

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Terms of Reference – Baseline study

Breaking the chains of child labour and exploitation in Burkina Faso & Benin

Focus: exploitative child domestic labour



Name of assignment	Baseline Breaking the chains of child labour and exploitation in Burkina Faso & Benin
W&D Project number	C2022.EDU.011-EXP
Contact person WD	Linda Agbotah l.agbotah@woordendaad.nl
Project lead WD	Marieke Spruyt m.spruyt@woordendaad.nl
Date	April 2022
Involved partners in Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CREDO - SPONG - Association Lydie - CEATS - To be defined
Consortium partners in Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEDRAS - CIPCRE - To be defined

1. Introduction and context

Confiage (as in Burkina Faso) and Vidomegon (as in Benin) is a traditional practice of foster care of children, which occurs in multiple countries in Africa, particularly in West-Africa. It is also known as trokosi (Ghana), and vudusi (Togo). However, this cultural practice has become an opportunity for child domestic labour and exploitation of children to thrive.

In August 2020, a desk study was implemented by Ilse Kok, which provided insight in the situation of "confiage" and "vidomegon" as risk factor for exploitative child domestic labour and trafficking. The study points at needs for interventions and systemic change in e.g., legislation, awareness raising, protection of child rights and support to victims of exploitation. In 2021, another study has been done on the concept of "confiage" and "vidomegon" with focus on the identification of potential actors who can play a role in the implementation of interventions to addressing the negative implications of "confiage" and "vidomegon".

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. Once in the capital city for example, there are network of people who are in the bus stations and now they "help"/place the child in a family for domestic labor, then exploitation starts in some cases; and sometimes, some girls will "help"/place their friends in other families for domestic labor. So, it can be concluded that the practice of confiage/vidomegon has evolved. The child him/herself or by the support of another child gets into domestic labor without their parents knowing or deciding this as oppose confiage/vidomegon where parents decide for their children. The reason is the lack of opportunities in the villages and nowadays, terrorism in the villages, but this practice has a high risk for exploitative situations.

At present Woord en Daad (WD) has different programs for education, training & employment, and inclusive agribusiness in Burkina Faso and Benin. This assignment is part of WD's strategy to elaborate the portfolio of projects for 'exploited children.' WD is now forming a consortium in Benin and Burkina Faso, with support from AFAS Foundation to work on this theme of exploited children. We plan to work on interventions to address exploitation in child domestic labour in these countries.

For this, a deep dive is needed to understand the ecosystem of Burkina Faso and Benin giving the context of "confiage/vidomegon". What systems (formal and informal) exist and their contributions to child exploitation. This deep dive will serve as baseline which will inform WD and partners to design holistic strategies and interventions to a) prevent child exploitation, b) restore victims of exploitative child domestic labour. We want to do this by addressing root causes, through value-based systemic change, in the best interest of the children. Also cultural and legal aspects and implementation of policies will be addressed (see our policy on exploited children, annex 1).

2. Objectives and expected results of the assignment

Overall aim:

- Have a clear picture of the child protection ecosystem [actors, systems & structures, embedded socio-political-cultural norms & values, and how these impact/influence the development of children and potential risks of exploitation]

Specific objectives:

Collect additional information on

Individual formal:

- drivers (root causes) of child domestic labour
- role of local leaders and extent of their influence
- education and access to child protection services

Individual informal:

- demand for child domestic labour in urban areas (with annual estimations) and route (what are the main locations where children come from and where they end up)
- brokers and agencies involved in connecting domestic workers to potential employers
- magnitude and role of "sibling or extended families" in the expansion of child domestic labour and exploitation in Burkina Faso and Benin

Systemic formal:

- which key organizations (national & local) & individuals influence system or behavior change
- available data collection systems on child labour/cases of child exploitation and their effectiveness
- summary of interventions from organizations (government/private, other NGOs) working on the topic of exploitation of child domestic labor and their geographic presence
- what opportunities and challenges exist for systemic change (socio-cultural and legal) in child education (incl. rights and protection of children)

Systemic informal:

- level of awareness among the public about child exploitation
- what norms (cultural/social/religious) are at play
- at what point does child domestic labour be defined as exploitative (formulate a working definition of child exploitation in the context of Burkina Faso & Benin)

The information needs to be collected for both Benin and Burkina Faso. At the end a comparison of both countries needs to be given, pointing at differences, similarities and possible synergy.

3. Methodology and Approach

1. WD: provide inputs when needed for consultants.
2. Consultant: familiarise him/her self with previous reports (as mentioned under 1 above) on inventory of stakeholders and reflection on theoretical background document of Ilse Kok.
3. Consultant agrees to:
 - Calculate required sample size for the pre-post survey based on project regions. We expect a sample size from which significant conclusions can be drawn.
 - Develop high quality data collection tools.
 - Test the internal validity of the developed data tools in a pilot phase, report results and provide recommendations and integrate those for tool improvement

Expected results/deliverables

Result	Activity	Who	Time
Issue ToR for potential candidates / research institutions	Requesting for proposal (=inception report)	Woord en Daad	
Submit an inception report	An inception report -providing additional context -methodology and approach -first draft of questionnaires -budget Annex: CV consultant(s)	Consultant/research institute	20th April
Selection consultant/research institute	Review proposal (=inception report)	Woord en Daad	
Final inception report and plan	Final inception report + elaborated plan for data collection and analysis	Consultant	
Field Data	Fieldwork to collect data given the context of assignment	Consultant	22nd April-15th May
Draft report a) Burkina Faso b) Benin c) Comparison	Provide clear analysis of data and interpretations. Incorporate feedback from involved partner organizations.	Consultant	25th May, 2022
Final report a) Burkina Faso b) Benin c) Comparison	A high-quality baseline final report with the assessment results and recommendations in English, of about 25 pages per country	Consultant	30 th May, 2022

4. Required expertise

- Affinity with child protection / education; experience in child labor exploitation, trafficking, smuggling and migration
- MA or PhD in one of the social science fields preferably social anthropology, sociology, childhood studies, migration studies and other relevant fields
- Familiar with the subject and practice of child domestic labor (incl confiage/vidomegon)
- Excellent record of accomplishment in conducting similar consultancy and academic research and publications
- Being flexible to learn from collaborative discussion and yet being independent in thinking in terms of methodology and substance
- Being fluent in speaking in English and French (ability to speak local language is a plus)
- Network in Burkina Faso & Benin
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Intercultural knowledge and excellent communication skills

5. Contact

Please send your proposals to Linda Agbotah – l.agbotah@woordendaad.nl

Proposals need to include an inception report providing additional context, methodology and approach, first draft of questionnaires, budget and CV consultant(s).

DEADLINE: 20 April 2022

Annex 1– policy exploited children Woord en Daad

1. Introduction

Worldwide 40 million people are estimated to be trapped in modern slavery. 25% of them are children.¹ This is the number that has been registered. Besides that, there are more children who do not receive a healthy development but are exploited in one way or another. In most cases they do not receive education, are unreached by other interventions and bound by a system of factors and actors that keep them into the exploitative situation. Therefore, working with a systemic change approach is key to reach the most valuable impact in education for vulnerable groups. Essential in reaching meaningful and sustainable improvement is to gain insights in key forces that drive systemic change. From this perspective this proposition document indicates the key elements of the worldwide approach of Woord en Daad on the theme of exploited children. Another proposition document is available to support quality improvement in the education sector (INCE).

Currently Woord en Daad supports these interventions in the domain of exploited children:

- Ethiopia – Hope for Justice: street children and domestic workers
- Ethiopia – Hope for Justice, DOTE, HIDO, Justice for All: Breaking the chains of exploitative child labour.
- Philippines – AMG Philippines: victims of (online) sexual abuse
- Haiti – Restavek Freedom: protect and support restavek children (child domestic workers)
- Chad – Fondation Dieu Benit (street children, unaccompanied minors)

2. Vision on child exploitation

Child exploitation can be defined as:

‘Child exploitation is the act of using a minor child for profit, labor, sexual gratification, or some other personal or financial advantage’ (legal dictionary²). This definition is in line with several article of the ‘Convention of the rights of the child’ (e.g. article 19, 32, 34, 36, 39)³.

Woord en Daad connects people worldwide in their efforts to overcome poverty and to realize a dignified existence for every individual. Although the context of exploitation is complex, we are still hopeful. This hope is fed by the Biblical vision of Gods coming Kingdom amidst the many still visible signs of brokenness. In a broken world full of poverty and injustice, Woord en Daad seeks to make the signs of God’s coming Kingdom visible.⁴

Reaching the unreached is one of the focal policy themes of Woord en Daad. The unreached are left out by other interventions and are the most vulnerable living in most undignified circumstances. This strongly motivates us to work with exploited children and children that are at risk of exploitation. Another focal policy theme of Woord en Daad is value based systemic change. This is also integrated in our vision on child exploitation. We aim that children in / at risk of exploitation transform into responsible citizens through working with a variety of actors on different levels. We initiate change in individual people, families, communities, organizations, sectors, and nations. (long term outcome). To develop children into responsible citizen implies a set of values. We derive these values from the Bible. As much as possible we will integrate these values in our projects.

¹ <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/modern-slavery/>

² <https://legaldictionary.net/child-exploitation/>

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

⁴ From ‘Reach far, be near Woord en Daad strategy 2021-2025’

Child exploitation is often not just an act of an individual person, but it is part of a context or system facilitating child exploitation. This system influences the risk to become exploited and the consequences of exploitation. While this points to two different groups: vulnerable children that are at risk of exploitation and children that are being exploited. Due to these different target groups we distinguish a perspective that focuses on the prevention and protection of children at risk of child exploitation and a perspective that focuses on restoration and reintegration of victims of child exploitation.

Approach

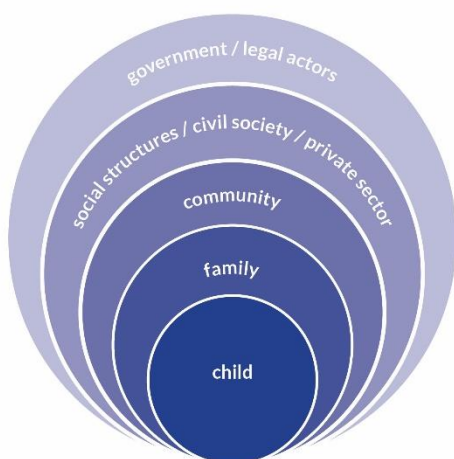
Within this vision the following approach is important in the strategy of Woord en Daad:

- While exploitation is rooted in several aspects of society, we always try to **address root causes** of exploitation
- Every child is a creature of God, equal and unique. Interventions should always be **in the best interest of the child**. We see families as the most important sphere of protection. If they are not able to protect and support the child, other spheres of protection will be used. Long term institutionalization is not seen as sustainable in most cases and will therefore be avoided as much as possible
- To combat exploitation in a sustainable way we work **on value-based systemic change**. We make use of resources and cooperate with services and actors on different levels in society. Also we promote our core values in dialogues with others to influence a new way of thinking.

Actors

The perspectives of prevention/protection and restoration/reintegration are both built on the idea that children live in different spheres of protection. If one or more spheres of protection are broken, children are at risk of (continued) exploitation.

The picture below shows the child in the middle. This indicates a child centered approach in which the child is seen as a unique, valuable creature. Around the child there are different spheres of protection. We vision the family as the first important sphere. They are first responsible, but besides them also the community and government are responsible to protect the child. All these actors are part of the system in which the child grows up. In case of exploitation or risk of exploitation the entire system needs to be considered to ensure that there are enough protection mechanisms to prevent the child from exploitation and to support exploited children.



Involvement of a wide range of actors at different levels is key in fighting child exploitation and changing values, norms, practices, and systems.

Key actors in child protection are:

- children (groups) and families;
- authorities: local, regional, national governments;
- legal actors: e.g. juridical, police;
- civil society actors, e.g. community groups, NGOs,
- Private sector: e.g. (media) providers, businesses;
- Social structures, e.g. schools, knowledge centers, care services, religious institutes;

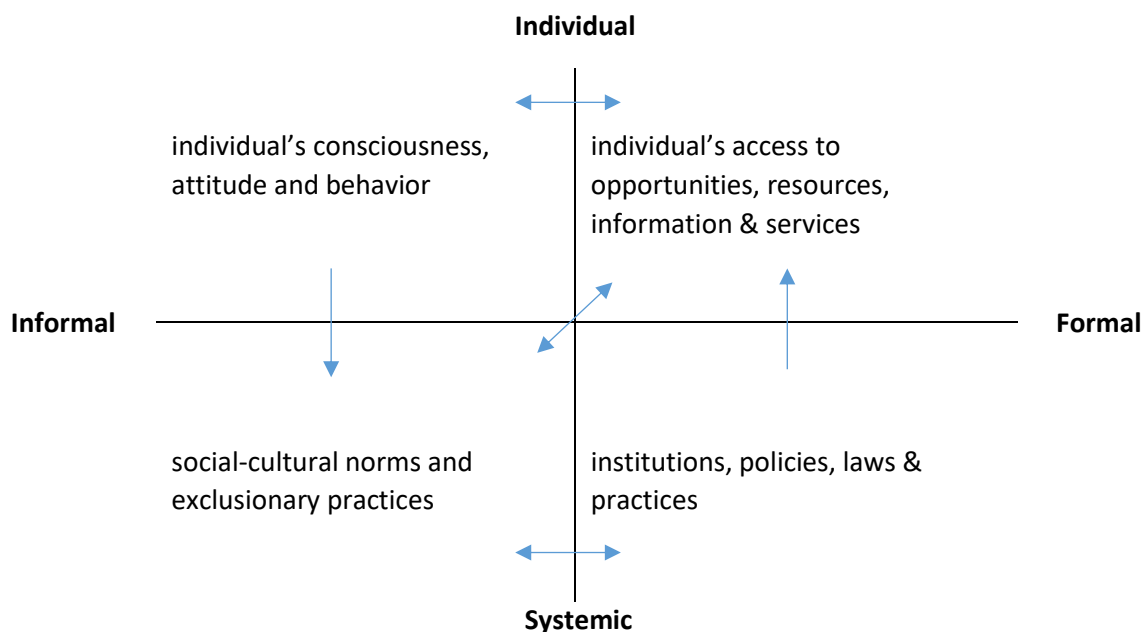
Cooperation with these actors is needed. How they cooperate and what interventions are executed

depends on the country and local context and on the specific child exploitation problem (e.g. child labor, online sexual abuse).

Framework

Exploitation is not a choice, but always a result of a complex set of factors and actors, rooted in the individual, historical, cultural, economic, social and/ or political context and situation, eventually leading to exploitation. An easy one-dimensional solution is not available.

To bring about sustainable change, a systemic approach is required. The following framework⁵ specifies this into two dimensions: 1) individual to systemic and 2) informal to formal, resulting in four quadrants



The arrows show possible directions of relationships. It shows how activities in one quadrant can influence another quadrant. The level of influence depends on the context. E.g. practices of a strong government will have more influence on access to opportunities, resources information and services than practices of a weak and failing government.

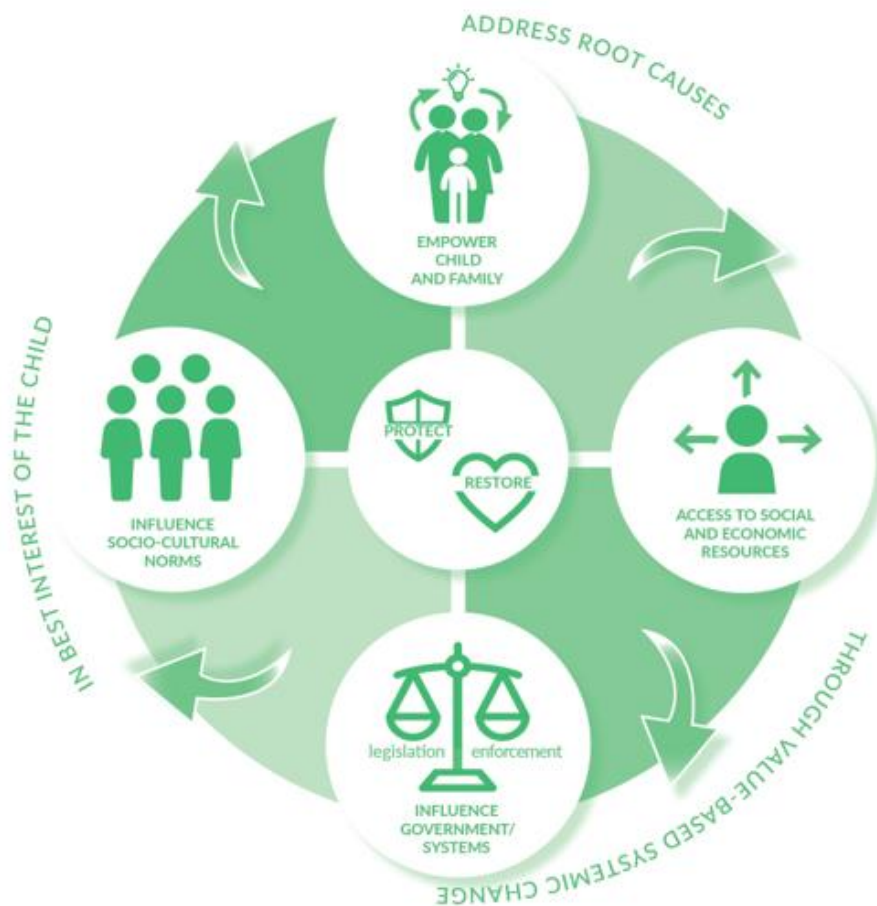
This framework can be filled from two different perspectives:

- A. prevention and protection: target children that are at risk of being exploited
- B. restoration and reintegration: target children that are/ were exploited.

The four quadrants are helpful to gain an overview of factors that are part of the system around a specific problem. These needs to be adapted to the specific context and needs. Based on the problem and actor analysis specific aspects will be chosen as a focus. This means that it is possible that a project focus on some quadrants if it is proven that the other quadrants are strengthened by other organizations or are less relevant.

⁵ Based on the 'gender at work' framework: <https://genderatwork.org/analytical-framework/> (Model adapted from Rao, Sadler, Kelleher, & Miller, 2016, as described in Green, 2016; <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/how-change-happens-9780198785392?cc=gb&lang=en#>)

3. A visual representation of the different interventions



The vision to end child exploitation is summarized in this graph.

Four main strategies (in line with the 4 quadrants in the vision) are:

1. **Empower child and family** (individual, informal)
2. **Influence social-cultural norms** in communities (systemic, informal)
3. **Access to social and economic resources** (individual, formal)
4. **Influence government / systems** (systemic, formal)

Each domain can be elaborated with activities for protection or restoration.

- Activities for **protection** target all children in communities that are at risk of exploitation.
- Activities for **restoration** target the victims of exploitation.

Our approach has three components: **1) address root causes; 2) through value-based systemic change; 3) in the best interest of the child**

Specified strategies

1. Empower child and family:

A change in consciousness, attitude and behavior of children and families is needed to prevent children to become part of exploitative practices and to restore exploited children. This will be realized through awareness campaigns, educating people, setting examples and promoting role models.

Specified strategies:

- Raise awareness among parents / caregivers and children on the risks and perils of situations or behavior that can lead to exploitative practices and on how to take actions when they are in desperate situations
- Strengthen parenting skills of parents / caregivers of children directly supported in our projects to prevent children to become part of exploitative activities and in reintegration processes of children that are exploited
- Psycho-social support for children rescued from exploitative situations to build their trust, self-esteem and capabilities to restore from their trauma, restore relations, reintegrate in their families/ communities and build up their life again
- Involve influential people and organizations able to reach the target groups: as schools, community-based organizations, religious leaders, celebrities and politicians
- An integrated 'education/ awareness raising package' is needed to prevent sending loose messages

2. Influence social-cultural norms

Positive and supportive social-cultural norms are needed to prevent children to become part of exploitative practices and to support the restoration of exploited children. This will be realized through awareness campaigns, educating people, setting examples and promoting role models. Through the strategies mentioned at 'Children and Families', a change in harmful social-cultural norms among the families and children at risk of exploitation and rescued from exploitation can be realized. But also, other actors might need a change in social-cultural norms. The following strategies focused on this.

Specified strategies:

- Cooperation with the government and other relevant actors in awareness raising campaigns that address harmful social cultural norms and practice and the negative impact of child exploitation
- Involve influential people and organizations able to reach the wider society: as schools, community-based organizations, religious leaders, celebrities and politicians
- Accessible media, as social media, radio, television, are relevant to be used to reach a wide audience
- Awareness raising activities among employers of child laborers to lower the demand for child labor
- Awareness raising activities and lobby activities in the Netherlands will contribute to awareness on the Dutch demand of international exploitative services (e.g. child labor, online sexual abuse)
- Cooperation in global movements, with international justice organizations and international businesses to fight harmful norms and practices in international demand of child labor

3. Access to social and economic resources

Increased opportunities and access to resources, information and services are relevant for families and children at risk of exploitation as well as for exploited children. By providing education services, exceptional care services, training, and job support this will be addressed. Preferably we link them to existing services. If these are not available sufficiently, new services can be set up.

Specified strategies:

- Provide education services or link with existing services to strengthen children that are at risk of exploitation and children who have been exploited
- Attention for life skills and awareness raising in all our education services for vulnerable children
- Training of law enforcement, civil society actors and social service providers on signaling exploitation, child-friendly support for exploited children and on influencing social norms
- Link exploited children to existing services or set up new services that provide accessible victim-centered care for restoration and reintegration
- Access to opportunities for parents / caretakers by linking them to services or by setting up new services that strengthen their economic or social situation
- Cooperate with knowledge institutes for further research on the conditions for a healthy child development and risks on child exploitation.
- Cooperate with policy makers, civil society, and service providers to ensure that this knowledge is incorporated in their policies

4. Influence government / systems

Adequate legal frameworks, juridical systems and policies that are properly implemented will be realized through lobby and advocacy with national and regional governments.

Specified strategies:

- Advocate local governments on supportive child protection and child-friendly legal frameworks, systems, and implementation
- Training can be provided to e.g. law enforcement agencies, judicial entities to support implementation of legal frameworks and increase knowledge on child-friendly systems
- Network with civil society actors to increase awareness on child exploitation and strengthen their role in advocating

Annex 2: Woord en Daad Contract terms for engaging consultants

1. The laws of the Netherlands govern all contracts.
2. Payment(s) for this contract shall not, in any circumstances, exceed the stipulated Financial Limit. 50% of the fee is billed at signing the contract and 50% after submission of the final report.
3. The consultant shall perform all its obligations with all necessary skill and diligence to satisfy accepted professional standards expected from experts associated with such obligations.
4. The consultant shall inform WD immediately when the agreed upon planning for the visits and/or the delivery of the final report cannot be kept, with an explanation for the delay. If the final report is not delivered before the agreed upon date, and this is not due to reasons beyond the control of the consultant, WD reserves the right to deduce a portion of the fee.
5. The consultant is responsible for all its acts and omissions and those of its personnel and for the health, safety and security of its personnel and their property.
6. The consultant shall not subcontract its obligations or assign its rights without WD's written agreement.
7. The consultant shall never disclose to any third party any information relating to this contract, which could be considered confidential (other than in the proper performance of this contract or as may be required by law).
8. All intellectual property rights created by the consultant in relation to any materials produced pursuant to the performance of the services shall belong to the consultant and the consultant grants WD an irrevocable non-exclusive royalty free license to use any such material at WD's discretion.
9. The consultant shall make and maintain accurate and systematic accounts, files and records relating to its obligations hereunder and make them available to WD and its personnel, agents, and representatives at such times as WD may require.
10. The consultant shall immediately notify WD of any circumstances, which may place the consultant in a real or apparent conflict of interest in relation to his services, or the interests of WD generally.
11. WD shall have discretion to terminate this contract at any time, whereupon the consultant will immediately cease the provision of the services and submit an invoice for costs incurred to the date of termination.