



REPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Union - Discipline - Travail

MINISTÈRE D'ÉTAT
MINISTÈRE DU PLAN ET
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

MINISTÈRE DE LA SOLIDARITÉ,
DE LA FAMILLE, DE LA FEMME
ET DE L'ENFANT

INITIAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD



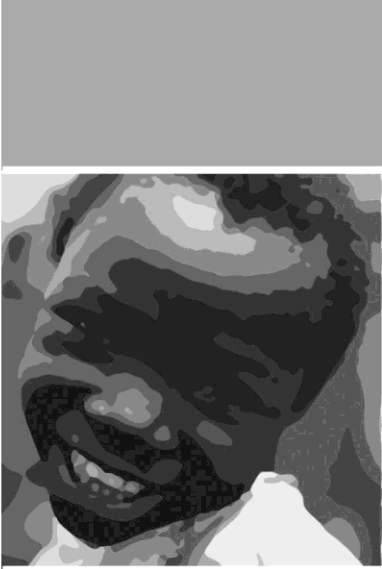
Juin 2014



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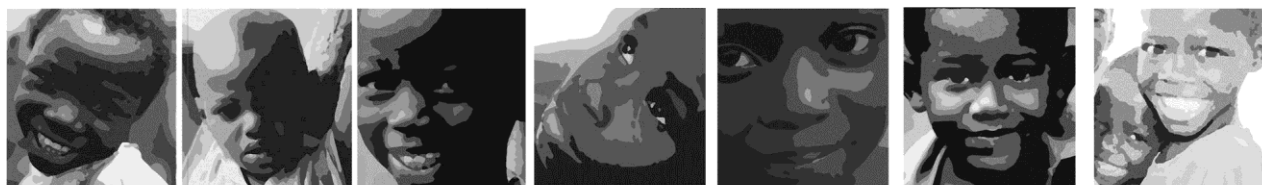
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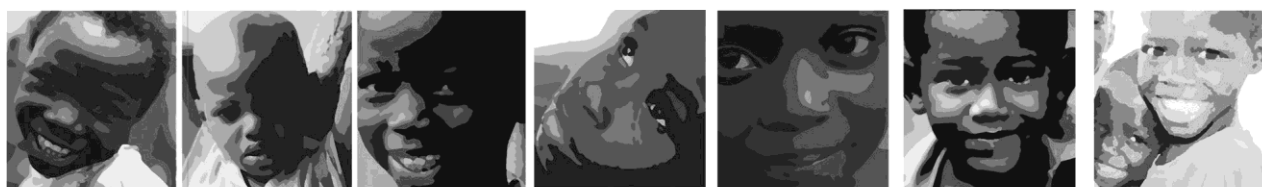
RAPPORT INITIAL SUR LA MISE EN OEUVRE DE LA CHARTE
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LISTE DES SIGLES ET ABREVIATIONS

AEJTCI	:
AFJCI	:
AMU	:
BICE	:
BIT	:
CPP	:
CDE	:
CESEH	:
CHU	:
CIM	:
CNDH	:
CNDDR	:
CNP	:
CMU	:
COM	:
COREPCO	:
COSCI	:
CNS	:
DDR	:
DIH	:
DPES	:
DSRP	:
ECIS	:
EDS	:
ENV	:
EPU	:
FAFN	:
FMI	:
FNUAP	:
HCR	:
IPEC	:
IDH	:
IFEF	:
INFS	:
INIPA	:
INS	:
IRC	:
JORCI	:
LIDHO	:
MFFAS	:
MGF	:
MIFED	:
MEMPD	:
NRC	:
OEV	:
OIM	:
OIT	:
OLPED	:
ONEF	:
ONUCI	:
ONUSIDA	:

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CONTEXTE GÉNÉRAL

• Geographic Context

Ivory Coast is located in sub-Saharan Africa between 4 ° 30 'and 4 ° 10' North latitude and its land area is 322,462 square kilometers. It is bordered in the south by the Atlantic Ocean, in the east by Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali in the north, and Guinea and Liberia in the west. The city of Yamoussoukro is the political capital of the country and the city of Abidjan is the economic capital. The relatively flat land consists of valleys in the south, gradually elevated plateau at the Centre and in the north and mountains in the west whose highest point is Mount Nimba (1753 metres).

• Demographic context

A predominantly young Ivorian population

The structure of the population has a regular pyramid shape with a broader base and a slimmer top, which reflects the image of developing countries. Such structure is that of a predominantly young population with high fertility and with a high mortality rate at older age. Indeed, 34.9% of this population is under age 15 and 55.9% under 25 and the average age of the population is 24.3 years (24.5 years for men and 24 years for women).

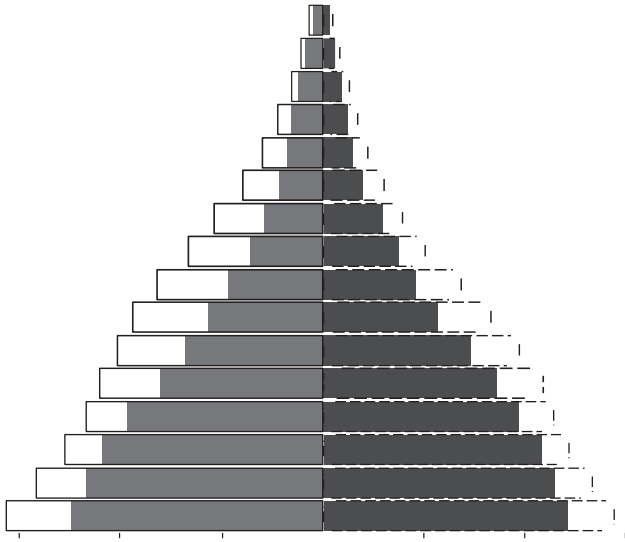
One Ivorian person out two lives in urban areas

The distribution of population according to place of residence reveals an urbanization rate of 50.9%. In other words, over 50% of the population lives in urban areas in Côte d'Ivoire. It has been observed and the urbanization rate has increased since it was 46% in 1998.

According to age groups, we see that people aged below 14 and those aged 65 and above have a strong presence in rural areas unlike most economically active populations that are found mostly in urban areas. This seems to reflect the consequences of the rural exodus which contributes to the impoverishment of rural areas. Despite all, this reflects the pre-existence, regional development disparities which is more beneficial to with urban areas.

Figure 1: Evolution of the age structure between 2002 and 2012





2000000 1500000 1000000 500000 0 500000 1000000 1500000 2000000

Source : AGEPE, à partir des données de l'ENV 2002 et de l'EEMCI 2012 (Effectif x 10)

- **Economic context**

Since its independence, Côte d'Ivoire has opted for a development strategy based on three pillars, namely: (i) economic liberalism as a social project and form of organization of economic activity; (ii) the promotion of agriculture, especially cash crops as engine of growth and (iii) opening to the outside world as a way of supporting for growth. This development strategy gave primacy to the state as promoter and regulator of economic activity. Then, with a view to foster the emergence of a dynamic private sector, the state has adopted various investment codes and put in place support structures for entrepreneurship and the mobilization of domestic savings through the creation of a series of funding and savings organizations by Decree No. 2011-262 of 28 September 2011.

The Ivorian economy is mainly based on agriculture, which is primarily based on the coffee-cocoa pair. Ivory Coast is the world's largest cocoa producer (41% of world production) and third largest coffee producer. Ivory Coast also produces cotton, palm oil, pineapple, banana, cashew. Agriculture contributes 22% of the GDP and is the source of income for two thirds of households. It provides about 75% of non-oil export earnings and employs 46% of the workforce. The country is also developing food crops, including rice, plantain, cassava, yams, corn, which contribute over 17% to the GDP. It produces gas and oil, which account for about 6% of the GDP.

An analysis of incomes however indicates a deterioration of living conditions of households since the 90s. The poverty rate in 2008 reached 49% nationwide, with a strong predominance of rural poverty (62%) against 29 % in the urban environment. In 1993, these rates were 32% nationally, 42% rural and 19% urban.

The successive socio-political crises that the country experienced has weakened the foundations of the economy and plunged it into negative growth phase. The economy reverted to growth only from 2004.

This recovery was consolidated on the one hand with the conclusion of a Post-Conflict Emergency Assistance Program (EPCA) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and on the other hand, with the clearance of outstanding payments to the World Bank and the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), following the Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA) of 2007.

This favorable environment has enabled the achievement of a growth rate of 1.6% in 2007 and 2.3% in 2008. The improvement of the macroeconomic framework and peaceful environment led to the conclusion of a three-year program supported by the Extended Credit Facility for the period 2009- 2011.

The effective resumption of the financial cooperation and the achievement of the HIPC decision point have helped to reach a GDP growth rate of 3.8% in 2009 and around 9.8% in 2012.

Meanwhile, the GDP per head recorded a very low growth of 0.24% per year over the period 2004 - 2010. Despite the start a diversification of its economy, Côte d'Ivoire has continued to be heavily dependent on raw materials. The country ranks 170th out of 187 countries with regard to the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index for Development (UNDP).

- **Political and institutional context**

The coup of December 1999, the attempted coup in September 2002 and the post-electoral crisis of December 2010 have seriously degraded the political and social climate already under strain. The radicalization of militants and political supporters' positions has altered the relationship of good neighborliness and intercommunity alliances. Also, the atrocious nature of the crimes committed mainly by exploited youth has created deep wounds. Community, regional, tribal and ethnic downturns were revitalized at some point. This amplified distrust and altered the momentum of reconciliation between

people.

Moreover, the feeling of exclusion and marginalization that gradually settled in the society greatly contributed to the degradation of the social climate. The audio visual, printed, and media cyber channels also helped to exacerbate social tension through their productions and publications.

This situation defeated Côte d'Ivoire's commitment towards the fulfillment of all its national and international obligations and the implementation of a rigorous and efficient policy of protecting human rights and fighting against violations of these rights, as shown in the report submitted by the Ivorian Government to the Human Rights Council during the Universal Periodic Review in December 2009.

With the prospect of a return to peace following the outbreak of the crisis (December 1999) many initiatives resulting in the organization of national reconciliation forum and the signatures of successive agreements (Lomé, Accra, Marcoussis and Pretoria) and UN Security Council resolutions, including the establishment of special interposition forces, Licorne as well as the United Nations operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) have mobilised the Government's attention of and energy.

The Ouagadougou Political Accord (OPA) signed on 4 March 2007 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) is the last of this series of agreements. Pursuant to this Agreement which contributed to the calming of the political and social climate, the crisis exit process made significant progress that opened up opportunities for the organization of elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

This agreement allowed the redeployment of the administration throughout the national territory and the commencement of the disarmament, hence facilitating the holding of presidential elections, which were postponed repeatedly since 2005, and for which the first round took place peacefully on October 31, 2010.

The second round of elections led to protests against the results which led to serious post-election crisis causing the death of more than thousands.

This crisis ended in April 2011. The Government has decided to resume strategic planning with the development of a National Development Plan (NDP 2012-2015) adopted in March 2012. This strategy paper includes the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper interrupted in 2002 and re-launched in December 2007, through a participatory and consensual process with the support of development partners.

This document and the Economic and Financial Programme 2009-2011 were approved by the Boards of the Bretton Woods institutions on 27 and 30 March 2009. These approvals enabled the country to reach the decision point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC).

The successful implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the Economic and Financial Programs supported by financial partners of Côte d'Ivoire have allowed the country to reach the completion point of the HIPC Initiative in June 2012 paving the way for cancellations and rescheduling of debt.

The National Development Plan which is expected to build the foundation for the emerging Ivory Coast in 2020 includes five strategic outcomes: (i) people live in harmony in a secure society in which good governance is ensured, (ii) the creation of national wealth is increased, sustained and the proceeds of growth are equitably shared, (iii) people, especially women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups have equitably access to quality social services (iv) people live in a healthy environment and an adequate life setting, (v) the repositioning of Ivory Coast on the regional and international scene is effective.

The promotion of children's rights is taken into account among other sectors including health, education, social protection and justice through the strategic outcome 3. The end of the crisis offers the opportunity to continue achieving progress as shown in the first implementation report published in March 2010.

I. MESURES D'APPLICATION GÉNÉRALE

(art. 4, 42 and 44, para. 6, of the Convention)

1.1.1 Measures taken to bring national legislation and practice in line with the principles and provisions of the Convention

R 9: The Committee encourages the State party to take all necessary measures to fully align its domestic legislation with the principles and provisions of the Convention. In this regard, it recommends that the State party continue its efforts to adopt a comprehensive code on children's rights. It also encourages the State party to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. In addition, it recommends that it pays more attention to the problem of customary law, which is not consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A) Legislative Reforms

The new Ivorian Constitution adopted on 1 August 2000 by Law No. 2000-513 provides that any agreement or any international agreement signed and ratified shall, since its publication, an authority that is superior to that of laws (art. 87 of the Constitution).

As a whole, the Constitution provides a mechanism for improved protection of human rights with

particular concern for children and other vulnerable people, not to mention the abolition of death penalty previously applicable to children of 16, the prohibition of penalties, inhuman and degrading treatments but also equality of all before the law and justice (Article 3).

The lack of a single code addressing issues of children's rights is a major challenge for aligning national legislation with the Convention. As part of its mission of disseminating legal information, the National Centre for Legal Documentation has however published in 2005 and regularly updated since a collection entitled "Children's rights in Côte d'Ivoire", which includes texts relating to the protection of child rights in the country.

Studies have also been conducted in terms of compliance of national laws with international child protection standards (Comparative study CRC / ACRWC / National Laws, NGO Forum 2007) and in some areas of children's rights, particularly in juvenile justice (Reports on the minority, BICE 2003). The recommendations from these studies form the basis for conducting a thorough reflection on harmonization efforts to be made.

A Commission for the Reform of Codes was set up within the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms, in order to review the Ivorian codes and to adapt to them the country's social, economic and cultural evolution.

In the same vein, as part of its prerogatives, the Children and Youth Judicial Protection Directorate works to strengthen the legislative and regulatory framework of the protection of minors who are in contact with the judicial system with the view to align our laws and regulations with international standards. In 2003, with the support of UNICEF, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire launched a process of developing a Children and Family Code and a draft was prepared with the contribution of all child protection stakeholders both governmental and non governmental. This process has unfortunately not been implemented in full. However, the authorities' willingness to provide the country with such a legal instrument is still relevant.

Ivory Coast is a country of written law, only positive law is legal valid: customary law is not binding. However, it is clear that many issues related to the status of persons, including children, are set in some areas or some families according to customary rules. These practices are often discriminatory (for example, regarding the succession, inheritance, access to land) or harmful (persistence of female genital mutilation) and contrary to the provisions enacted by the legislature. In the absence of further study on the issue, it is difficult to assess the impact of these cultural practices, the task is made even more difficult because they vary according to cultural and ethnic areas.

However, when disputes are brought before the courts, it is the civil laws that are binding on the parties and applied by the national courts.

At legislative level, progress has been noted in terms of compliance of national provisions with the rights recognized by the Convention, including through the adoption of certain laws in favor of the Child, and the ratification and signature of agreements and international conventions. Hence we note the following:

- International conventions:

- i. Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum age for admission to employment of 26 June 1973 ratified on January 21, 2002;
- ii. The ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor and immediate action for the elimination of 17 June 1999, ratified on January 21, 2002;
- iii. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, whose ratification instruments were filed on June 18, 2007;

iv. The Additional Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children, ratified on December 6, 2011;

v. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement children in armed conflicts, ratified on August 3, 2011;

vi. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography of children, ratified on September 7, 2011.

- At sub-regional level

i. The bilateral cooperation agreement between Ivory Coast - Mali in the fight against cross-border child trafficking, signed on 1 September 2000;

ii. The Multilateral Agreement between Côte d'Ivoire and eight (8) other countries in the fight against child trafficking signed on 27 July 2005;

iii. The Agreement between Ivory Coast - Burkina Faso in the fight against cross-border child trafficking, signed on October 17, 2013

- National laws and other internal legal instruments:

- i. Act No. 2001-636 of 9 October 2001 on the establishment, organization and functioning of universal health insurance
Under the Ministry of State, Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Vocational Training. Submitted by the Minister of State, the Cabinet adopted a bill establishing Universal Health Coverage, as of January 1, 2015;
- ii. Order No. 2250 of 14 March 2005 the Ministry of Labour and Public Service determining the list of hazardous work prohibited to children below 18;
- iii. Order No. 009 MEMEASS / CAB of 19 January 2012 revising the Decree No. 2250 of 14 March 2005 determining the list of hazardous work prohibited for children below 18;
- iv. Order No. 0075 of 28 September 2009 the Ministry of Education prohibiting physical and humiliating punishment of schoolchildren;
- v. Law n ° 2010-272 of 30 September 2010 on the prohibition of trafficking and the worst forms of child labour;
- vi. The law of 2012 concerning marriage;
- vii. The draft law on protection of defenders of human rights adopted by the Cabinet but yet adopted by the National Assembly;
- viii. Law No. 2013-35 of 25 January 2013 amending Ordinance No. 2011-258 of 28 September 2011 on the registration of births and deaths during the crisis;
- ix. The 2005 and 2013 laws amending the 1972 Act on the Code of nationality;
- x. The law on the nation wards is being adopted;
- xi. Decree 2014-290 of 21 May 2014 laying down detailed rules for implementing Law No. 2010-272 prohibiting trafficking and the worst forms of child labor;
 - x. Decree No 2013-857 of 19 December 2013 establishing the Children's Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire.

A) Coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Convention

There are policy coordination mechanisms and / or sector:

- The Inter ministerial Committee against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labor (CIM);
- The National Committee for Monitoring activities against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour (CNS);
- The anti doping national committee (Youth and Sports Ministry);
- Thematic Group (Gender and Development, Child Protection, GBV coordination, education);
- The National Committee on Violence against Women and Children (CNLVFFE);
- The Programme Implementation Unit for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adolescents

(PPEAV);

- National Support Program Implementation Unit for Orphans and other Children made Vulnerable by HIV / AIDS (PNOEV).

At the sectoral level, plans, strategies and policies have been implemented in the area of child protection, health and nutrition, education, including:

- The National Action Plan for Children, 2008;
- The National Policy for the Care and Support of Orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV-AIDS, 2010;
- The National Action Plan 2012-2014 against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour;
- The Action Plan for the medium-term education sector 2010-2013;
- The Roadmap to accelerate the reduction of maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality 2008-2015;
- The Strategic Plan of Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood illness 2009 2013;
- The National Policy Document on Child Health and Child Survival 2012-2015;
- The National Strategic Plan for Child Survival 2012-2015;
- The Sector Policy Document of the Ministry of Justice 2012-2015;
- The draft National Strategy for the Judicial Protection of Children and Youth 2013-2015;
- The National Policy on the Protection of Disables Persons;
- The National Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325;
- The Plan for the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission, 2012-2015;
- The National Policy Document on Equal Opportunities, Equity and Gender;
- The National AStrategy for the Girl Child Education;
- The National Accelerated Plan for the Girl Child Education 2013;
- The implementation roadmap of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- The National Nutrition Policy, 2009;
- National Youth Policy 2011-2015;
- Mapping and Analysis of the Protection System 2010;
- The National Child Protection Policy adopted in 2013;
- The National Strategy against Gender Based Violence (GBV) being adopted;
- The National Strategy against Early Marriage 2013;
- The National Strategy on Social Protection (axis III), 2013;
- The National Policy on Child Protection in schools;
- The Concept Note on child protection in schools.

B) Ministries involved in the implementation of the Convention

Pursuant to Decree n° 2013 - 506 of 25 July 2013 on the prerogatives of Government members as amended by Decree n°2013-802 of 21st November 2013, several technical ministries are involved in issues pertaining to children.

• **The Ministry of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children** , which is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of government policy in terms of solidarity , family , issues related to women and children , is coordinating the overall policy on children . It has the mandate and the responsibility of the following:

- Implementation of education and assistance programs for vulnerable children and children in the street children, in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Affairs;

- Development and monitoring of laws and regulations on child protection in conjunction with the Ministry for Justice

- Fight against the violence against children;
- Fight against child abandonment;
- Public awareness of child rights;
- Coordination of child protection activities, including through socio-educational centres and specialised social care institutions for children, in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Affairs;
- Coordination, identification, implementation and monitoring of policy against trafficking and exploitation of children, in conjunction with the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Social Affairs;
- Promotion of assistance and support actions for orphans, especially children with AIDS in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Affairs;
- Children's awareness on HIV / AIDS prevention in conjunction with the Ministry of Health
- Promotion and implementation of a coherent policy framework and training, integration of disabled people (including children) in the social fabric, particularly in the job market

• **The Ministry of National Education and Technical Education** has for attribution:

- Plan, implement and evaluate strategies and educational programs in preschool, primary and general secondary education, as well as manage the structures related thereto;
- Promoting literacy for all

In its organogram, the Ministry for Education includes a Directorate of Social Care and Social Works in Schools (DMOSS), which deals with social issues that emerge in schools.

• **The Department of State, Ministry of Interior and Security** has created since February 2006 within the Criminal Police, a Sub-Department against child trafficking and Juvenile delinquency (S / DLTEDJ). A specialized service with national jurisdiction, the S / DLTEDJ is responsible for dealing with all juvenile cases, both as offenders and victims and in physical and moral danger.

• **The Ministry of Health and the Fight against AIDS** is involved in immunization, nutrition, school health, child survival, safe motherhood, anti malaria, AIDS prevention in particular elimination of mother to child transmission, the fight against endemic diseases, health promotion.

• **The Ministry for the Promotion of Youth, Sports and Recreation** leads the national youth policy.

1.1.1 Mechanisms or programmes for coordinating actions for children

R 11. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to assign the primary responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Convention to a single body or mechanism. To this end, it also recommends the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources and take appropriate measures to involve NGOs.

In Ivory Coast, most child protection interventions are not sufficiently coordinated, which limits their ability to prevent and protect children from all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation. The actions taken in recent years following the sociopolitical crisis that began in 2002 and which led to a sharp deterioration in social indicators, produced only inconsistent results in the intervention areas.

The national response in terms of prevention and protection of children has been limited, both at the state level and association services, as well as community and family mechanisms.

Because of the lack of overall coordination, different sectors have created thematic coordination mechanisms:

- The CIM and the CNS;
- The PNOEV (with financial support from PEPFAR, the World Bank and UNICEF) for coordinating the Action for OVC because of HIV-AIDS;
- Thematic Group on Gender and Development (GTGD), coordinated by the Directorate of Equality and Gender Promotion of the Ministry in charge of gender issues with technical support from UNFPA, which is the body coordination for everything concerning gender-based violence;
- The protection of the Child Forum, or "Child Protection Forum", which was created under the coordination of the humanitarian response that includes international organizations such as UNICEF, Save the Children, IRC, BICE. Local NGOs are represented through a representative of the Forum of NGOs and associations for Care and Assistance to children in difficulty. The Government is not represented, but invited depending on the themes addressed.

- The thematic Child Protection Group, coordinated by the Child Protection Directorate of the Ministry in charge of the Child with the support of UNICEF

Faced with this situation, the Government decided to move forward with the support of UNICEF, towards a review and development of the child protection sector. This process began with the development of a framework document entitled "Mapping and Analysis of the Child Protection National System in Côte d'Ivoire", completed in April 2010 and endorsed in December of that year.

This document gave an overview of the components of the child protection system and their efficiency. It is the main basis for the development of the National Child Protection Policy and other frameworks.

Based on this inventory, it was decided to proceed with:

a) The development of a **framework document for the child protection sector**, which will set national objectives and strategies to ensure a better protection of children against all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation and provide a basis for clarification of roles and responsibilities for different stakeholders. For this purpose the **Child Protection National Policy document (NEPP)** was developed in 2012, validated by all sectors and adopted by the government.

b) The establishment of a **National Child Protection Committee**, which is a permanent multi sectoral structure for national coordination of child protection in Côte d'Ivoire. This multi-sectoral national committee will be set up following the adoption of the NEPP. The Policy reflects different national realities on the one hand, the aspirations and commitment of all stakeholders on the other hand. The actors involved in child protection were invited to make contributions to its development.

The consultative process was set up in October 2010 and ended in May 2012. Given the cross cutting nature of any child protection policy, institutional actors of social action, security, justice, health, education, communication, local authorities, associations and the technical and financial partners were brought together to formulate strategies for the NEPP. These consultations took place throughout the territory and provided an opportunity for the various institutional players to provide guidance for effective protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation.

1.1.1 Data Collection

R 17. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a system of data collection and indicators consistent with the Convention and disaggregated by gender, age, indigenous and minority groups, urban and rural areas. (...) The Committee also encourages the State party to use these indicators and data to formulate policies and programs for the effective implementation of the Convention.

There is no centralized data collection system and indicators which are consistent with the provisions of the Convention. However, the education, health and social action sectors have routine information systems to ensure regular the statistics release of disaggregated indicators by selected characteristics (sex, age, rural urban area).

Furthermore, a financial and technical support from partners led in 2006, 2008 and 2012 to a **national household surveys** that helped to update most of the indicators monitored by the Convention t with a disaggregation level integrating vulnerable groups. The Statistics Act passed in 2013 establishes the National Statistics Institute (INS) as the institution responsible for the collection and dissemination of statistics related to the country's on commitments.

1.1.2 The remedies available and their accessibility to children

Children have the opportunity, like any citizen, to refer civil, criminal or administrative matters to the courts when their rights are violated. However, because of the child is not criminally responsible, he/she is required to act through a legal guardian. The judicial system, traditionally based on the principle of dual jurisdiction and the unity of law, is evolving. Ongoing reforms tend to make the Supreme Court a third instance of the judiciary.

- In terms of non-judicial remedies, there are four options:
 - - Referral to the Ombudsman;
 - - The National Commission for Human Rights of Côte d'Ivoire;
 - - Referral to the Department of Regulation and Promotion of Human Rights of the Ministry in charge of justice;
 - - The coordinating unit of the National Committee on Violence against Women and Children at the Ministry in charge of the child.
- Children remedies are in some cases facilitated by the support that they receive from some NGOs (including BICE, CAVOEQUIVA ...), and the Sub-Directorate for the Fight against Child Trafficking and Juvenile Delinquency, in terms of reporting, counselling and assistance in case of trial. We can also mention the legal clinics of the Association of Women Lawyers of Côte d'Ivoire, Children's Associations and Groups, local protection committees, the community and the establishment of a help line for children in distress "Allo 116 children in distress."
- The Ministry for Justice adopted in March 2013 its policy sector orientation paper that provides for reform of legal aid, which should provide better access of children to justice. The pilot installation of legal clinics is currently supported by a number of development partners like the European Union, USAID, UNDP, UNICEF and UNOCI.

• 1.1.3 The existence of an independent human rights institution

- **R 13 In accordance with the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions (resolution 48/134 of the General Assembly), the Committee encourages the State party to consider the establishment an independent national institution for human rights, which would be responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of the Convention at national level and, if appropriate, at local level. In addition, the institution should be empowered to receive complaints of violations of children's rights and to implement them in an effective way while fulfilling the child's needs.**
- **Following a long process started in 2000, the National Commission for Human Rights of Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI) was established by Decision No. 2005-08 / PR of 15 July 2005 which is legally binding.** The CNDHCI is an Independent Commission, endowed with legal personality and financial autonomy through an annual operating budget that is provided by the state. This decision was reinforced by Law No. 2012 -1132 of 13 December 2012 and Decree No 2012-1133 of 13 December 2012 on the establishment, responsibilities, functioning and organisation of the CNDHCI.
- The CNDHCI, which began operating effectively on July 31, 2007, revolves around three bodies: the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the General Secretariat. It performs functions of consultation, evaluation and submits proposals in terms of human rights promotion, protection and defense. To this end, it published and disseminated in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, an annual report on the state of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire.

- To accomplish its tasks, the CNDHCI has a non-judicial self-referral power; it may also be seized by any citizen victim or witness of human rights violations. There is no age or nationality requirement. In conducting its investigations, the Commission may summon any witness to appear and require assistance from any state bodies in order to allow the determination of the truth.
- Finally, it can also carry out visits to prisons and all places of detention; and at the end of its investigations, it may proceed to prosecution or call on any authority or any holder of a power of coercion, for the protection and defense of human rights, or propose any measures likely to put an end to human rights violations.
- **But there is a willingness of the Commission to appoint a commissioner specifically responsible for children's rights or a specific section or division responsible for children's rights. In this sense, technical assistance from UNICEF or UNHCR would be welcomed by its members.**
- In addition, at the end of the electoral process the Government was committed to ensure compliance of the CNDHCI with the Paris Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for the protection and promotion of Human Rights.

- 1.1.4 The total resources received and the percentage allocated to children's programmes
- **R 15. The Committee recommends that the State party does everything in its power to increase the budget allocated to children's rights and, in this context, to ensure the provision of sufficient human resources in this field and ensure that the implementation of children's policies are considered as a priority. The Committee also recommends that the State party find ways to undertake a systematic evaluation of the impact of budgetary allocations on the implementation of child rights and collect and disseminate information in this regard.**
- Even if there is no system to track budget allocations and expenditures related to the realisation of children's rights, it is important to underline the State's efforts.
- 1.1.6 Measures taken to disseminate the provisions of the Convention.
- **R 19. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to disseminate the principles and provisions of the Convention in order to sensitize the society about children's rights through social mobilization. It also recommends that the Convention is translated in all national languages as to reach the entire population. Moreover, it encourages systematic education and training efforts to raise awareness on the provisions of the Convention to members of all professional groups working for and with children.**
- According to Article 42 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, concrete actions have been taken with regard to the dissemination of the Convention.
- Seminars, workshops, conferences, meetings and various cultural and recreational activities were organized to sensitize the authorities, the public and the children themselves to issues of childhood and to raise awareness about the Convention.

It is in this same context that the celebrations of commemorative days devoted to the child include:

- The International Day against Female Genital Mutilation, 6 February;
- The World Day against Child Labour in June -12;
- The Day of the African Child - June 16;
- The International Refugee Day - June 20;
- The day on violence against Women and Children -19 November;
- Commemoration Day of the CRC - 20 November;
- The World AIDS Day - December 1;
- The Disability Day - December 3
- National Solidarity Day - August 25
- The International Youth Day - August 12
- The International Day of Families - 05 May
- World Population Day -11 July
- The World Health Day - April 7
- World AIDS Orphans Day -07 May
- The International Day of the Girl Child- October 11
- World Breastfeeding Week 1st to October 7th

Training sessions on topics related to the Convention have been organised since 2001 for social workers, judges, carriers, armed forces and Security, teachers, community and religious leaders, associations and children's movements, media agents, community-based organisations in order to strengthen mechanisms of prevention and support for victims of child trafficking, abuse and exploitation of children, in relation to armed forces and armed groups, children in conflict with the law, children victims of gender based violence and children with disabilities.

- Ces résultats majeurs ont été réalisés grâce à la collaboration entre le Ministère en charge de de l'enfant, le Ministère en charge de l'éducation, le Ministère en charge des droits de l'homme, la S/DLTEDJ, le Service Autonome de Lutte contre la Traite des Enfants (SALTE) actuelle DLTE , et plusieurs partenaires, notamment l'UNICEF, le BIT, l'ONUCI, le PAM, le PNUD, l'UNFPA, l'OIM, le BICE, Save the Children, l'IRC et les ONG locales qui ont assuré la mise en œuvre de ces actions sur le terrain.
- These important results have been achieved through collaboration between the Ministry in charge of the child, the Ministry for Education, the Ministry for Human Rights, the S / DLTEDJ, the anti child trafficking autonomous department (SALTE) now LTCD, and several partners, including UNICEF, ILO, UNOCI, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, BICE, Save the Children, the IRC and local NGOs that have ensured the implementation of these actions on the ground.
- More detailed information about training on the rights enshrined in the CRC will be indicated in the sections relating to different sectors.
- With the support of UNICEF, the National Police School and the two Gendarmerie schools (Abidjan and Daloa) have developed programmes of more than 50 hours of skills training in child rights and child protection, under the initial basic integrated training curricula at schools and under the basic in service training of and specialised in service training.

As part of the project to support reform and modernisation of the judicial and prison system in Côte d'Ivoire and funded by the European Union, child rights modules will be reinforced in the training curricula of the following schools: National Institute of Judicial Training (INFJ), National School of Police, School of Gendarmerie and National Institute of Social Education (INFS).

With the support of UNICEF, the Committee on the Rights of the Child's concluding observations following its consideration of the initial report of Côte d'Ivoire in June 2001, were the focus of a feedback workshop co-chaired by the social Protection Directorate (DPS) of the Ministry of Family, Women and social Affairs (MFFAS) and DPJEJ of MEMJDH in April 2002. It was for the attention of members of government institutions in charge of children's issues, UN agencies and representatives of civil society. The concluding observations were also published through the media.

The Forum of NGOs and associations supporting children in difficult situations, the Ivorian Coalition for Children's Rights have greatly contributed to the popularisation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the rights and Welfare of the Child which complements it.

In addition to the alternative report submitted in 2000 to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and presented before the Committee in February 2001, the NGO Forum presented to the National Assembly, a communication on the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child at a workshop organised to this effect on 11 April 2002.

On 17 and 18 November 2005, the NGO Forum organised in the ILO conference room, a workshop to discuss the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. This workshop was attended by major stakeholders in child protection in Côte d'Ivoire. On 20 November 2005, it also organised a press conference during which an analysis of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was made.

However, the initial report on the implementation of the Convention had not been widely disseminated and had not been translated into local languages.

That is why the Government intends to develop a plan for dissemination and popularisation of this periodic report, which may include, among others, the organisation of regional workshops with representatives of decentralised institutions, religious and traditional authorities, representatives of local associations working for and with children. This should enable greater ownership of the provisions of the

Convention and the steps taken by the Government and its partners to ensure the implementation by a majority of the population, especially in rural areas.

1.1.7 Cooperation with civil society organisations representing children and youth

The state institutions responsible for child protection work closely with civil society organisations, particularly NGOs working on children's issues or working for children, most of which were grouped since 1996 in the NGOs and associations Forum supporting children in difficult situation.

Institutionally, this partnership is evident in the participation of a representative of the Forum, or one of the NGO members, to meetings of the various committees set up to deal with aspects related to child rights, including the CIM, the CNS, the CNLVFFE as well as in the Committee for the Determination of the Best Interests of the Child and the PN-OVC.

The participation of civil society active members in child protection is also provided in the process of drafting the framework document and the descriptive document on child protection system.

The collaboration between the Government and the children's associations occurs through seminars, workshops, national and international meetings during which children express their opinions. Several children's associations are in the country including:

- The Children's Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire (PECI)
- The Association of Working Children and Youth in Ivory Coast (AEJTCI)
- The Right of Children in Ivory Coast (EICB)
- La Colombe de l'Espérance

In these consultations, a specific position is left for the Children's Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire (PECI). The PECI was institutionalised by Decree No 2013-857 of 19 December 2013. It is a platform for free expression of children. It is secular and without trade union or political aims. The elective General Assembly took place in Abidjan (Boy Orphanage of Bingerville) from 25 July to 08 August 2014.

The Children's Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire represents children from the two (02) autonomous districts (Abidjan and Yamoussoukro) and twenty-eight (28) regions (Loh Djiboua, Indénié Djuablin, Haut Sassandra, Gbêkê, South Comoé, Agneby-Tiassa Goh, Guemon, Cavally, the Mé, the Nawa Iffou, San Pedro, Gountougo, Boukani, Marahoué, N'Zi, Moronou, Hambol, Gbôklê, Poro, Kabadougou, Baing, Tonpki, Major Bridges, Tchologo, Bagoue and Béliér) of Côte d'Ivoire. It is gender balanced.

The PECI's mission is:

- To assist the government in implementing the National Policy on Child Protection;
- To carry out all the information activities, sensitisation of children, parents, governments, civil society and all those who can contribute to the expression of a true national and international solidarity for the improvement of the physical, social and economic well-being of children.

As such:

- It contributes to the mobilisation of children around the children's programmes;
- It raises awareness and challenges the authorities and civil society involved in the implementation of the implementation action plan of the National Policy on Child Protection.

The resources of the Children's Parliament come from the General State Budget, from technical and financial partners, from donors, various contributions of public or private institutions, local authorities, associations and NGOs working for children.

R 21 The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation to eliminate all disparities regarding minimum ages and intensify its efforts to enforce the relevant provisions. It strongly encourages the State Party to set a minimum age for compulsory education and develop sensitization programmes to curb the practice of early marriages.

In the Ivorian legislation, the age of criminal and civil majority is respectively set at 18 and 21 years. However, in its article 3, the Constitution of 1 August 2000 recognised the right to vote for all individuals of 18 years.

Child protection actors have initiated an advocacy campaign for the standardization of the age of majority to 18 years.

Labour. The Order No. 2250 of 14 March 2005 of the Ministry of Employment and Public Service defines and prohibits night work and hazardous work until the age of 18. The list was revised by Order No. 009 / MEMEASS / CAB of 19/01/2012 concerning the determination of the list of hazardous work prohibited for children below 18 years.

Marriage. Currently, the marital age for both sexes is not unified (boys 21, girls 18, 16 with parental consent).

Although it is prohibited by the marriage law, which requires the personal consent of each spouse, the extent of the practice of early marriage and / or forced marriage remains a concern, although no survey or study has been conducted to confirm the reality of the phenomenon through statistical data.

The fight against early marriages fit into the wider context of the fight against violence and harmful social and traditional practices, which is conducted by the Ministry in charge of the child through the Department of Gender Equality and Promotion (DMPD) and CNLVFFE, especially with the support of technical and financial partners. Mass and proximity awareness sessions are organised throughout the national territory, through the GBV platforms actions, Child Protection Committees and national NGOs. Only for the year 2010, according to UNICEF data, 6429 people of 90 communities were informed and sensitized on gender based violence (GBV).

From 2010 to 2014, the CNLVFFE sensitized 8889 people as shown in the table below:

Criminal liability. According to Article 116 of the Ivorian Penal Code, only children under 10 years are totally exempt from criminal liability. Minors aged 10 to 13 years can not be the subject to criminal convictions but can be subjected to protection, support, supervision and education measures that are provided for in Article 783 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPP). In case the minor of 13 years is prosecuted for a crime, he could be placed temporarily in a detention centre through a juvenile judge reasoned order. However, this is an exceptional measure that is rarely adopted by juvenile judges.

Compulsory education. Although the Constitution provides in Article 7, "equal access (...) to education" for all citizens, no minimum age has been set for compulsory education. However, education is free in Ivory Coast for all primary schools from first to sixth grade (CP1 to CM2).

3.1 Non-discrimination (art. 2)

R 23. The Committee recommends that the State party make concerted efforts at all levels to fight against discrimination, particularly discrimination based on sex, disability, religion and national, ethnic or social origin through a review and reorientation of policies, including increased budgetary allocations for programmes targeting the most vulnerable groups. The Committee encourages the State party to ensure effective law enforcement, undertake studies and launch comprehensive public information campaigns to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination, where appropriate within the framework of international cooperation.

Article 30 of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire provides for the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction of origin, race, sex and religion.

Moreover, some specific provisions in the laws are effective application of the non-discrimination principle regarding the rights of children irrespective of their status.

Children born out of wedlock. Article 29 of Law No 64-377 of 07 October 1964 amended by Law No. 83-799 of 1983 on paternity and filiation states that children born out of wedlock whose filiation is legally established have the same rights as legitimate children. In addition, Law No 64-379 of 07 October 1964 on successions stipulates in article 22: "Children or their descendants inherit from their father and mother, grandfathers, grandmothers or other ascendant, regardless of gender or primogeniture even if they are from different marriages or born out of wedlock. "

Under the same law (new art. 22), children born out of wedlock can only be recognised with the consent of the legal wife.

In judicial practice, there is progress on the issue, to the extent that the legal wife has two years to denounce the act of recognition, following which her statement will no longer be necessary for the validity of the act.

Children born of incest. Article 24 of Law No 64-377 provides that "a child born of an incestuous relationship can not be recognized, except however for his/her legitimation, if the marriage of his/her parents was allowed." This could expose the child to the deprivation of his/her rights including the right to a name. However, this is partially offset by the right to claim child support that is recognised in article 27, paragraph 2 of the Act. Despite this, the mother may declare her child.

Children with disabilities. The orientation law n ° 98-594 of 10 November 1998 regarding disabled persons enshrined equal opportunity and treatment for disabled children in all sectors of activity, a principle that is confirmed by the Constitution in its Article 6. Unfortunately this law has not been followed by an implementing decree that would make these provisions effective. In terms of education, the Education Act has incorporated the principle of non-discrimination and "inclusive schools", which however remains applicable only in respect of children with motor disabilities due to lack of specialists (special needs educators, special needs teachers...).

An agreement between the Ministry for Education and the Ministry of Health also authorises any student affected by the Buruli ulcer to return to his/her school upon healing.

In perspective, the implementation of the National Programme of Based Community Rehabilitation (PN-RBC), planned in 2011, and the revitalisation of the inclusive education project (see 6.2) should be an appropriate response to combat discrimination against this vulnerable group.

Sex- based discrimination. Various legislative and administrative measures have been taken to combat discrimination against girls.

Administratively, there was the establishment of the Directorate of Gender Equality and Promotion, by Decree No. 2006-41 of 15 March 2006 on the organisation of MFFAS.

This department is responsible for: i) ensuring equality between women and men; ii) coordinating all promotional initiatives on gender based violence; iii) monitoring and evaluating the implementation of international commitments made by the Ivory Coast in terms of equality and equity between both sexes.

Thanks to the action of this directorate and following the Solemn Declaration of the President of the Republic on equal opportunity, equity and gender on 21 February 2007, several documents resulting from this principle were adopted:

1) The National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security.

Developed in 2007, it was adopted by the Government for a period of five years (2008 - 2012). There are four major areas that revolve around a range of results, ranging from long-term results to immediate results and actions to be carried out.

The priority areas of intervention are: (1) Protection of women and of girls against sexual violence, including against female genital mutilation; (2) Inclusion of gender issues in development policies and programmes; (3) Women and men in the process of national reconstruction and rehabilitation; (4) Enhancing the participation of women and men in the process of policy making.

The Action Plan of resolution 1325 is beginning to be implemented through two major projects jointly funded by the State of Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Development Programme in Ivory Coast (UNDP-CI) including the opening in 2008 of a Prevention and Assistance Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence (PAVVIOS) in the municipality of Attécoubé (Abidjan).

2) Document of National Policy on Equal Opportunity, Equity and Gender, adopted by the Cabinet on April 23, 2009.

The document aims to create a conducive environment for the consideration of gender in all sectors and at all levels. It also constitutes a framework for the integration of gender approach in policies, development programmes and projects in all sectors of social life in Côte d'Ivoire. As part of the implementation of the National Gender Policy, four (4) priority interventions, which are the gender challenges to be faced by Ivory Coast were identified. These are: (1) Gender, Governance and Human Rights; (2) Gender, macro-economic framework and budgetary analysis; (3) Gender, Reconstruction and basic Social Services; (4) Gender, Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism.

The National Gender Policy has facilitated among others the integration of the gender approach in national framework documents such as the National Development Strategy Paper based on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2007, Poverty Reduction Strategy paper for 2009-2013 (PRSP), which was replaced by the National Development Plan 2012-2015 and the United Nations framework Plan for Development 2009-2013 (UNDAF).

3) The National Strategy on Gender based violence 2014-2016.

The process of developing the National Strategy on Gender Based Violence (SNLVBG) started in 2009, continued in 2012 thanks to the expertise of national and international actors. Its development is built into the framework of coordination and harmonization of the different approaches to prevention and response to gender based violence, particularly sexual violence in Ivory Coast,

The SNLVBG reflects the will of the Government to carry out the fight against this plea with the support Of national stakeholders and development partners for a period from 2014 to 2016.

For its implementation, a three-year programme that mobilises all national components was established: Government, Parliament, Economic and Social Council, Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation, civil society organization with the support of international institutions.

Today the Document of National Gender Policy adopted by the Cabinet is being popularised and the development of a strategic plan for its implementation is planned with all partners.

Following the commitment made by the President of the Republic during his solemn declaration to conduct a reflection to develop or revise discriminatory laws against women (Marriage Act, filiation Act, law on rural land). A Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill that severely punish offenses committed with respect to Gender Based Violence was recently approved and will soon be submitted to the National Assembly for approval.

From 2007, the DEPG initiated the establishment of the Gender units based in the various technical ministries which 14 are now functional. The Gender units are responsible for ensuring the inclusion of practical and strategic needs of women and men in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects of Government departments.

Notwithstanding these efforts, many disparities still exist between girls and boys, especially with regard to access to education.

The indicators available show that gender parity in primary education has remained at 0.88 i.e. 88 girls per 100 boys in 2006 (source: MICS 2006) and in 2008 (source: ENV 2000). It was 0.81 in 2000 (MICS 2000). In secondary education the ratio girls / boys was 64 per 100 boys in 2008 against 54 in 2000.

Les indicateurs disponibles montrent que la parité entre les sexes dans l'enseignement primaire s'est maintenue à 0,88, soit 88 filles pour 100 garçons en 2006 (source : MICS 2006) et 2008 (source : ENV 2000). Elle s'établissait à 0,81 en 2000 (MICS 2000). Dans l'enseignement secondaire le rapport filles/garçons était de 64 filles pour 100 garçons en 2008 contre 54 en 2000.

Au niveau de l'enseignement supérieur ce rapport se situait à 56% en 2008. Au niveau de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle, les filles représentaient 43,9% de l'effectif total avec respectivement 56,3% pour la formation au secteur tertiaire et 43,7% au secteur industriel.

Dans l'enseignement secondaire technique, nous notons 97 filles pour 100 garçons selon les données statistiques 2013/2014 source: DPES/MENET. Selon l'EDS-MICS 2011-2012, l'indice de parité entre les sexes au primaire est de 0,90 au niveau national soit 90 filles pour 100 garçons. Au niveau de l'école secondaire l'IPS est de 0,74, dénotant que les filles fréquentent l'école secondaire relativement moins que les garçons.

At the level of higher education this ratio was at 56% in 2008. At the level of technical education and vocational training, girls represented 43.9% of the total of students with 56.3% in tertiary education training and 43.7% in the industrial sector.

In technical secondary education, there are 97 girls for 100 boys according to 2013/2014 statistics Source: ESPD / MENET. According to the DHS-MICS 2011-2012, the index of gender parity at the primary was 0.90 nationally i.e. 90 girls for 100 boys. At the secondary school the index of gender parity was 0.74, indicating that the girls attending high school were relatively less than boys.

Despite the slow growth of these indicators, it is worth mentioning the positive actions that focused on the adjustment of the institutional and legal framework including:

- The establishment of an "Education for girls" department within the Ministry of education;
- Note Circular 1373 Ministerial Decree / MEN / DISABLE / SD-EPT of 28 August 2000 concerning the registration of girls at CP1 for the elimination of barriers for boys and girls' access to education;
- The establishment of school canteens throughout the national territory;
- Keeping pregnant girls in school and their return to school after giving birth;
- Sensitisation of parents on girls' education;
- Taking special measures and provision of school kits and allowances to parents areas with low school attendance (including the District Zanzan, North East of the country) in order to encourage parents in the region to send girls to school.

Since 2005 and with the support of UNICEF, the ADB and the Japanese Cooperation, the "Child Friendly School / girl friendly school" model was experienced through the project "School convivial space of peace and tolerance" in 350 primary schools, 80% were in the former CNO zones, with an essential package of activities including the rehabilitation and equipment of schools with school furniture (table chairs to accommodate active learning or skills training - FPC), water point construction and separate latrines for girls and boys in these schools, the establishment of school clubs and training of school management Committees (SMCs) in gender and school infrastructure management.

3.2 Best interests of the child (art. 3)

1. Legislative Framework

The principle laid down by Article 3 of the Convention was confirmed by Article 6 of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire, which provides for special protection to the child.

In general, the Ivorian positive law reflects this principle in the various laws and regulations. In this regard, Law No. 70-483 of 3 August 1970 on the minority enshrines in its entirety the best interests of the child. For example, the guardianship of a child can be conferred to a third person or an institution when his/her parents jeopardise his/her health or safety or morals (Art. 20,21, 48 of Law 70-483)

For adoption, Article 1 of Law 64-378 of October 7, 1964 amended and supplemented by Law No. 83-802 of 2 August 1983 establishes that "[it] can take place only if there are just cause and of it benefits the child".

For Labour, Order No. 009 MEMEASS / CAB of 19 January 2012 revising Decree No. 2250 of 14 March 2005 of the MEFP determines the list of hazardous work prohibited for children below 18 years in all economic activity sectors.

The Criminal Procedure Code in its Articles 756-809 sets exemptions to the general law concerning minors of eighteen years which have committed an offense which fit exclusively within the jurisdiction of various courts for minor.

The juvenile judge may carry out a social investigation to know the personality of the minor. However, currently there is no specific provisions pertaining to custody, temporary detention and penal mediation. The Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code reform process that is currently carried out by the Ministry of Justice includes reviewing provisions pertaining to minors.

1. Administrative measures

Administratively, the consideration of the best interests of the child, without an increase in budgets for the realisation of social policies due to the context of crisis in the country for over a decade, has led to the development, adoption and implementation of national plans for the promotion of children's rights. The Government is committed primarily through the National Action Plan for Children 2008-2012 to operationalise children's programmes and actions on the basis of an analysis of all the major problems that affect their life

At sectoral level, "the National Action Plan 2012-2014" against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour adopted in 2012, was an appropriate response to combat this phenomenon.

The National Policy on Child Protection adopted in 2013 and its Action Plan covering the period from 2014 to 2018, falls within the general framework of development and aims to contribute to achieving the objectives of the National Development Plan (PND) relating to the rule of law, governance, social cohesion and respect for human rights.

Child protection networks also represent ways of protecting the best interests of the child at the local level, especially as regards to protection against violence.

3.3 Right to life, survival and development (art. 6)

1. Legislative and Regulatory Framework

The Constitution enshrines the right to life (art. 2) and development (art. 7) of every citizen. It states that every person is sacred and in its Article 2 it abolishes death penalty, which was previously enforceable.

The Criminal Code protects children against all threats to their life, to their physical, moral and sexual integrity. It increases the penalties when the victim of an offense is a child, in a situation when a victim a minor this is often an aggravating factor in terms of sentencing.

The Penal Code specifically prohibits abortion and infanticide, which are punishable respectively by Articles 366 and 361.

2. Administrative measures

Figure 2: Leading causes of infant and neonatal mortality

- As shown in the graph above, Ivory Coast epidemiological profile remains dominated by common ailments such as acute respiratory infections (ARI), malaria, diarrhea, measles and chronic malnutrition.
- In order to improve their care and thus ensure the survival of children, different strategies and programmes have been developed by the Ivorian Government these include:
 - The "Strategy for Integrated Management of Diseases of the Newborn and Child" (PCIMNE) developed for 0-5 years old by the National Programme for Child Health and Child Survival of the Ministry of Health and the Fight against AIDS (MSLS);
 - The "Road Map for accelerating the reduction of maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality (2008-2015)" provides a framework for creating strategic partnerships in order to increase investment in maternal, newborn and child health. It is the guidelines that should inspire the actions for improving the health of mother and child;
 - The "Strategic Plan for Child Survival" 2009-2013 that made up the National Strategic Plan for Child Survival 2012-2015.

In order to take into account the specific needs of Orphans and Children who became Vulnerable (OVCs) due to HIV-AIDS, a national policy for their management has been developed since 2003. The implementation of this policy is ensured by the Ministry in charge of the child through the PN-OVC who receives among others, the support of the Global Fund, World Bank, UNICEF and PEPFAR and operates in the following areas: psychosocial support, education and apprenticeship, food security and nutrition, health, economic empowerment of parents, shelter and care.

R 25. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to ensure that children born in prison and their mothers are provided with access to health services.

Article 161 of Decree No. 69-189 of 14 May 1969 regulating prisons and setting the rules for the implementation of custodial sentences provides that due to their pregnancy, pregnant female prisoners are transferred to the hospital or maternity. The mother is reinstated to the prison with her child as soon as the condition of both of them permits it.

Article 162 of the Decree adds that children may stay with their mother in prison until the age of two (2) years.

To better address the specific needs of these two vulnerable categories and allow full implementation of legislation, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, through the joint initiative of the Ministry for Justice and the Health Ministry has developed and validated in May 2010, a Framework Policy Document on health in Prison which states that special attention should be paid to the free health care (preventive, curative) of pregnant women and children living with their mother.

The framework document provides for this purpose the establishment of a national committee called "Joint Committee" composed of representatives of technical structures of the two ministries concerned with the issue of health in prison as well as development partners in the prison sector in Côte d'Ivoire. This Committee will be responsible for developing and implementing special measures to ensure access to appropriate health care for these vulnerable groups.

In Abidjan, access to health care for children born in prison and their mothers was also secured through the work of some NGOs (including BICE). Since 2001, 208 children living with their mothers in detention and 89 pregnant women detained in the Detention and Correction Centre of Abidjan were provided with health, food, legal and psychological support.

Within the building reserved for women of the MACA, BICE also completed, some specific cells for girls, pregnant women and imprisoned mothers with their children.

A playground of activities was completed in the yard for development and stimulation of children living with their mothers in detention. With the consent of the mothers, some children aged more than a year were placed with foster families or specialised institutions of the state.

A summer camp was developed by the Prison Socio-Educational Service (SERSOE / MC) with the support of a private partner for the educational support of children living with their imprisoned mothers.

The Government facilitates and promotes private initiatives to improve the living conditions of detainees.

3.4 Respect for the child's views (art. 12)

R 27. The Committee encourages the State party to promote and facilitate, within the family, schools, courts and administrative bodies, respect for the views of children and their participation in all matters affecting them, considering their age and level of maturity.

Freedom of expression and opinion is guaranteed by the Constitution in its Article 9 without discrimination based on age. Even if there is not a general principle of respect for the child's views in the Ivorian legislation, several provisions of positive law requires the consideration of the opinion of the latter.

1. Legislative and regulatory measures

In terms of education, the Ivorian law grants children the right to express his/her opinions in his/her school (art. 11 para 2, Law on Education).

Students' representatives in primary and secondary schools participate in school Management committees (art. 3 of Decree No. 95-26 of 20 January 1995 on the establishment, organisation and functioning of management committees)

In terms of **health**, law n ° 93-672 from 09 August 1993 on therapeutic substances of human origin, requires the doctor of the National Blood Transfusion Centre, to obtain the consent of the blood donor, even when he/she is a minor.

Law No. 95-15 of 12 January 1995 on the Labour Code provides that minors of 18 years can sign his/her contract on his/her own. From 16 years, the minor's consent is required for the validity of the employment contract even if he/she is assisted by his/her legal representative.

In civil matters, there is no specific legal provision for the child's hearing for matters regarding him/her (child care, educational assistance), but in practice juvenile judges and judges in charge guardianship seek the views of the child before deciding. The assessment of the capacity for discernment is at the discretion of the magistrate.

2. Child and youth participation

Taking account of the views of children in public life is guaranteed by the existence of several children's associations, the PECL, AWCY-CI, the EICB, Colombe de l'Espérance.

During the commemorative days (Day of the African Child, the CRC Day and world days on the prevention against children and women abuse), children themselves organise awareness sessions and host conferences on their rights. They also participate in round tables and debates on themes that concern them. Such discussions may be broadcast through TV channels or radio (national radio and local radio stations).

For example, on the occasion of the 18th Day of the African Child (DAC) of 16 June 2008, around the theme "Child participation; seen and heard", representatives of associations and children's groups of Cote d'Ivoire sent a communication to the members of the National Assembly to expose their views on the situation of children in the country and submitted their concerns in line with the promotion and protection of child rights.

In 2009, as part of the celebration of 20 years of the CRC, representatives of children's associations from across the country gathered for five days at the Economic and Social Council to develop a "White Book" containing recommendations concerning, inter alia, the need to improve the legal and institutional framework for child protection. "This white paper" was officially handed to the Prime Minister during the CRC International Day on the Rights of the Child on 20 November.

In the context of the resolution of the military-political crisis in Ivory Coast, one-off operations were also carried out in order to take into account the concerns of children. It was the operation "Children's Letters for Peace," which allowed the children to reach out directly to political authorities and those involved in the crisis or celebrities who may be involved in its resolution.

To guarantee freedom of opinion and association in the school environment, school clubs animated by children have been created in different institutions of the country. To date, with the support of UNICEF, there are 200 health hygiene clubs, 200 peer educators HIV / AIDS clubs and children 200 messenger of peace clubs, initiated in 2005 with support from the Canadian Embassy. More than 6000 children are active in these clubs.

Since 2004 to date, Save the Children, in collaboration with technical and financial partners and the Ministry in charge of the child, through the Social Centres has set up more than 200 groups of children within communities throughout the national territory. Indeed, children groups are platforms where children in a given community get together. These children who are provided with training are real actors in their own protection through awareness-raising activities of their peers and of all communities and radio broadcasts. They identify and report protection cases that they refer to care services with adult support; including Child Protection Committees under the supervision of social workers.

4.1 Name and nationality (art. 7)

R 29: Having regard to Article 7 of the Convention, the Committee urges the State party to do its utmost to ensure the registration of all children at birth, including through sensitization campaigns.

1. Legislative Framework

a) The right to nationality

- Law No. 61-415 of 14 December 1961 on the Code of Ivorian nationality amended by Law No. 72-852 of 21 December 1972 lays down the principles regarding nationality. It attributes Ivorian nationality either by birth or through naturalization. (Article 1 of the Nationality Act). Originally, it is the right of blood that was selected as qualifying criteria.

The child whether legitimate, born out of wedlock, born in Ivory Coast and abroad is Ivorian since his/her lineage is legally established in respect of at least one Ivorian parent (Articles 6.7 and 9 of law No. 72-852 of 21 December 1972).

The child has right to nationality even if the existence of the conditions required by law for the granting of the Ivorian nationality are established only after birth (for example, through the naturalisation of a parent).

The child who is the subject of an adoption automatically acquires Ivorian citizenship if at least one of the adopters is Ivorian (Article 11 of the law on adoption).

A foreign child may acquire Ivorian nationality by a decision of the public authority: it is the process of naturalisation as provided by Articles 28 and 30 of the Code of Ivorian nationality.

- The Law amending articles 12, 13, 14 and 16 of Law No. 61-415 of 14 December 1961 on the Nationality Code, as amended by Law n ° 72-852 of 21 December 1972 and No. 2004-662 of 17 December 2004 and decision 2005-03 / PR of 15 July 2005 and No. 2005- 09 / PR of 29 August 2005.

Thus, the new Article 12 stipulates that subject to the provisions of Articles 13, 14 and 40, a woman of foreign nationality who marries an Ivorian acquires Ivorian nationality at the time of marriage.

The new Article 13 provides that if the national law allows her to retain her nationality, a spouse of foreign nationality has the right to declare prior to the celebration of marriage that he declines that nationality. It can, even if he/she is a minor exercise this right without authorisation.

- Law No. 2013-653 of 13 September 2013 on special provisions for the nationality acquisition by declaration.

Article 1: this Law is intended to introduce a special regime in terms of acquisition of citizenship for persons falling within the categories defined in Article 2. The concerned persons can claim Ivorian nationality through the procedure of declaration under the conditions below

Article 2: are qualified for the provisions of this Law, all persons entering one of following categories:

° People born in Ivory Coast to foreigners and elderly parents below 21 years of age as of December 20, 1961;

° Persons ordinarily resident without interruption in Ivory Coast prior to August 7, 1960 and their children born in Ivory Coast;

° People born in Ivory Coast between 20 December 1961 and 25 January 1973 to foreign parents and their children.

- The law authorising the President of the Republic to ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status Stateless Persons, signed on September 28, 1954 in New York.

- The law authorising the President of the Republic to ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction statelessness signed on August 30, 1961 in New York.

b) Right to name

Law n ° 64-373 of October 7, 1964 amended by Law No. 83-799 of 2 August 1983 on civil status stipulates in Article 1 that every person must have a name. Establishing the principle that the name is acquired by lineage, Articles 2-4 bis establish the mode of name assignment depending on the nature of the existing lineage between the child and his parent. As the right to a name is recognised for all, the child for which no parentage is established shall be given a name by the civil registrar to whom his/her birth or discovery is declared.

Previously, the Law required reporting any birth within a period of 15 days, however following the adoption of Law No. 99-691 of 14 December 1999, births must now be declared within a three months period (Art. 41 again). The declaration and registration are free, the issuance of a birth certificate requires the payment of a fiscal stamp of 500 FCFA per certificate.

When a child has not been reported within this period, the lack of birth certificate may be resolved through a court ruling issued upon application to the tribunal or the court section where the certificate should have been issued (Article 82 law 99-691). Parents must attend the hearing with a certificate of non-declaration issued by the registry office where the child should have been declared as well as with the child's birth book. Otherwise, two adults will attend the hearing to testify of the veracity of the facts alleged by the applicants. An expert statement including a certificate of physiological age will determine the age of the child.

As part of its legal and judicial assistance programme to children in conflict with the law, BICE has facilitated public hearings for the establishment of court orders for more than 100 children in difficult situation. To do this the BICE doctor, who is a certified expert has established physiological age certificates for this purpose. Also as part of other programmes to assist children in difficult situation, about fifty court orders were issued.

2. Administrative measures

Nearly one in four children (24%) did not have their birth registered and more than one in three (37%) did not have birth certificates in 2012 [EDS-MICS 2011-2012]. Children in rural areas are much less frequently registered than children in urban areas: 66% against 90%. This equally applies with regard to holding a birth certificate (48% against 84%).

To overcome this lacuna which is the consequence of the socio-political crisis as well as many cultural and administrative obstacles, various measures have been taken:

Holding of public hearings

• *Special public hearings for 0-13 years*

Through the DPJJEJ and with the support of UNICEF, the Ministry of Justice organised special sessions of the public hearings with the view of granting short birth certificates for children aged between 3 months to 14 years. These processes, which took place between 2003 and 2006, reached out to a total of 55,605 children who received notifications to be issued court orders.

Table 2: Results fairground hearings specifically for the 0-13 years

Between 2010 and June 2013, with the support of UNICEF, 4.586 court orders were issued to unregistered children in time in the CNO zones.

Support for obtaining the short birth certificate is also provided by partners such as NRC, IRC, Save the Children as part of different projects they lead across the whole national territory.

Through the LEGACY project, since January 2009, IRC has helped establish 13872 court orders

for 5680 girls and 8192 boys in the towns of Man, Danane, Touba, Odiene and Seguela.

Under the current actions, it should be noted that through Save the Children financial support to 3 national NGOs (Chigata in the southern zone of Abidjan, "SILOÉ" in Danane for the West and NEW VISION in Abengourou in the Eastern zone) as well as with Social Centres of these areas, 50,000 children were provided with these important administrative documents. The process ran from August 2013 to March 2014.

Free mobile courts for the identification people and the issuance of voter cards for the presidential elections of October 2010 were also organised in 2006 and 2007. During these hearings, Presidents of courts have issued, following a request of the applicant, a single document with the court order and the applicant's nationality certificate.

However, the mobile courts also known as fourth generation hearings launched under the Ouagadougou Political Agreements following the Presidential Decision No. 2007-14 / PR of 21 September 2007 on special provisions for public hearings and public hearings procedure, were intended only to people aged above 13 years old (art. 3) and therefore excluded minors of 13 years.

Recognising this challenge, once the end of crisis process has been completed, the Ivorian Government intends organise through the Ministry of Justice, new mobile courts dedicated to children below 13 years, using the model of those already held with the financial the support of UNICEF, while the Interior Ministry intends to solve this problem within the framework of the implementation of its modernisation of the Ivorian civil status programme.

Recognising of the difficulties encountered by people to register births and deaths during the crisis that took place in Cote d'Ivoire between 2002 and 2011, due to the prolonged closure and / or dysfunction of courts and status and registration services, and also the displacement of the population in the conflict affected areas, the President of the Republic issued a special order in June 2011 to allow the registration of deaths and births that occurred between September 30, 2002 and June 30, 2011 depending on the area, according to standard reporting procedures provided for by law (non-recourse to court order).

This exemption was extended by Law 2013-25 of 25 January 2013 and allowed until 31 July 2014, to register children born during the crisis. To ensure full implementation of this law, the Government intends to take accompanying measures.

With the direct support of UNICEF and UNHCR, 147,174 eligible children to the exemption mechanism under that Law have been registered according to the standard procedure of reporting to the civil registrar.

The Civil Registration Modernization Project

Following the Inter ministerial Order No. 817 / MI / MEF of 21 July 2008, a project called the "Modernization of Civil Registration in Cote d'Ivoire (Mecci)" was created within the Ministry of the Interior with financial support of the World Bank, the European Union and UNICEF. " In order to provide the Cote d'Ivoire with a functional, liable and secure civil register. The action plan revolves around three main axes (i) revamping of the civil register, ii) institutional strengthening, iii) computerisation of Civil Register, reliance and sustainability of the Civil register) and provides special Registration procedures through the sub- following activities:

- Implementing a specific registration procedure for children aged 0-13 years that are not reported to the civil register;
- Undertake the extension of the registration of people aged over 13 years that are not reported to the civil register.

Under the MECCI, the Government received support from the World Bank, EU, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF. A training plan for civil registrars and agents was implemented. A pool of MECCI trainers trained all civil registrars and agents since 2009.

Between 2009 and 2011, with the support of UNICEF and UNHCR, under the coordination of the DGAT, 100% of agents and centres of 14 regions have been strengthened (1305 civil registrars and agents were trained on vital events, children's right to identity, the consequences of non-registration, the procedure for registration of births in Côte d'Ivoire) and 497 registry offices were equipped with birth registration kits.

Mobilisation and community outreach activities were conducted in collaboration with local NGOs in 800 communities (100% of the localities of 4 priority areas: Zanzan, Denguélé, Moyen Cavally, 18 Montagnes)

The implementation of MECCI has however been affected by the suspension and interruption of funding of the European Union after the post-election crisis.

Since 2012, the Government, together with the UN system and support from the Peace building Fund, has set up a Priority Plan for Peace building, which includes a component on strengthening birth registration and accessing identity in the Western, North-Western, Central, North and Northeast areas. This ongoing project includes particularly i) strengthening of civil registration services (equipment, training), ii) awareness and information of the population, iii) looking for new mechanisms for reporting and registration of vital events, iv) direct support to populations in priority areas for recording vital events.

A feasibility study of the national civil registration system reform is underway.

Autres mesures prises pour assurer l'enregistrement de tous les enfants :

- L'Organisation des **Journées de l'Enfant Africain**, éditions 2001 et 2003, qui ont eu pour thème les enregistrements des naissances.

Ces journées ont permis la sensibilisation des décideurs, des acteurs sociaux, des enfants, des communautés et des partenaires au développement sur l'importance de la déclaration des naissances.

- La conception et la diffusion des **spots télé et radio**, ainsi que des épisodes radiophoniques pour la sensibilisation sur l'enregistrement des naissances et les opérations de délivrance de jugements supplétifs dans les Tribunaux des zones d'intervention des partenaires tels que IRC, Save the Children et UNICEF.

Other measures taken to ensure the registration of all children:

- The organisation of the **Days of the African Child** for 2001 and 2003 under the theme of birth registration.

These days enabled sensitizing policy makers, social actors, children, communities and development partners on the importance of birth registration.

- The design and broadcast of **TV and radio adverts**, as well as radio programmes for awareness raising on birth registration as well as campaigns of court orders issuance in the intervention areas courts by partner such as IRC, Save the Children and UNICEF.

- The organisation of mass and outreach **awareness raising campaigns** in most towns and villages in the country with the support of UNICEF, ILO, IRC, NRC, Save the Children during which different topics are covered, including:

- 1- fundamental rights and needs of the child;
- 2- birth registration procedure;
- 3- birth registration facilities;

- The organisation of **workshops for exchanges and training** on legal procedures of birth registration for state structures involved in birth registration activities were also organised with the support of partners such as IRC Save the Children and UNICEF.

- Through the funding of UNICEF and IRC, provision of copies of applications, notifications, short birth certificates and office supplies to 10 courts.

As part of the process of revising the health booklet of the mother and the child which was initiated by the Ministry of Health and supported by UNICEF, an information sheet on birth registration introduced. The introduction of this leaflet is an opportunity to improve monitoring of the registration of the child to the civil registry and a first step in the process of accountability for health services in monitoring and supporting the process of registration.

4.2 Freedom of expression (art. 13)

The principle of freedom of expression is enshrined in the Ivorian Constitution in Article 9 which states that "freedom of thought and expression, including freedom of conscience, religious or philosophical opinion are guaranteed to all, subject to compliance with the law, the rights of others, national security and public order. ". In order to reinforce this general principle, Article 10 of the Constitution also stipulates that "everyone has the right to express and disseminate their ideas."

The creation of a Children's Parliament and various associations of children and youth, as well as the existence of students clubs in many schools and Children groups are also opportunities that contribute to a better enjoyment of freedom of expression by children.

4.3 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (art. 14)

Overall this freedom is guaranteed by the Constitution and the democratic form, non-denominational of the state. But in practice the child adopts the general philosophical views of his/her parents.

4.4 Freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly (art. 15)

Although in its Article 11 the Constitution only refers to freedom of assembly and freedom to demonstrate, the Law No. 60-315 of September 21, 1960 provides in its Article 2 that "people's organisations may freely form without prior authorisation" .

Despite the fact that the Ivorian civil law requires to be an adult to create an association. There are youth groups under the supervision of adults. These include among other, associations of disabled youth, children and young workers of Cote d'Ivoire, religious or secular youth associations.

In practice, children exercise that freedom even outside a legally established framework, in schools, in neighborhoods and villages where there are informal youth groups. In order to give a status to these, the MFFAS adopted Order No. 147 of February 3, 2010 on the establishment, powers and organisation of Children Groups within communities.

The Children Groups are community organisations composed of children from the community aged below 18 years, under the responsibility of the basic structures of the MFFAS and responsible for promoting and defending child rights with a view to creating a conducive social environment for

community development.

4.5 Access to appropriate information (art. 17)

Article 7 of the Constitution guarantees equal access to information for all citizens.

However, in order to protect children and youth against all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation, the Ivorian Parliament has provided partially exemptive special provisions of this principle.

Regarding the written media, Law No. 2004-643 of 14 December 2004 on the legal regime of the media in Title XI, section 91 subjects all publications for the youth, except for the official and school publications (which are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education) to the control of the Ministry of the Interior (Article 96).

Under article 92 of the Law, the content of publications must not contain any illustration, writing, or statement presenting in a favorable light, banditry, lying, stealing, laziness, cowardice, hatred, or any act as of crimes or offenses which may affect the youth morality or maintain ethnic prejudices. In addition, these publications "must not comprise any publicity or advertisement by publications likely to pervert the youth."

The non-compliance with these provisions is sanctioned with a fine and removal.

In order to ensure the protection and promotion of children's rights and their welfare through the media, in September 2001, 12 journalists created 12 different media outlets, the Ivorian Network of Child friendly Communicators (RICAE).

It aims to train its members on children's rights and strengthen their technical "Child friendly editing" capacity and to create a protective media space of children in Côte d'Ivoire.

RICAE established the "Ivorian Charter of media professionals for child protection", which came into force on July 7, 2005 and was approved by the Observatory for Freedom of the Press, Ethics and Code of Conduct (OLPED) and the National Press Council (CNP).

This Charter was established in collaboration with the Ministry for Communication and Children and the support of Save the Children Sweden, UNICEF and BICE. It saw the full participation of Children's organisations and associations.

From January to February 2009, in partnership with UNICEF and BICE, RICAE organised an awareness raising campaign for media outlets operating on Ivorian territory.

The network has also organised numerous seminars training journalists and media owners on child rights (with Save the Children) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour (with ILO). A training workshop for journalists and cameramen of two Ivorian television channels, and for photo journalists, on dealing with topics relating to children in public media was also held in September 2010.

A network of health communicators is being established to better inform the population in general, mothers and children in particular on issues related to health.

4.6 The right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including corporal punishment (art. 37)

The protection of children against abuse is guaranteed by the Constitution, which prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (art. 3), which prohibits any punishment leading to the taking of human life (art. 2). Moreover, the Penal Code (. Articles 342 to 345 to 361 to 364) defines and punishes violations of the physical integrity of children: murders, beatings, injuries, violence and assault, food and care deprivation.

Judicial authorities have not yet received a complaint about ill-treatment inflicted to children during an arrest or detention, as the sensitisation campaign of the S / DLTDJ has curtailed such cases. However, it should be noted that the custody cells in police stations and gendarmeries, except those available to the Child Protection Squad, are not adapted to the requirements related to the situation of children, putting them generally in contact with adults.

5.1 Parental guidance (art. 5)

In its Article 5, the Constitution recognises the family as the basic cell of society and ensures its protection.

A bill which aimed to review existing laws related to persons and the family called Code of Persons and the Family has been validated by a panel of experts under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Ministry in charge of the child. Since 21 November 2012, Articles 58, 59, 60 and 67 of that Law were revised by the National Assembly.

Parental guidance programmes are implemented in the country, such as the Education Programme on Family Life and Education regarding the Population (EVF / EMP).

The EVF / EMP Programme, implemented by the Ministry of Education since 2003 and supported by UNFPA, is dedicated to students in kindergarten, primary and secondary education through the inclusion into training curricula of thematic relating to education and family life. The first cycle of the project had to stop due to the crisis in 2005, a new programme was approved in August 2010.

This new phase, which has to cover at least 60% of schools in the country by 2012, includes a section dedicated to parents ("School for Parents") through monthly meetings organised in collaboration with the SMCs schools, at which topics related to family life will be discussed.

Under the National Programme of Child Health and Child Survival, promotional activities concerning family and community practices or Essential Family Practices (PFE) are carried out through community health workers.

5.2 Family reunification (art. 10)

Different provisions on entry and residence of foreigners in Côte d'Ivoire have been adopted since 2003 (Law No. 2003-03 of January 03, 2003, amended by Law No. 2004-303 of May 3, 2004, as well as Decision No. 2005-05 / PR of 15 July 2005 on the identification of people in Ivory Coast) have not modified the rules provided for family reunification. According to the information included in the initial report, the legal framework therefore remains Law No. 90437 of 29 May 1990.

5.3 Recovery of child maintenance (art. 27, para. 4)

R 33: The Committee recommends that the State party publicise the provisions of domestic legislation concerning maintenance, especially for illiterate women, and ensure that professional groups dealing with this issue are adequately trained and that the courts are stricter regarding the recovery of allowances from solvent parents who do not comply.

The draft law amending the Code of Persons and the Family has included all the legal provisions concerning the recovery of maintenance for children contained in the law on marriage and divorce law. Under these provisions, the custody holder can get support for the maintenance of children.

Under Articles 387 and 388 of the Penal Code, the non-payment of child maintenance for two months equates to a family abandonment offense which is punishable by a three months to one year prison sentence and a fine from 30,000 to 300.000 FCFA.

In civil law, when there is refusal of solvent parents to pay child support and when they are state or private employees, the judge may order a wage garnishment, which must however be a new procedure. In this case, a direct payment is made to beneficiary by the employer of the owing parent.

However, it is clear that ignorance of legal provisions continues to hinder the implementation of provisions protecting children. In this regard, awareness-raising and legal assistance are carried out by NGOs such as the National Organisation for Children, Women and Family (ONEF), which has developed in collaboration with the Ministry of justice a brochure on how to obtain and claim alimony as well as the Association of Women Lawyers of Côte d'Ivoire (AFJCI), through its legal clinic.

The legal Clinic is an permanent centre for counseling and guidance which was initially set up in 2000 in Abidjan in partnership with the Embassy of the United States and the Global Fund for Women. Its mission is to improve access of the Ivorian people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, to rights and justice by providing free legal and judicial assistance. Since its establishment until today, the clinic has been approached by 5238 people. Since 2003, a so-called "mobile" legal clinic also provides legal assistance to people or groups who request support from the association.

In 2013, as part of a joint UNDP / UNOCI / UNICEF / EU / AFJCI project called " Improvement of Access to Rights and Justice in Côte d'Ivoire Project ", the Women Lawyers Association of Ivory Coast (AFJCI) created and provides for the management of six (06) legal clinics in San Pedro, Guiglo, Man, Bouaké, Korhogo and Bondoukou.

Within the Ministry of Justice, there is a Sub-Directorate of Civil Affairs, which is attached to the Department of Civil and Criminal Affairs, whose mission is to provide legal and judicial assistance to persons who do not have sufficient resources to initiate proceedings before the courts, including claims for alimony.

Legal aid covers all the costs relating to the proceedings for which it was granted. The expenses incurred are covered by the Public Treasury.

In terms of legal aid, according to the statistics of the DACP National Bureau of Legal Aid, during the period from 2008 to 2013, 660 applications for Legal Aid were recorded including 570 granted and 90 rejected.

These requests come from throughout the national territory with a predominance of the District of Abidjan. It should be noted that the majority of applicants are poor and vulnerable without resources.

In order to make such assistance more accessible to litigants, the Ministry of Justice undertook a reform of the legal aid. A draft law is being prepared in order to organise the functioning of the legal and judicial assistance in Ivory Coast. this reform will eventually create local offices of legal and judicial assistance in each jurisdiction so that the central office located at the Ministry of Justice in Abidjan becomes an appeal body.

The agreement signed on December 11, 2012 with the Ivorian Bar will infuse new life into the legal and judicial assistance to persons seeking assistance in judicial matters.

As part of its programme to support human rights of children in conflict with the law and / or deprived of liberty (2005-2010), BICE commissioned a lawyer to assist young offenders subject to an Order of Provisional detention or custody. More than 350 minors were provided with this legal and judicial assistance.

A plea was made to the Dean of the Bar Association to monitor sensitive files.

The Association of Magistrates for Youth and Family whose creation aims at the protection of children in the judicial system and especially the capacity of its members and the popularisation of alternatives to imprisonment.

5.4 Children deprived of their family environment (art. 20)

R 35. The Committee recommends that the State party urgently adopt a programme to strengthen and increase the means implemented to ensure the protection of children in alternative care,

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including providing for the strengthening of existing structures, better staff training and allocation of increased resources to relevant bodies. The Committee recommends that the State party request the support of UNICEF for this purpose.

It is important to note that, even if in the Ivorian system there is no formal alternative to institutional care, such as foster families, abandoned children are entrusted to a member of the extended family or to a family in the community. In some cases, family meetings in communities decide on the foster care placement of the child.

According to the DHS-MICS 2011-2012, only one in two children in Ivory Coast live with both parents (53%), while one in four children (21%) live with none of them: i.e. 20% while at least one parent is alive (16.1% of children live with neither of their parents while both are alive, and 3.7% while either parent is alive 2.5% of children do not live with their parents while their single mother is alive, 1.2%, while their father is alive only) and 1% when both parents are deceased.

A third of households in Côte d'Ivoire care for children who live with neither of their biological parent, whether these children are orphans or not (33%). Specifically, 30% of households are composed of children below 18 who do not live with their biological parents without being orphans. This phenomenon is more urban (33% of urban households, against 27% of rural households), and is less the result of the death of one and / or other of the parents but is rather due to the mobility of children outside the parental cell. 2% of households host double orphans and 12% single orphans.

Family mobility of the children out of the parental cell while at least one parent alive increases with age and concerns more the girls' (22.8%) than boys (18.5%). As for the children living without any of their parents while both are alive: it concerns 6% of under 5 years, 17% for 5-9 years, 23% for 10-14 year olds and 29% for 15-17%), and 18% of girls against 15% of boys.

The areas with the highest proportion of children in foster care while at least one parent is alive are the Centre (31%), East Central (24%) and South (23%). 13% of children living in Abidjan are in foster care while at least one parent is alive. Concerning orphans, 9% of children under 18 have lost at least one parent, while 1% of children have lost both parents. The proportion of fatherless children (6%) is twice as high as the motherless children (3%). The proportion of paternal and / or maternal orphans increases with age, reaching 20% of children aged 15-17.

The placement dynamics outside the parental cell may correspond to strategies of education or training of children, but it can also adequately reflect the family or individual survival strategies. In any case, whether his/her parents are alive or not, a child growing outside the parental cell may be exposed to greater risk of neglect, discrimination, abuse, violence or exploitation.

While waiting for this situation to be regulated and in order to avoid all forms of abuse and that foster placement professional networks are in place, the only formal action to support children deprived of their family environment remains the placement in a public or private institution, including care centres (for children 0-5 years) and orphanages (for children from 05 to 15 years), which are under the supervision of the Directorate for child protection.

The care centre is a structure whose role is to provide assistance to children in physical and moral danger due to his/her family situation. It hosts children from 0-05 years who are maternal/paternal orphans, , abandoned children, children of incarcerated mothers, or detained in psychiatric home. In Côte d'Ivoire, there are 04 public care centres located in the cities of Abidjan, Dabou and Bouaké.

An orphanage is an institution that hosts children from 05 to 15 years who are maternal and/or paternal orphans, with the view of promoting their education and social integration. There are two public orphanages located in the cities of Bingerville and Grand-Bassam. In addition, there is a public centre for children with behavioral disorders, who are hosted in a residential setting called the Educational Centre of the area 4c (Abidjan).

It should equally be noted that there are a number of private religious settings or associations including the two SOS villages (Abobo and Aboisso), the Abel Centre of Grand-Bassam, the Centre Amigo

Doumé, the BICE Rescue Centre, Foyer Don Bosco, the Marie Dominique village and the NGO Côte d'Ivoire Prospérité.

However, many structures such as orphanages, care centres, shelters and private accommodation are not accredited. In this regard, the Ministry in charge of the child has undertaken an action to regulate the functioning of these structures, in particular, the development of a draft decree setting the norms and standards applicable to care, emergency and child protection centres.

The DPJEU at the Ministry of Justice has a centre which hosts young people from the Centre for Observation of Minors (COM) where the minors in danger are entrusted to its Educational Assistance service following a juvenile judge order.

In order to standardise the rules for establishing and operating child protection private schools and set out the terms of their collaboration with the state, the MFFAS has, by Order No. 191 / MFFAS / DPS 18 April 2008, made it mandatory to obtain a license to open a centre falling within the categories set out in the decree (nurseries, orphanages, alternative and private care settings) which sets a period of twelve months for applying for accreditation of existing structures.

Since August 2010, an inventory process of all existing private institutions in the country has also been initiated by the Directorate in charge of child protection, it aims to create a comprehensive directory in order to better take into account the real needs of alternative care and to promote an effective collaboration with public institutions. The process, which was slowed by the post-election crisis of 2011 has resumed since 2012 and ended in December 2013.

The National Child Protection Policy initialised and adopted in a Cabinet meeting in 2013, sets out guidelines for the organisation of alternative care system in order to guarantee the right of every child to family life. An inventory is underway with the support of UNICEF, whose the recommendations will support the process of legislative, regulatory and institutional reforms.

Various measures have been taken by the Government with UNICEF support to ensure the protection of children in need of temporary assistance measures, they include:

- Training of social workers and NGOs working in the field of child protection on temporary care of children;
- Establishment and equipment of 05 emergency settings for the care of children in need of temporary assistance is planned. For this purpose, a model of partnership agreement between the Ministry in charge of the child and the associative structures has been developed;
- The creation and consolidation of a network of protection settings in the ten municipalities of Abidjan for temporary care.

5.5 Adoption (art. 21)

Concerning adoption, the legal framework remains Law No. 83-802 of 2 August 1983 amending and supplementing Law No. 64-378 of October 7, 1964.

These laws allow the adoption of orphans and abandoned children and adoption based on parental consent in two forms: simple adoption and full adoption.

Ivory Coast is not signatory to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. There are no specific provisions in the aforementioned laws, stating that international adoption should only be considered once all care options, foster care or national adoption in the country, have been explored without success. However, some provisions are implemented and the Hague Convention ratification process on Child Protection and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption is underway, in collaboration with the Ministry of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The simple or full adoption decision pronounced by the Ivorian authorities results from a procedure before

the judge or a notary and endorsed by the civil court. Simple adoption creates new family obligations between the adopted child and the adoptive parents, but it does not break the bonds of filiation between the child and his biological family. It is revocable.

Full adoption is only available for children under the age of fifteen and who were provided with the care of adoptive parents for at least six months (art. 27). It is not revocable.

The procedure described by the Adoption Law, whether simple or full, is essentially legal. Adoption has however become part of the jurisdiction of the Ministry in charge of the child because it is the custodian of social institutions that host and protect vulnerable children, including abandoned children who are likely to be adopted.

This decision resulted in Order No 188 / MFFAS / DPS of 10 April 2008, establishing a Family Placement Committee of abandoned children for the purpose of adoption (CPF). According to the provisions of this Order, the Committee, which meets four times a year, is chaired by the Minister in charge of the child. It consists of the Inspector General, the Director in charge of Child Protection, representatives of Regional Directorates of the Ministry in charge of the child and managers of care centres. It is responsible for centralising and reviewing the submissions of adoption applicants and the files of children to be adopted based on the procedures recommended by the principles of the Hague Convention.

Ainsi, tout candidat à l'adoption doit répondre à certains critères de base établis dans un document intitulé «Demande d'adoption d'enfants abandonnés placés en institution » notamment être âgé de 30 ans ou plus, célibataire ou marié depuis plus de cinq ans, et être au moins 15 ans plus âgé que l'enfant en voie d'adoption. Le candidat sera ensuite soumis à une enquête sociale sur sa situation familiale à la suite de laquelle la CPF fait une proposition d'apparement qui est entériné par un arrêté de placement provisoire en vue d'adoption.

Thus, any prospective adopter must meet certain basic criteria in a document entitled "Request for adoption of abandoned children placed in institutions" including being aged 30 or older, single or married for over five years and be at least 15 years older than the child to be adopted. The applicant will then be subjected to a social investigation about his/her family status after which the CPF makes a matching proposal which will be validated by a decree of temporary placement for the purpose of adoption.

However this centralised procedure that better meets protection needs especially in cases of international adoption, is not yet based on a single legal basis which in practice translates into adoption rulings made by courts, upon applications and following a social investigation order.

To improve this situation, agreements have been made between the Ministry in charge of the child and the different embassies and consulates in the Ivorian territory for the purpose of issuing exit permits leading to the issuance of visa to the child who is subject to an international adoption.

While waiting that a new adoption law is enacted, it is appropriate that this procedure relies on legal grounds.

Without reliable statistics on the number and characteristics of children who receive alternative care measures and children in need of domestic and international adoption, an information collection system should be studied and implemented in the medium term.

The only available data are related to the results of the CPF, in which a total of 99 children (45 girls and 54 boys) were proposed for adoption in 2009. From 2012 to 2013, 90 children have been proposed for adoption (41 for international adoption and 49 for domestic adoption)

These figures do not include the adoption rulings directly issued by the courts.

Les seules données disponibles concernent le bilan du CPF, selon lequel au total 99 enfants (45 filles et 54 garçons) ont été proposés en adoption en 2009. De 2012 à 2013, 90 enfants ont été proposés en adoption (41 en adoption internationale et 49 en adoption nationale)

Ces chiffres ne comprennent pas les jugements d'adoption délivrés directement par les tribunaux.

5.6 Illicit transfer and non-return (art. 11)

Illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad are issues related to the problem of child trafficking. In order to combat this phenomenon, Côte d'Ivoire has signed bilateral and multilateral agreements. These are :

- A bilateral agreement with Mali to combat cross-border trafficking of children ", September 1, 2000 in Bouaké;
- A Multilateral Agreement on Cooperation to combat child trafficking in West Africa with eight ECOWAS countries on July 27, 2005 in Abidjan;
- An agreement with Burkina Faso to combat cross-border trafficking of children, and a Joint Statement of the First Ladies which marks their commitment to work for its implementation on October 17, 2013 in Abidjan.

These legal instruments, which represent a major advance in the fight against child trafficking, attempt to grasp concretely the phenomenon of cross-border trafficking between countries by setting out specific rules of conduct for each of the contracting parties and defining a set of shared obligations. And especially, for the first time, by giving a definition legal of child trafficking, with specific components, and clear indications of those who are victims and actors.

These agreements provide, among others, a commitment to return at the request of the contracting Parties, of the authors and accomplices of child trafficking or facilitate their handing over from police to police and help support the repatriation of child victims with partners' support.

In 2009, a police cooperation agreement was also signed in order to proceed to the arrest of individuals suspected or wanted for crimes related to child trafficking. This agreement allowed the realisation of a joint police operation between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso in 2009 called "Operation BIA" in the Aboisso region in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

This operation initiated by Interpol Cote d'Ivoire Office with support from Interpol Lyon Office consisted in conducting an extensive campaign against the speaker traffickers operating between the two countries.

In November 2012, a sensitisation tour of Security Forces was held in police districts, police stations and corridors of Abidjan regarding child trafficking, unaccompanied children in transporting vehicles, children victims, children in conflict with the law and children witnesses.

From 11 to 15 February 2014, a second police operation called "Operation NAWA" was organised in the Soubré region. It aimed to arrest and detain the perpetrators of trafficking and those who exploit children, to develop a territorial network in the intervention area, remove, provide care and return children victims to their family and ensure their follow-up through social centres.

5.7 Abuse and neglect (art. 19) including physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (art. 39)

R. 37: The Committee recommends that the State party undertake studies on domestic violence, ill-treatment and abuse of children, including sexual violence, in order to know the extent and nature of these practices, to adopt the necessary measures and policies and contribute to changing attitudes. The Committee also recommends that cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse in schools are subject to a proper investigation in the context of child-friendly judicial proceedings and that perpetrators are punished, while ensuring respect for the privacy of the child.

1. Legislative and regulatory measures

- Chapter III of Title II of the Penal Code lists crimes and offences against children. Thus, the law punishes among others, violence and assault against children, child abandonment, kidnapping of a minor, violation of the obligations of marriage in particular the refusal to pay alimony.
- In Article 3 of the Ivorian Constitution, is prohibited and punishable by law "... inhuman and cruel, degrading and humiliating, moral torture, physical violence and mutilation and all forms of degradation of the human being. "
- Order No. 0075 / MEN / DELC of 28 September 2009, prohibits physical and humiliating punishment for students in school settings.
- Preventive measures have been taken by the Ministry for Children and the Ministry for Education to punish the perpetrators. A good driving teachers Code is under preparation, before.
- Law No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 on the suppression of certain forms of violence against women has started to be implemented : 01 conviction in July 2012, and 05 convictions in 2013.

2. Administrative measures

In Côte d'Ivoire, child abuse, including physical violence, ill-treatment, lack of access to water, food and basic services have had in recent years a considerable propensity due to sociopolitical and economic crisis exacerbated by armed conflicts in 2002 and 2011.

Thus, several policy measures have been taken to ensure a protective environment for children, which include:

Since 2010, the Ivorian Government with the support of UNICEF has initiated the process of drafting and adopting the National Child Protection Policy which aims primarily to prevent and deal with all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation committed against children. This policy has a multisectoral action plan. It was adopted in 2013 and focuses on four strategic areas that are:

- 1) prevention;
- 2) support for children victims;
- 3) to combat impunity;
- 4) Strengthening means of implementation: legal, regulatory and institutional framework, human resources, monitoring and evaluation system of coordination, partnerships and budget.

- The National Social Protection Strategy also adopted in 2013 which devotes one of its four axes, notably axis 3 to support for vulnerable groups in prevention and response to risk of abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination and exclusion.

The Government has also implemented actions to combat violence against children, including through:

- The establishment, by Decree No. 2000-133 of 23 February 2000, of the National Committee to combat Violence against Women and Children (CNLVFFE), which is responsible for coordinating the formulation and implementation of support actions - counseling, prevention and integrated management of child abuse and gender-based violence. Since 2006, the Committee's operations are ensured by a Coordination Unit hosted by the Ministry in charge of the child and formed by a multidisciplinary team of social workers, sociologists and criminologists.

This Committee has also initiated the creation, since 2003, of 15 counseling offices (including 6 in Abidjan and 9 based in social centres within the country) whose mission is to provide psychosocial support and health and legal aid to women and children victims of violence. These offices organise home visits, advise families in difficult situations and carry out social investigations.

de tous : parents, enfants, travailleurs sociaux et vise à donner des informations sur les conduites à tenir face à un enfant en difficulté (viol, maltraitance, attentat à la pudeur, enlèvement, exploitation économique). Du 13 avril 2004 au 31 décembre 2009, ce sont 3345 appels qui ont été reçus. Tous les cas de dénonciation de violences sur les mineurs ont été déférés à la Brigade de Protection des Mineurs et les enfants victimes ont bénéficié de placement temporaire hors de leur cadre familial.

- The establishment of a free helpline by the Ministry of Human Rights to report all violations of children's rights and counseling / legal support to victims during the 2002-2005 period.

Furthermore, assistance services to victims are provided by the Legal Clinics of AFJCI and toll number called helpline "SOS children in difficulty" was set up in 2004 by BICE in partnership with Coast d'Ivoire Telecom.

The BICE free helpline runs daily without interruption, 24 hours 24. It is available for everyone: parents, children, social workers and aims to provide information on how to behave when facing a child in a difficult situation (rape, abuse, molestation, kidnapping, economic exploitation). From 13 April 2004 to 31 December 2009, 3345 calls were received. All cases of violence on minors reported have been

referred to the Minors Protection Brigade and children victims were provided with temporarily placement outside their family setting.

The relay of the aforementioned helpline has led to the creation of a helpline to children in distress called "allo 116 Children in Need" by the Ministry in charge of the Child, on November 20, 2013. This line will complement that of CNDHCI and IRC.

- The development of mechanisms of prevention against abuse and all forms of abuse against children at community level on the whole national territory through Child Protection Committees, most of which were provided with the support of Save the Children.

With support from UNICEF and the cooperation of NGOs, local protection networks have been set up and supported in 536 communities in 45 departments between 2009 and June 2013.

Through these local protection networks including communities, voluntary services and public social protection services, 3,584 abused children and women victims of GBV (including 1,714 cases of sexual violence against women and children) were detected, referred and were provided with care. Between 2009 and 2012, 3,091,384 people were affected by outreach campaigns about the risks of violations and their consequences, referrals and services available.

These committees created on the basis of the ministerial order No. 147 / MFFAS / CAB February 2010 are recognized as social workers relay in the Child Protection National Strategy. They are responsible for:

- raising awareness on children's rights;
- identifying and removing children victims of any form of abuse in collaboration with administrative and traditional authorities;
- providing emergency care for child victims;
- identifying children at risk of exploitation and offer them educational opportunities, training and employability;
- monitoring the movements and activities of children in their communities;
- collecting data on the situation of children;
- initiating any action on behalf of children.

- The establishment of 414 local committees Child Protection Centre in the zones, North, West and South by the Ministry in charge of the child, with the support of UNICEF. These committees conduct mass and outreach sensitisation, they raise awareness on intelligence, vigilance, identification and reporting child rights violations.

- Popularisation since 2009 through the Regional Directorates of the Ministry for Education of the order prohibiting physical and humiliating punishment of students in all schools in Côte d'Ivoire. At the request of parents' associations, four information lectures on its content were also organised in primary and secondary schools in Abidjan by the Department of that Ministry.

- The appointment of twenty-seven (27) focal points in the curricula of primary and secondary teachers and 180 educators have been trained in the protection from violence against children in schools.

- The organisation of a National Theatre Festival on the theme of violence in 260 schools covering the regions of the country by the Department of Extracurricular and Cooperatives Activities (DESAC) which became the Directorate of School Life with the support of UNICEF. On this occasion, 232,000 students were educated about the risks of abuse and violence, 686 teachers and educators have been trained in child protection and in the "SARA" tools in 343 schools in 26 Regional Directorate of National Education.

- The organisation of training, information and awareness activities to combat violence in schools,

including through the appointment of DMOSS focal points in schools.

- With the support of Save the Children, the establishment by the DMOSS of an integration pilot project module on psychosocial care in eight (8) of the fourteen (14) Pedagogical Training Centres (CAFOP) which are part of the Ministry in charge of education in the country. A feasibility plan for replication of this approach is in progress.

- The adoption by the Ministry for Education (MENET) of a concept note setting out the vision and the strategic direction in order to ensure a protective environment of students against violence.

A framework of coordination and consultation was established within the Ministry under the responsibility of the Department, responsible for designing and monitoring the MENET policy on prevention and response to violence affecting students.

A draft code of conduct and professional obligations for the MENET staff is currently being developed / adopted and will soon be released.

3. Statistical Data

The results of the MICS 2006 show that 90% of children aged 02-14 years have experienced at least one form of psychological or physical punishment by their mothers or carers or other household members. In this case, the carers may be the relatives, female domestic workers, academic supervisors (home tutors or teachers). Mapping and analysis of the child protection system conducted in September 2010, confirms like the 37 group discussions conducted in pilot area, the extent of this phenomenon. However, no national survey has been conducted for this purpose.

About violence in schools, a study of sexual risk behaviour conducted in 2010 by the Ministry of Education with the support of the World Bank and through the Emergency Programme to combat AIDS (PUMLS) in four DREN reported that 47% of teachers in primary and secondary had sex with their students. A national study on violence affecting students is currently underway, with the support of UNICEF.

A study entitled "Impact of successive Ivorian crises in schools, Government answers, Strategies to support the process of national reconciliation" was conducted on violence in schools.

This study reports the causes of school violence, analyses the impact of successive crises on the Ivorian educational institution and offers positioning axes for the Ivorian schools in the process of national reconciliation. The methodology of the study included a quantitative and qualitative component and has collected the views of nearly 1,500 people - pupils, students, teachers, administrators, unions, community members, religious and traditional leaders in 16 regions of the country in 2012.

Despite the extent of the abuse, the national response is based on several sectoral strategies, which are within the scope of the fight against the worst forms of child labour or the fight against Gender Based Violence.

The Government, with the support of various international agencies for the protection of the child, has noted that the approaches taken so far to protect children against abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation are not sufficient to overcome the challenges and prevent them. A consensus gradually formed around the need to implement a systems approach including prevention, rather than reacting to specific violations when they occur.

This new approach to child protection, which has the advantage to respond holistically to the multidimensional needs of child protection, has resulted in the commitment towards the process of drafting a framework document for the child protection sector.

With UNICEF support, the Ministry in charge of the child conducted in 2012, a broad consultative

process with more than 900 professionals from different sectors (social action, justice, security, health, education, communication) , state and community organisations which led to the development of the National Policy on Child Protection (NEPP) and its validation in November 2012 by the reference Group.

The establishment of an interdepartmental coordination mechanism should coordinate and monitor the implementation of the NEPP. This committee is relayed at the decentralised level by child protection regional committees chaired by the prefects. An multi-sectoral implementation action plan (2014-2018) of the NEPP was developed and costed.

5.8 Periodic review of placement (art. 25)

According to article 142 of Law 70-483 of the Ivorian Civil Code on the minority, protection or assistance measures taken in respect of a minor can be amended or revoked at any time by the judge supervising guardianship cases.

In criminal matters, Art. 800 of the Criminal Procedure Code provides for the opportunity to review the conditions of the placement ordered as part of legal proceedings against a minor, so that the rehabilitation process is not constrained by an inadequate measure. This article also provides that where a year or more has passed since the implementation of a decision ruling the placement of the minor outside the family, the parents or the guardian or the minor him/herself can submit a request for return or care restitution arguing on their ability to raise the child and the adequate change of the latter.

Article 9 of Decree No. 82-334 of 2 April 1982 relating to people, settings or institutions hosting minors subject to a court order placement or educational assistance measure, establishes the elements on which the judge must be informed to decide on the review of the placement order and especially his/her conduct, his/her health, upbringing and education, as well as expenditures made for him/her.

In practice, the trends underlying placements and resources provided to legal and social services do not lead to conducting the periodic review of placement.

6.1 Disabled children (art. 23)

R 47. The Committee recommends that the State party review the situation of children with disabilities in terms of their access to suitable health care, education and jobs and put in place a programme of integrated action covering all concerns. It further recommends that the State party raise public awareness on the fundamental human rights of disabled children.

1. Legislative and regulatory measures

In its Article 6, the Constitution of 2000 has confirmed the duty of the State to ensure the protection of people with disabilities.

At the legislative level, the orientation law No 98-594 of 10 November 1998 for Disabled persons devotes its Article 2 on equal opportunity and treatment of disabled children in all activity sectors (health, education, employment) and daily life settings. It makes the prevention of disability, screening of people with disabilities, guaranteed minimum resources and social integration of minors and adults with physical, sensory or mental disabilities, a national obligation (Article 3 Law No. 98-594).

This same obligation was confirmed by the Constitution, which enshrines in its Article 6 the duty of the state to protect disabled people.

Unfortunately, this orientation law has not been followed to date by an implementation decree that would make it effective. Draft texts have been prepared and are waiting to be submitted to the National Assembly.

At the education level, Law No. 95-696 of 1995 incorporated the principle of non-discrimination and "inclusive schools"

At international level, on June 7, 2007, Cote d'Ivoire has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities of December 2006 and its Optional Protocol. This Convention has not yet been ratified, however, it was tabled by the Cabinet on January 9, 2013 and a law authorising the President of the Republic to ratify was passed on June 21, 2013 by the National Assembly.

The country has also joined the Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Disabled Persons adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in July 2002. A national action plan has been developed with the aim to strengthen social mobilisation in favour of the disabled.

2. Administrative Measures

The unavailability of reliable statistics is one of the major problems in supporting disabled people in some countries.

According to the General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH) of 1998, Côte d'Ivoire accounted for 85517 Disabled Persons of which 25,655 disabled children of school age including 46% of girls and 54% of boys. This census reflects only the physical disability and does not include intellectual disabilities.

To this end, in the context of the launch of the new RGPH to be held in November 2013, the National Statistics Institute has worked with the Ministry in charge of the child on an analysis plan of socio-economic characteristics of people with disabilities which will also include a census of people with psychological or mental disability including the consideration of the situation of people with albinism and stutterers.

At national level, the Strategic Document for Poverty Reduction (PRSP) and the National Development Plan (NDP) have given priority to the development of people with disabilities, including children, in development initiatives. To this end, a **National Policy Document for Disabled Persons** was developed as well as an action plan for 2014-2016. The latter which constitutes an integrated action guidance instrument on disability issues taken by government authorities and civil society is being validated.

- Fight against the violence against children;
- Fight against child abandonment;
- - Public awareness of child rights;
- - Coordination of child protection activities, including through socio-educational centres and specialised social care institutions for children, in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Affairs;
- Coordination, identification, implementation and monitoring of policy against trafficking and exploitation of children, in conjunction with the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Social Affairs;
- Promotion of assistance and support actions for orphans, especially children with AIDS in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Affairs;
- Children's awareness on HIV / AIDS prevention in conjunction with the Ministry of Health
- Promotion and implementation of a coherent policy framework and training, integration of disabled people (including children) in the social fabric, particularly in the job market
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• **The Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Civil Liberties** is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Government's policy on justice, human rights and public freedoms. Within the Ministry, there is a Directorate for judicial Protection Branch of Children and Youth responsible for:

- Proposing reforms on children and youth judicial protection policy;
- Implementing the child and youth protection policy;
- Proposing measures to prevent and fight against juvenile delinquency;
- Organising and controlling the monitoring institutions, care settings, foster homes, educational assistance, training and rehabilitation of minors;
- Implementing the system of probation and educational assistance;
- Strengthening relationship with individuals or public or private institutions hosting minors and with all persons and organizations involved in child and youth protection.

• **The Department of State, Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Vocational Training** is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Government's policy on employment, social affairs and vocational training.

It has the mandate and the responsibility to:

- Develop, monitor and enforce standards, laws and regulations on labour, in conjunction with the Ministries of Justice, Interior and the Child;
- Coordinate, identify and implement measures related to the worst forms of child labour in conjunction with the Ministry in charge of the Child.

• The Ministry of National Education and Technical Education has for attribution:

- Planifier, implement and evaluate strategies and educational programs in the field of preschool, primary and general secondary education, as well as manage the structures related thereto;

- Literate populations.

The Ministry for Education includes in its organizational Directorate of Mutuality and Social Works in Schools (DMOSS), which deals with social issues that emerge in schools.

• The Department of State, Ministry of Interior and Security created since February 2006 within the Criminal Police, a Sub-Department for the Fight against traic Children and Youth Rehabilitation (S / DLTEDJ). Specialized service with national competence, the S / DLTEDJ is empowered to deal with all juvenile cases, both offenders and victims that physical and moral danger.

• The Ministry of Health and the Fight against AIDS involved in immunization, nutrition, school health, child survival, the safe motherhood, the struggle against malaria, AIDS prevention in particular elimination of mother to child transmission, the fight against endemic diseases, promotion of health.

• The Ministry for the Promotion of Youth, Sports and Recreation led the national youth policy.

1.1.2 mechanisms or programs to coordinate action for children

R 11. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to conier primary responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Convention to a single body or mechanism. In this in, it also recommends the allocation of human resources and inancial sufisantes and take appropriate measures to involve NGOs.

In Ivory Coast, most child protection interventions are not sufisamment coordinates, which limits their ability to prevent and protect children against all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation. The actions taken in recent years following the sociopolitical crisis that began in 2002 and which led to a sharp deterioration in social indicators, produced only patchy in the intervention areas.

The national response in terms of prevention and protection of children has been limited, both at the state level, associative services, and community and family arrangements.

Lack of overall coordination, different sectors have created thematic coordination mechanisms:

- CIM and the CNS;

- The PNOEV (supported inancial PEPFAR, the World Bank and UNICEF) for the Coordinating Action for OVC because of HIV-AIDS;

- Thematic Group on Gender and Development (GTGD), coordinated by the Directorate of Equality and Gender Promotion of the Ministry in charge of gender issues with technical support from UNFPA, which is the body coordination for everything concerning the

Gender-based violence;

- The protection of the Child Forum, or "Child Protection Forum", which was created under the coordination of the humanitarian response includes international organizations such as UNICEF, Save the Children, IRC, BICE. Local NGOs are represented through a representative of the Forum of NGOs and associations of Save the Children in difficult. The Government is not represented, but invited under the themes addressed.

- Thematic Group Protection of Children, coordinated by the Child Protection Directorate of the Ministry

for Child with the support of UNICEF

Faced with this situation, the Government decided to move forward with the support of UNICEF, to a revision and development of the child protection sector. This process began with the development of a framework document entitled "Mapping and Analysis of the Child Protection National System in Côte d'Ivoire", completed in April 2010 and endorsed in December of that year.

This document gave an overview of the components of the child protection system and their efficacité. It is mainly the basis for the development of the National Child Protection Policy and other frameworks.

Based on this inventory, so it was decided to continue with:

a) The formulation of a framework document for the area of child protection, which will set national objectives and strategies to ensure better protection of children against all forms of violence, abuse and farms and provide a basis for clarification roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders. For this purpose the document of National Policy on Child Protection (NEPP) was developed in 2012, validated by all sectors and adopted by the government.

b) The establishment of a National Child Protection Committee, multisectoral structure of permanent national coordination of child protection in Côte d'Ivoire. This multi-sectoral national committee will be set up following the adoption of the NEPP. The relète Policy different national realities on the one hand, the aspirations and commitment of all stakeholders on the other. The actors involved in child protection were invited to make contributions to its development.

The consultative process has been set up in October 2010 and took in May 2012. Given the cross of all child protection policy, institutional actors of social action, security, justice , health, education, communication, local authorities, associations and the technical and financial partners were brought together to formulate strategies for the NEPP. These consultations took place throughout the territory and provided an opportunity for the various institutional players to provide guidance for efficacy protection of children against forms of violence, abuse, exploitation.

NATURE DES PERSONNES SENSIBILISÉES	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
Acteurs de plateformes		1000	440	200	80	1720
Acteurs Des Bureaux D'écoute	105	385	0	0	0	490
Acteurs judiciaires, travailleurs sociaux		85	40	144		269
Bénévoles des relais communautaires et Croix Rouge	05	15		40		60
Elèves, auditrices des IFR			300	340	300	940
Population		4000	500	610	300	5410
TOTAL	110	5470	1280	1294	680	8894

