how much do/did you earn each month?

28.4. If yes, is/was the payment regularly made?

Yes or No or I don't know

28.5 If yes, is/was the payment done as agreed?

Yes or No or I don't know

29. Are/were you happy with the privacy you have at your employer/guardian's place?

Yes or No or Not applicable

30. Are/were you happy with your accommodation?

Yes or No or Not applicable

31. Are/were you happy with food?

Yes or No or Not applicable

32. Are/were you happy with education/vocational training?

Yes or No or Not applicable

33. Are/were you happy with healthcare?

Yes or No or Not applicable

34. Are/were you happy with rest days?

Yes or No or Not applicable

35. Are/were you happy with holidays?

Yes or No or Not applicable

36. Are/were you happy with family time/contact with family?

Yes or No or Not applicable

37. How often do/did you get to see your parents and family?

38. How often do/did you go back to your village/region of origin?

39. Are/were you happy with contact with friends?

Yes or No or Not applicable

40. Are/were you happy with your freedom of movement?

Yes or No or Not applicable

41. Are/were you happy with leisure?

Yes or No or Not applicable

42. Has anybody visited you at some point to check your living and working conditions there?

Yes or No

42.1. If yes, who?

42.2. If yes, how frequent were these visits?

42.3. If yes, has any of your living and working conditions improved after these visits?

Yes or No

42.3.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

[The following questions examines the types of exploitation the child may have been subjected to at their workplace.

Economic exploitation, violence, sexual abuse

Use child-friendly words to substitute jargon and putting extra effort into making the child at ease when asking these questions]

43. Have you been victim of any physical violence at this workplace?

Treat this question with tact

Yes or No

43.1. If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

44. Have you been victim of any psychological and moral violence at this workplace?

Treat this question with tact

Yes or No

44.1. If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

45. Have you been victim of any sexual abuse at this workplace?

Sexual assault, unwanted pregnancy, etc.

Treat this question with tact

Yes or No

45.1. If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

46. Have you been victim of any economic/labour exploitation at this workplace?

Use child-friendly words to substitute jargon

Yes or No

46.1. If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

47. Have you been victim of any other type of abuse/exploitation at this workplace?

[Use child-friendly words to substitute jargon]

Yes or No

47.1. If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

48. If yes to any of the above questions (42-46), have you told anybody about it?

Yes or No

48.1 If yes, who?

48.2. If yes, what action(s) has or have been taken afterwards?

48.3 If no, why not?

49. Have you been victim of any forms of sicknesses or injuries at work or due to the nature of your work?

Yes or No

49.1 If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

49.2 If yes, have you been properly treated medically?

Yes or No

49.2.1 If yes, who paid the medical expenses?

50. Have you ever tried to escape from this work due to exploitation, abuse or injuries?

Yes or No or Not applicable

50.1 If yes, tell us more about it.

50.2 If no, why not?

51. Have you ever wanted to return to your parents/village?

Yes or No or Not applicable

51.1 If yes, tell us more about it.

51.2 If no, why not?

52. Are/were your parents aware of the harsh working and living conditions you are/were in?

Yes or No or I don't know or Not applicable

52.1 If yes, tell us more about it.

52.2 If no, why not?

53. Do you know of any organizations or hotlines that can be contacted or alerted in case of violence against children or child abuse?

Yes or No

53.1 If yes, can you tell us more about it.

54. Do you know of any friends or relatives who have been victims of violence, exploitation or child abuse as a result of their domestic work?

Yes or No

54.1 If yes, can you tell us more about it.

55. Could you please tell us about the positive impact your work had on your life and your future?

56. Could you please tell us about the negative impact your work had on your life and your future?

57. What has been the impact of your work on your family and their incomes?

58. Are there many children engaged in this type of work (domestic work) in your family?

Yes or No or I don't know

59. Are there many children engaged in this type of work (domestic work) in your village/community?

Yes or No or I don't know

60. Are there many children engaged in this type of work (domestic work) in your ethnic group?

Yes or No or I don't know

61. Are there many children engaged in this type of work (domestic work) in your region of origin?

Yes or No or I don't know

62. Are there many children engaged in this type of work (domestic work) in your country?

Yes or No or I don't know

63. Have you benefitted from a project or programme or organization aimed at improving the situation of child domestic workers?

Yes or No

63.1. If yes, tell us more about it (When? Which project/organization? What support was provided to you?) What was the impact?).

63.2 If yes, Are/were you happy with it?

Yes or No

64. Are you a member of any children's associations or clubs?

Yes or No

64.1. If yes, tell us more about it (benefits, impact).

[If need be, re-clarify the topic of child domestic work and child domestic labour by using clear definition and language before starting the next set of questions.]

65. What do you think about child domestic work and child domestic labour in general?

Use child-friendly words to substitute jargon

66. What do you think needs to be done to better prevent and address child exploitation linked to domestic work, *confiage* or *vidomegon* in order to better protect children's rights?

At child, family, community levels

Use child-friendly words to substitute jargon

67. Could you please tell us whether you have any plans for the future?

Education/training, work, life prospects

Yes or No

67.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

68. What is your dream job?

69. What would you suggest a new stakeholder in addressing child domestic labour in the country and in your area?

70. Is there anything else you wish to share with us on the topic of child domestic labour?

Yes or No

70.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

Thank the child and leave your contact details in case he/she needs to contact you.

Questionnaire for Parents

General information

Enter the name of the area of investigation

Record your current location

This information will be used to plot the data you collect on a map

Enter today's date

This is the date that data was collected

yyyy-mm-dd

Number the questionnaire: BENPAR001, BENPAR002, etc. for parents in Benin, BURPAR001, BURPAR002 for those in Burkina Faso

- e.g. "Questionnaire No. _____" as follows:*

B E N P A R 0 0 1

Number the questionnaire

Respondent details

1) What is your name?

This is the name of the person being interviewed

2) Gender

Male

Female

3) Where are you from or where is your region of origin?

4) What is your ethnic group?

5) **What is your education level?**

- Primary education
- Secondary education
- Higher education
- Other:

6) **What is your main occupation?**

7) **Sector of activity**

- Primary (agriculture, fishing, forestry, and mining and quarrying)
- Secondary (manufacturing, processing and construction industries)
- Tertiary (services, trade, transport and communication)
- Other:

Household details

8) **How many people are in your household?**

9) **How many children do you have?**

10) **How many children are still living under your care in your household?**

11) **How many of them are working outside your home?**

12) **What are your household's different sources of income?**

13) **Choose the statement that best describes the standard of living of your household.**

1 = Insufficient income even for food

2 = Income sufficient for food, but not for utilities

3 = Income sufficient for grocery, utilities, but not to purchase, for example, a new refrigerator

3 = Income sufficient for grocery, utilities, refrigerator, but not to buy a new car

5 = Income sufficient for everything, including purchase of a new car

9 = Not applicable

Practices of *confiage/vidomegon* and child domestic work/labour

- 14) **Do you have a child or children under 18 that have been placed to be raised by somebody else (*confiage/vidomegon*) or a child or children under 18 who are or have been employed by somebody else to carry out household chores or other menial tasks for them (as domestic worker(s))?**

Yes or No

14.1. **If yes, how many?**

14.2 **If yes, tell us more about their situation (Since when? Where are they now?).**

[If the answer to question n.14 is yes, proceed with the questions below. If the answer is no, jump to question 55.]

- 15) **Did you or your spouse have a say on the choice of their employer(s)/guardian(s)?**

Yes or No

15.1 **If yes, did you or your spouse choose their guardian(s)/employer(s) yourself(ves)?**

Yes or No

15.2 **If no, was it your child(children)'s own decision to be raised or to work for them?**

Yes or No

15.3 **If no, was it an intermediary (intermediaries)?**

Yes or No

15.4 **If no, who else made the decision for the child/children?**

- 16) **Are their employer(s)/guardian(s) your relatives?**

Yes or No or I don't know or Not applicable

- 17) **Are their employer(s)/guardian(s) from the same ethnic group or tribe as yourself and your family?**

Yes or No or I don't know

- 18) **According to you, what was the motivation behind the choice of the employer(s)/guardian(s)?**

- 19) **Could you please describe how and where your child or children has/have met their employer(s)/guardians?**

- 20) **Could you please tell us about the reasons why your child or children is/are or has/have been engaged in this kind of work?**

Causes and drivers

Use clear language to explain and substitute the terms ‘‘child domestic work’’ and ‘‘child domestic labour’’,

- 21) **What are/were your child’s or children’s main activities and obligations as such?**
- 22) **In addition to household chores, is/are or were your child/children being engaged in any of your employer/guardian’s business, farm or trade?**
Yes or No
- 22.1. If yes, tell us more about it.**
- 23) **In addition to household chores, are they taking care of your employer/guardian’s children?**
Yes or No
- 23.1. If yes, tell us more about it.**
- 24) **What do you think about their workload?**
Only one answer is expected
- Very heavy
- Heavy
- Manageable
- Light
- Very light
- 25) **Have you agreed on these activities with your child/children’s employer(s)/guardian(s) beforehand?**
Yes or No or Not applicable
- 26) **Has/have your child/children agreed on these activities with their employer(s)/guardian(s) beforehand?**
Yes or No or Not applicable or I don’t know
- 27) **Could you please describe your child/children’s living and working conditions at their workplace?**
- 28) **Have these living and working conditions been discussed and agreed between your child/children and their employer(s)/guardian(s) beforehand?**
Yes or No or Not applicable or I don’t know
- 29) **Have you agreed on these living and working conditions with the employer(s)/guardian(s) beforehand?**

30) **Are/were you happy with these conditions overall?**

Yes or No or Not applicable

30.1. If no, what action have you taken?

31) **What are/were you happy with?**

32) **What are you unhappy with?**

33) **Is/are/was/were your child/children remunerated for their work?**

Yes or No or Not applicable

33.1. If yes, are/were you happy with the job remuneration?

Yes or No or Not applicable

33.2. If yes, who benefit/benefitted from this remuneration?

Myself and/or my spouse

My child/children themselves

Myself and/or my spouse and my child/children themselves

Other:

33.3. If yes, how much do/did your child/children earn each month?

33.4. If yes, is/was the payment regularly made?

Yes or No or I don't know

33.5 If yes, is/was the payment done as agreed?

Yes or No or I don't know

34) **Are/were you happy with family time/contact with your child/children?**

Yes or No or Not applicable

35) **How often do/did you get to see your child/children?**

36) **How often do/did they go back to your village/region of origin?**

37) **Have you visited your child/children at some point to check on them at their workplace?**

Yes or No

37.1. **If yes, how frequent were these visits?**

37.2. **If yes, what have you noticed regarding their status and working conditions?**

37.3. **If yes, has any of their living and working conditions improved after these visits?**

Yes or No

37.3.1. **If yes, tell us more about it.**

37.4. **If no, why not?**

[The following questions examines the types of exploitation your child/children may have been subjected to at their workplace.

Economic exploitation, violence, sexual abuse

Use clear language to substitute jargon and exercising tact when asking these questions]

38) **Has/have your child/children been victim of any physical violence at their workplace?**

Treat this question with tact

Yes or No or I don't know

38.1. **If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).**

39) **Has/have your child/children been victim of any psychological and moral violence at their workplace?**

Treat this question with tact

Yes or No or I don't know

39.1. **If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).**

40) **Has/have your child/children been victim of any sexual abuse at this workplace?**

Treat this question with tact

Yes or No or I don't know

40.1. **If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).**

41) **Has/have your child/children been victim of any economic/labour exploitation at their workplace?**

Use clear language words to substitute jargon

Yes or No or I don't know

41.1. If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

42) **Has/have your child/children been victim of any other type of abuse/exploitation at their workplace?**

[Use clear language to substitute jargon]

Yes or No or I don't know

42.1. If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

43) **If yes to any of the above questions (37-41), have you told anybody about it?**

Yes or No

43.1 If yes, who?

43.2. If yes, what action(s) has or have been taken afterwards?

43.3 If no, why not?

44) **Has/have your child/children been victim of any forms of injuries at work or due to the nature of their work?**

Yes or No or I don't know

44.1 If yes, tell us more about it (frequency, gravity).

44.2 If yes, has he/she or have they been properly treated medically?

Yes or No

44.2.1 If yes, who paid the medical expenses?

45) **Has/have your child/children ever tried to escape from their employer(s)/guardian(s) due to exploitation, abuse or injuries?**

Yes or No or I don't know or Not applicable

45.1 If yes, tell us more about it.

45.2 If no, why not?

46) **Has/have your child/children you ever wanted to return home?**

Yes or No or I don't know or Not applicable

46.1 If yes, tell us more about it.

46.2 If no, why not?

47) Are/were you aware of the harsh working and living conditions your child/children is/are/were in?

Yes or No or I don't know or Not applicable

47.1 If yes, tell us more about it.

47.2 If no, why not?

48) Are/were you willing to take your child/children back when you know/knew of the harsh situation they are/were in?

Yes or No or I don't know or Not applicable

48.1 If yes, tell us more about it.

48.2 If no, why not?

49) Do you know of any organizations or hotlines that can be contacted or alerted in case of violence against children or child abuse?

Yes or No

49.1. If yes, can you tell us more about it.

50) Do you know of any friends' or relatives' children who have been victims of violence, exploitation or child abuse as a result of their domestic work?

Yes or No

50.1. If yes, can you tell us more about it.

Personal perceptions

51) Could you please tell us about the positive impact your child's/children's work had on their life/lives and their future?

52) Could you please tell us about the negative impact your child's/children's work on their life/lives and their future?

53) Could you please tell us about the positive impact your child's/children's work had on their life/lives and their future?

54) What has been the impact of your child's/children's work on your family and your incomes?

55) What do you think about the phenomenon of child domestic labour?

Perception, scale and impact
Use clear language instead of jargon

56) What do you think of the fight against child domestic labour?

Stakeholders, interventions, approaches used

Use clear language instead of jargon

57) What do you think needs to be done to better prevent and address child exploitation linked to domestic work, *confiage* or *vidomegon* in order to better protect children's rights?

Policy/Advocacy, laws and regulations, studies, direct action with children and family, capacity building of actors, networking, awareness raising, etc.

At child, family, community, national, regional and global levels?

58) What would you suggest to a new stakeholder in addressing child domestic labour in the country and in your area?

Policy/Advocacy, studies, direct action with children and family, capacity building of actors, networking, awareness raising, etc.

59) Is there anything else you wish to share with us on the topic of child domestic labour?

Yes or No

59.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

Thank the respondent.

Questionnaire for Institutional Stakeholders

General information

Enter the name of the area of investigation

Record your current location

This information will be used to plot the data you collect on a map

Enter today's date

This is the date that data was collected

yyyy-mm-dd

Number the questionnaire: BENSTA001, BENSTA002, etc. for stakeholders in Benin, BURSTA001, BURSTA002 for those in Burkina Faso

- e.g. "Questionnaire No. _____" as follows:*

B E N S T A 0 0 1

Number the questionnaire

Respondent details

60) What is your name?

This is the name of the person being interviewed

61) Gender

Male

Female

62) What is the name of the organisation/what entity you are working for?

63) What is your title/function in the organisation/institution?

[Introduce the topics of child domestic work, child domestic labour, confiage/vidomegon, by using clear definitions and language before starting the next set of questions.]

Practices of *confiage/vidomegon* and child domestic work/labour

64) What do you think about child domestic work, and particularly child domestic labour, in the country and in your area/s of intervention?

In terms of scale (extent) and impact

Use clear language instead of jargon

65) What do you think about the phenomenon of *confiage/vidomegon* in the country and in your area/s of intervention?

In terms of scale (extent) and impact

Use clear language instead of jargon

66) Have you seen an increase of these practices over the last few years?

Yes or No

7.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

67) According to you, what are the root causes and different drivers of these practices?

68) How are children being recruited, placed or engaged involuntarily or voluntarily into these practices?

69) Who are the main actors and intermediaries involved in facilitating this recruitment/placement?

Formal and informal actors

70) Could you please tell us about the positive impact of child domestic work, *confiage/vidomegon* for the children involved, their parents and society?

71) Could you please tell us about the negative impact child domestic work, *confiage/vidomegon* for the children involved, their parents and society?

72) Are there many children involved being victims of violence, exploitation or abuse as a result of their domestic work or the practice of *confiage/vidomegon*?

Physical, psychological and moral violence, economic/labour exploitation, sexual abuse

Yes or No or I don't know

13.1. If yes, tell us more about their situation.

13.2. If the answer is I don't know, is there a lack of information and evidence around this?

Yes or No or I don't know

13.2.1. If yes, what kinds of study or reporting mechanisms should be conducted to have more evidence on this?

73) **Are there many children victims of violence, exploitation or abuse who have escaped their employers/guardians?**

Yes or No or I don't know or Not applicable

14.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

14.2. If no, why not?

74) **Are there many children victims of violence, exploitation or abuse who returned home or to their village?**

Yes or No or I don't know or Not applicable

15.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

15.2. If no, why not?

75) **What are the different preventive, curative or rehabilitative solutions that exist to help children victims of violence, exploitation or child abuse?**

76) **Tell us more about the scope and limitations of these solutions.**

77) **What does your organisation do to prevent or address child exploitation and abuse in the context of child domestic labour or *confiage/vidomegon*?**

Describe the policies, laws and regulations, strategies, or programmes (both implemented or being implemented)

Use clear language instead of jargon

78) **In your opinion, what worked well in your organization's interventions?**

79) **In your opinion, what did not work so well in your organization's interventions?**

80) **What challenges and constraints are you facing in your organisation's efforts?**

Socio-cultural, political, operational barriers

81) **With whom does your organisation collaborate to address child domestic labour, and *confiage/vidomegon* in particular?**

Partnerships, networks, institutional mechanisms

22.1. If yes, what worked in this collaboration?

22.2. If yes, what did not work so well in this collaboration?

22.3. If no, why is your organisation not collaborating with other stakeholders to address the issue?

82) **How far has the fight against child domestic labour gone in your country or area/s of interventions?**

Impact at different levels (national, regional and local administrative levels)

83) What are the limits of the fight against child domestic labour or exploitation linked to the practice of *confiage/vidomegon* in your country or area/s of interventions?

84) What do you think needs to be done to better prevent and tackle the issue in order to better protect children's rights?

Policy/Advocacy, laws and regulations, studies, direct action with children and family, capacity building of actors, networking, awareness raising, etc
At child, family, community, national, regional and global levels?

85) What new opportunities are there to better address the phenomenon in the country?

86) What would you suggest a new stakeholder in addressing the issue of child domestic labour in your country?

Policy/Advocacy, laws and regulations, studies, direct action with children and family, capacity building of actors, networking, awareness raising, etc.

87) Do you have any suggestions of key actors that we can contact and interview for the purpose of this study?

Yes or No

28.1. If yes, could you please give us their contact details?

Yes or No

88) Is there anything else (information, documents) you wish to share with us on the topic of child domestic labour?

Yes or No

29.1. If yes, tell us more about it.

Thank the respondent.
