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



All **children** have **rights** !



Sverige



Save the Children

FORUM DES ONG ET ASSOCIATIONS D'AIDE A L'ENFANCE EN DIFFICULTE

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AWCY-CI : Association of Working Children and Youth of Côte d'Ivoire
AFEMCI : Association of Women Magistrates of Côte d'Ivoire
AFJCI : Association of Women Jurists of Côte d'Ivoire
AGR : Income-Generating Activity
ANAGIL : National Agency for Integrated Coastal Management
ANSSI : National Agency for Information Systems Security
AVEC : Savings and Credit Enhancement Association
ACRWC : African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACERWC : African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)
CHPM : Temporary Shelter Centres for Minors
CIAPOL : Ivorian Anti-Pollution Center
CIMPE : Interministerial Committee for Child Protection
CIPH : Integrated Centres for Persons with Disabilities
CMEF : Girl Students' Mothers Club
UHC : Universal Health Coverage
CNLTP : National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons
CNS : National Monitoring Committee for Actions Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour
COM : Minors' Observation Center
CRM : Minors' Reintegration Center
DELC : Directorate of Primary and Secondary Schools
DGBF : Directorate-General of Budget and Finance
DLTE : Directorate for Combating Child Trafficking
DPE : Directorate for Child Protection
DPJEJ : Directorate for Judicial Protection of Children and Youth
DSIMI : Directorate of Nursing, Maternal and Child Care
ECS : Comprehensive Sexuality Education
EDHC : Education on Human Rights and Citizenship
EPR : Alternative Care Institutions
Forum des ONG : Forum of NGOs and Associations for Child Assistance in Difficulty (Forum of NGOs)
GE : Children's Groups
INFJ : National Institute of Judicial Training
IST : Sexually Transmitted Infections
JEA : Day of the African Child
AMWCY : African Movement of Working Children and Youth
MENA : Ministry of National Education and Literacy
MENET-FP : Ministry of National Education and Technical Education – Vocational Training
MFFE : Ministry of Women, Family and Children
MNR : National Referral Mechanism
NPSP CI : New Public Health Pharmacy of Côte d'Ivoire
OMS : World Health Organization (WHO)
ONG : Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
ONPHACI : National Organization of Parents of the Hearing-Impaired of Côte d'Ivoire
CSO : Civil Society Organization (CSO)

PANEACI : National Action Plan for the Eradication of Statelessness in Côte d'Ivoire

PAPS : Sectoral Policy Action Plan

PBF : Peace Building Fund

PECI : Children's Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire

PLCC : Platform to Combat Cybercrime

PNEEG : National Policy on Equality, Equity and Gender

PNLGBV : National Programme to Combat Gender-Based Violence

PNMN : National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan

PNN : National Nutrition Programme

PNOAECI : National Platform of Children's Organizations and Associations of Côte d'Ivoire

PNPE : National Child Protection Policy

PNPJEJ : National Programme for the Judicial Protection of Children and Youth

PHP : Physical and Humiliating Punishment

PSGouv2 : Government Social Programme, phase 2

SDLTEDJ : Sub-Directorate for Combating Child Labour and Juvenile Delinquency

SNAS : National School Feeding Strategy

SOSTECI : Child Labour Observation and Monitoring System in Côte d'Ivoire

SPJEJ : Judicial Protection Services for Children and Youth

SSR : Sexual and Reproductive Health

TBS : Gross Enrolment Rate

AU : African Union

GBV : Gender-Based Violence

HIV : Human Immunodeficiency Virus

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Côte d'Ivoire presented its first periodic report on the implementation of the ACRWC in 2022. Following that presentation, the ACERWC addressed recommendations to it in 2023, which were to be implemented through 2026 - the year in which a combined 2nd to 7th report cycle is expected. Ahead of the State Party's appearance before the ACERWC members, CSOs are submitting a supplementary report to share their views with the experts on the state of children's rights in Côte d'Ivoire over the period concerned.

As the leading network of organizations (79 members) for the protection, promotion and defence of children's rights in Côte d'Ivoire, the Forum of NGOs works to bring about a Côte d'Ivoire where children's rights are guaranteed by the State and respected by all. This report aims to:

- Review the implementation of the concluding observations addressed to the Ivorian Government by the ACERWC in 2023, presenting progress made and the major challenges regarding children's rights;
- Formulate recommendations based on an analysis of the current context.

In line with the ACERWC guidelines, the process undertaken by civil society to develop its report was consultative, inclusive, national, contextual¹ and based on an analysis of the State's report.

The innovation in this process was the integration of gender and environmental dimensions into the report's main areas, together with a new domain dedicated to the legal, strategic and operational frameworks relating to the environment (J).

This report accordingly presents ten domains:

- A. General Implementation Measures:** CSOs acknowledge notable progress in the adoption of legal reforms and the establishment of national and regional child protection mechanisms. However, the scope of this progress remains limited by difficulties in enforcing the texts and by obstacles in rolling out certain government programmes, weakening the overall protection system and preventing the full realization of certain rights enshrined in the ACRWC in Côte d'Ivoire.
- B. Definition of the Child:** Côte d'Ivoire has harmonized the definition of the child across all its legal texts, notably through the marriage law setting the age at 18 for both sexes. Despite these efforts, civil society notes that although child marriages are not celebrated before a sworn officiant, certain communities in Côte d'Ivoire continue to practise unions involving minors in the name of custom.
- C. General Principles :** Côte d'Ivoire is commended for its measures guaranteeing non-discrimination and children's access to basic services. Progress has been made in integrating the best interests of the child into national policies and laws. However, care measures for child victims of PHP need to be strengthened. In addition, children's participation remains insufficiently taken into account in decisions and texts relating to climate change. Regarding children's life, survival and development, CSOs call for intensified efforts against air and water pollution caused by businesses and illegal gold panning. Lastly, civil society encourages the State to regularize the functioning of the PECI to ensure inclusive and effective participation of all categories of children in public life.
- D. Civil Rights and Freedoms:** CSOs commend the major progress made by the Ivorian State in modernizing civil registration. This progress is illustrated by the expansion of the registration centre network, digitalization through the Cityweb software, and local awareness campaigns. The country also stands out for an innovative legal framework aimed at preventing and reducing statelessness,

¹The consultation took place in Abidjan, San-Pédro, Yamoussoukro, Korhogo and Bondoukou, involving 80 CSOs, and women, men, children and persons with disabilities.

supported by concrete CSO action on the ground. Nevertheless, they point to several persistent challenges hampering these efforts, such as the problem of nationwide coverage of birth registration, insufficient human resources, the low birth-registration rate, the limited rollout of the Cityweb tool, and the influx of new refugees in the North, which undermines the fight against statelessness.

- E. Family Environment and Alternative Care:** CSOs commend the State's major progress in child protection, marked by the adoption of the PNPE 2026-2030 and the decree on wards of the State currently being adopted. Côte d'Ivoire has also made progress in regularizing EPRs, having licensed 34 in 2025. In addition, the State is deploying various social programmes (positive parenting, safety nets) and collaborating with CSOs. Nevertheless, civil society highlights several major limitations, namely the State's dependence on private structures that nonetheless lack substantial financial support, insufficient social centres and qualified staff on the ground, and the limited number of centres dedicated to children with disabilities.
- F. Basic Health and Well-being :** CSOs commend the health progress made in Côte d'Ivoire, notably the expansion of the UHC ([23.2 million enrolled at the end of 2025](#)), the rollout of the PSGouv2 programme for drinking water (80% access), and the increase in health personnel and public infrastructure. The 2024 five-year agreement with the NPSP CI also aims to better secure the supply of essential medicines. However, CSOs highlight several critical weaknesses, namely the underfunding of child health (4.66% of the total annual budget in 2026, far from the 15% target set by the Abuja Declaration), the shortage of personnel (12.15 per 10,000 inhabitants), which remains below WHO standards (23 per 10,000), and the decline in vaccination rates affecting 6 of the 10 mandatory vaccines between 2023 and 2024.
- G. Education, Leisure and Culture:** CSOs commend the State's numerous initiatives to modernize the education system, notably the facilitation of deferred schooling, particularly for student mothers, the integration of certain Islamic schools, school feeding through the SNAS, and the promotion of SRH among young people. However, they note the insufficient number of canteens and their limited supply, insufficient inclusive school infrastructure and separate latrines, the partial integration of identified Islamic institutions, the presence of drug-smoking spots near certain secondary schools, and the persistence of early pregnancies.
- H. Special Protection Measures:** Progress made in child protection includes the creation of two reception centres, the separation of the COM from the PPA, the rollout of the « Zero Children in Street SitAutions » plan and the abduction alert plan. However, challenges persist regarding climate-related displacement, judicial shortcomings, the fight against GBV, and digital protection.
- I. Responsibility of the Child:** CSOs commend the State for having integrated EDHC from primary school to the 3rd grade to teach children their civic duties, with CSO support on the ground. Nevertheless, parents struggle to grasp the balance between rights and duties, and the country still does not have a unified Children's Code to frame these actions.
- J. Environment :** The State is commended for taking children into account in the Environmental Code, the revision of the NDC 3.0, and the implementation of major projects such as the « Blue Côte d'Ivoire » Initiative. Nevertheless, several major legal texts (water, forestry, mining codes) do not explicitly integrate children's rights, and the monitoring of coastal erosion still lacks operationality. Lastly, children's participation in Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) remains limited or almost non-existent, as does data disaggregation during disasters.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1- Context

Côte d'Ivoire remains a major economic player in West Africa, the world's leading producer of cocoa and cashew nuts. After a decade of sustained growth, the economy has shown resilience in the face of successive shocks, notably the effects of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict. However, the suspension of USAID funding has had major consequences for child protection: numerous programmes related to maternal and child health, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and family planning have been suspended, directly weakening local NGOs and community services. In 2025, the country recorded growth of 6.8%, slightly down from previous years but above the regional average. Inflation slowed sharply to 0.1% in 2025, though this masks persistent pressure on certain food products, notably vegetables (+14.9%) and tubers (+12.6%), according to ANSTAT (HCPI, December 2025).

Government commitment: The State of Côte d'Ivoire continues its commitment to children's rights, drawing on national and international legal provisions. Notable progress has been made with the adoption of the 2026-2030 NDP, which specifically takes children's rights into account, as well as the new PNPE and its 2026-2030 strategy. However, civil society points to the persistent dependence on external funding and the difficulties in enforcing the texts on the ground.

At the legislative level: The harmonization of the marriage age at 18 for both sexes constitutes a major step forward. Furthermore, the swift adoption of a Children's Code will facilitate the centralization of existing provisions and strengthen the coherence of the legal framework.

At the socio-political and security level: The country enjoys relative stability, marked by the 2025 presidential elections, which were more or less peaceful. However, the terrorist threat along the northern borders remains a major concern, with population displacements requiring increased assistance. Participatory governance and intersectoral coordination, through the CIMPE, remain challenges to be addressed in order to ensure effective child protection.

At the health level: Universal health coverage reached 23.2 million enrollees by the end of 2025, and access to drinking water stands at 80%. Nevertheless, the budget allocated to child health remains limited (4.66% in 2026, far from the 15% target set by the Abuja Declaration), and the decline in vaccination rates for several mandatory antigens is a concern for civil society actors.

At the educational and social level: The education system is benefiting from important reforms, such as the formalization of Islamic schools and the promotion of adolescent and youth sexAUI and reproductive health. However, challenges persist: insufficient school infrastructure, early pregnancies, and the presence of smoking spots near schools. Leisure and cultural initiatives remain limited by the lack of inclusive facilities.

It is in this context that CSOs are submitting this supplementary report.

2- Methodology

In accordance with the guidelines of the African Committee of Experts, the Forum of NGOs conducted the process of developing the supplementary report, involving 80 CSOs - 25 in Abidjan and 55 in other regions² of the country - and the CNDH. The process was participatory and inclusive; several CSOs worked jointly to address the specific domains related to child protection. AWCY-CI facilitated the participation of children and children's organizations. AFJCI and the Djigui Foundation contributed to addressing issues related to gender, disability and social inclusion. FEREADD helped integrate the environmental and climate change dimension. Charité Vie and RSB coordinated data collection in San-Pedro and Yamoussoukro respectively. Lastly, Social

² Yamoussoukro (centre), San-Pedro (South-west), Korhogo (North), Bondoukou (North-East).

Justice was responsible for the budget analysis. This entire process was made possible thanks to the technical and financial support of SCI through the PROSCIDE³ programme.

This process was conducted in several stages:

- Capacity-building for CSOs and children's organizations on the ACERWC guidelines, both online and in person ;
- Data collection from CSOs and children's organizations through workshops and online consultations using a purpose-built Excel tool ;
- Analysis and drafting of the report by a scientific committee⁴;
- Validation of the supplementary report by all stakeholders.

³ Civil Society Strengthening Programme for Children's Rights, which aims to build the capacity of civil society actors, including children, to claim civic space and hold duty-bearers accountable for the equitable realization of children's rights.

This initiative is implemented by Save the Children and its eight partners (**AEJTCL, AFJCI, Charité Vie, FEREADD, Fondation Djigui, Forum des ONG, RSB and Social Justice**) for the 2025–2028 period, as part of the global civil society strengthening programme supported by Swedish development cooperation.

⁴ The Scientific Committee is composed of technical staff from the Executive Directorate of the NGO Forum, representatives of the thematic groups of the NGO Forum, the Save the Children partner, and the NGO partners of the PROSCIDE programme.



A- GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Côte d'Ivoire has a robust, multisectoral legal framework on child protection. However, on the specific issue of adopting a Children's Code as recommended by the ACERWC, the State of Côte d'Ivoire considers such a mechanism to be virtually inoperative and instead suggests the adoption of a compendium of regulatory texts.

While consolidating legal texts into a compendium would promote harmony with existing provisions, it would not offer the homogeneity and centralization associated with a Children's Code. In addition, such a code would facilitate the work of judges and social workers in child protection, as well as its ownership by the general public.

In light of the foregoing, civil society recommends that the State Party develop and adopt the Children's Code.

Furthermore, CSOs commend their own advocacy efforts, which led to the harmonization of the age of the child in the legislative texts adopted by the State. In addition, the integration of specific modules on children's rights into the initial training of magistrates and social workers at the INFJ, awareness campaigns involving CSOs (AFMCI, AFJCI) and community leaders facilitate their implementation by all.

However, early marriages continue to be celebrated ([64 early-marriage alerts received in 2024 and 42 in 2025](#)) in certain communities across the country in accordance with their traditions, even though these unions are not recognized by the State.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Strengthen reporting mechanisms (hotlines 1308 and 116 MFFE), making them operational 24/7 with dedicated staff and further popularizing them;***
- ***Intensify awareness campaigns on child marriage in rural areas and border communities, with materials adapted into local languages.***

CSOs also commend the State for adopting, on 2 July 2026, the new PNPE and its 2026-2030 implementation strategy, reflecting its commitment to child protection. They also commend their own contribution to this process. With a budget of 25.45 billion CFAF (XOF), the strategy will receive initial State funding of 7.7 billion CFAF (XOF), or about 30% of its total cost.

However, CSOs are concerned about the PNPE's heavy dependence for implementation on technical and financial partners, who cover nearly 70% of its funding.

CSOs therefore recommend that the State ensure effective implementation of the PNPE by necessarily mobilizing the allocated budget and carrying out the planned actions.

The existence of the CIMPE as an intersectoral coordination mechanism is a notable step forward for harmonizing child protection actions. The presence of Protection Committees at the community level constitutes an appreciable territorial network. However, it notes that the CIMPE has not held a single meeting since its creation in 2019, and that the Committee of Experts is heavily dependent on partner financial support.

CSOs recommend that the State ensure the CIMPE functions effectively, in accordance with its founding decree.

CSOs commend the increase in the health budget (from 414 billion CFAF (XOF) in 2023 to 747 billion CFAF (XOF) in 2025) and the consideration of the Abuja and ECOWAS benchmarks. However, allocations remain insufficient: health represents only 4.8% of the national budget, child protection 1%, and the MFFE

0.2% - reflecting a persistent gap between the State's commitments and the effective funding granted to social sectors.

Only 0.05% of the MFFE budget⁵ is allocated to preventing and protecting against violence, abuse and exploitation. This level is notably insufficient to fund nationwide programmes.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend:

- *Adopting a progressive budgetary roadmap to reach 15% of the national budget devoted to health and 3% to the ministry responsible for child protection;*
- *Establishing a budget-tracking mechanism dedicated to children to ensure transparent monitoring of allocations and expenditures;*
- *Adopting a checklist for parliament and the DGBF for evaluating budgets sensitive to children's rights, gender and climate.*

CSOs commend the decentralized celebration of the JEA with the participation of children from diverse backgrounds, notably rural children, children with disabilities and street children, reflecting an inclusive approach. However, the choice of the national theme remains insufficiently discussed with children.

CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Guaranteed inclusive participation of children and CSOs in thematic days ;*
- *Strengthen funding for rural social structures (CS, CSE, IFEF) to promote decentralized inclusive activities.*

The State, with the support of the Forum of NGOs and its partners, disseminates the ACERWC recommendations to State actors gathered within the CIMPE Committee of Experts and facilitates their ownership.

In this regard, CSOs recommend extending this dissemination to decentralized State and local actors, including children's organizations, through a dissemination plan accompanied by an implementation timetable and budget.

B- DEFINITION OF THE CHILD

CSOs commend the State's efforts since 2019 to harmonize the definition of the child and raise the minimum marriage age to 18 for both sexes ([Article 2](#) of the marriage law), as well as the popularization of these provisions.

However, they note the persistence of customary unions involving minors in certain communities, notably in the North of Côte d'Ivoire⁶.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Strengthen community awareness-raising, notably in Tchologo and Bounkani, as well as among religious and customary leaders, to prevent marriages involving minors;*
- *Strengthen girls' retention in school, the empowerment of vulnerable families, and the regular evaluation of prevention actions.*

⁵ Analysis conducted by Social Justice NGO, a specialist in budget analysis in Côte d'Ivoire.

⁶ Information from data collection conducted in Korhogo, in northern Côte d'Ivoire, from 2 to 3 June 2026.

C- GENERAL PRINCIPLES

i. Non-discrimination

CSOs commend the State for its efforts on inclusive education, as reflected in the adoption of the 2023-2028 National Inclusive Education Strategy (SNEI), and the training of 25 teachers and 20 Assistant teachers. They also note the existence of 30 inclusive schools nationwide. Despite this progress, civil society observes an insufficient number of inclusive schools relative to the actual needs of children with disabilities, and a shortage of specialized staff (sign-language interpreters, braille specialists, psycho-pedagogues) and adapted teaching equipment.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Strengthen the numbers of teachers and specialized staff supporting children with disabilities, with incentive measures;***
- ***Strengthen the rollout of inclusive schools, adapt infrastructure, create public psychosocial support mechanisms for children and their families, and strengthen teaching equipment nationwide.***

CSOs note that Côte d'Ivoire has established an institutional and regulatory framework for the protection of children with disabilities. The rollout of CMPPs and UFIs, support for private structures, and the planning of future CIPHs⁷ show that the country is not starting from scratch.

However, analysis of the situation on the ground shows that the real challenge is no longer the drafting of texts or political intent, but scaling up and territorial equity. Indeed, of 28 CMPPs, 23 are in Abidjan and only 5 are located inland⁸. There is also a lack of specialized public structures for severe and complex disabilities and a shortage of specialized human resources (speech therapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, psychomotor therapists, special-education teachers). Furthermore, persistent prejudice and social discrimination against persons with disabilities, insufficient national awareness campaigns and insufficient allocated resources limit the school and community inclusion of children with disabilities.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend:

- ***Rehabilitating and equipping existing centres and accelerating the construction of the specialized centres announced for San-Pédro, Bouake, Daloa, Korhogo, Man and Abengourou, for the effective care of girls and boys with disabilities ;***
- ***Developing regional branches of the INIPA, ECIS and other specialized centres in every region of Côte d'Ivoire ;***
- ***Strengthening the resources of private structures, road safety, inclusive training, and awareness actions for children with disabilities ;***
- ***Granting more livelihood support to private care institutions ;***
- ***Creating vocational training centres in inclusive trades adapted to children with disabilities.***

CSOs commend the State's initiatives to promote access to basic social services and to account for vulnerabilities. Côte d'Ivoire also has a National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (PNRRC), which includes the protection of vulnerable populations.

⁷ Specialized structures planned for disability care.

⁸ The localities of Bécédi-Sikensi, Ferkessédougou, Brobo, Korhogo and Issia.

However, they note persistent inequalities affecting children with disabilities as well as migrant children, linked to limited service accessibility, a shortage of qualified staff, and administrative and discriminatory constraints.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Bring basic social services closer to communities and strengthen their accessibility to vulnerable children ;***
- ***Further involve organizations of persons with disabilities in disaster management and climate policy;***
- ***Improve the protection of migrant children and combat discrimination ;***
- ***Train health professionals on the care of children with disabilities ;***
- ***Involve the Chamber of Kings, traditional chiefs and religious leaders in combating stereotypes ;***
- ***Increase funding for inclusive training and professional integration.***

CSOs note the conduct of community behaviour-change awareness campaigns, the creation of a Directorate responsible for equality, equity and gender, as well as the intensification of the fight against pregnancies during schooling and GBV, and the effective implementation of the policy on schooling and [retention of girls in school](#)⁹.

However, it notes with regret that the schooling and retention policy for girls is not effective in rural areas. Girls continue to face discrimination and harmful socio-cultural practices that limit their rights and access to opportunities in education, health, social participation and protection.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Popularize the order on procedures for deferring schooling for primary and secondary students in public and private general education, especially in rural areas ;***
- ***Strengthen awareness of girls' rights and gender equality ;***
- ***Strengthen/train community, religious and traditional leaders on gender issues, and promote community education to combat GBV and gender stereotypes ;***
- ***Strengthen the role of the Directorate responsible for equality, equity and gender through adequate resources and interministerial coordination mechanisms to monitor the State's commitments on gender equality.***

ii. Best interests of the child

CSOs commend the progressive integration of the best interests of the child into State policies, laws, programmes and mechanisms. They also appreciate the integration of child-protection themes into the training curricula of professional schools such as the INFJ, the police and gendarmerie academies, and the UFR of Criminology, thereby strengthening the consideration of children's rights in the exercise of public functions.

However, civil society notes that the application of Article 421 of the Penal Code, while necessary to punish practices harmful to children (PPH), should be accompanied by support and follow-up measures for the child victim and their family. In the absence of such mechanisms, the conviction of the parent-perpetrator can lead to indirect consequences for the child, notably rejection, stigmatization, or the breakdown of family ties. Furthermore, it notes that the best interests of the child are not yet systematically taken into account in texts and decisions relating to the environment and climate change.

⁹ Order No. 254/MENA/DELIC of 12 August 2024 on the procedures for deferring the schooling of pupils in public and private primary and secondary general education.

CSOs recommend accordingly :

- *Integrating positive-parenting measures into judicial responses to foster parental accountability and prevent recidivism;*
- *Systematically taking the best interests of the child into account in texts related to climate change and the environment.*

iii. Right to life, survival and development

Civil society commends the State of Côte d'Ivoire for the efforts made in neonatal and infant health and regarding preventable diseases. These efforts have led to a reduction in the neonatal mortality rate from 38 to 30 per 1,000 live births (PMNV) between 2000-2001 and 2022, and the infant mortality rate from 68 to 52 PMNV¹⁰. These efforts have also enabled significant progress, notably the creation of the National Nutrition Programme (PNN) to promote good practices and durably prevent malnutrition, the adoption of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (PNMN), Decree No. 2025-120 of 26 February 2025 extending maternity leave from 3 to 6 months for mothers and one month for fathers, and the creation of the Directorate of Nursing, Maternal and Child Care (DSIMI) under Decree No. 2021-465 organizing the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Health Coverage (MSHPUHC) of Côte d'Ivoire. Also, [the pioneering introduction of the R21/Matrix-M vaccine](#) launched on 15 July 2024 in 38 pilot districts and then rolled out to all other health districts nationwide, and the intensification of national campaigns distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets ([the usage rate rose from 68% in 2021 to 81.3% at the end of 2025](#)) reduced the number of malaria deaths from 1,534 in 2022 to 1,027 in 2025. The State has also established the Ivorian Anti-Pollution Centre (CIAPOL), which includes a Central Environmental Laboratory (LCE) that measures air, water and soil pollution levels to ensure good health for the population, including children.

In contrast to this progress, these services are concentrated in major urban centres, and the contents of the kits meant to be given to new mothers do not always include all the listed items¹¹. The rate of exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months often remains well below the global target of 50%¹². The Northern and North-Eastern regions show infant and child mortality rates above the national average. The lack of services has direct effects on the availability of maternal and child health services and, consequently, on neonatal, infant and child mortality rates, which the network of community health workers alone cannot reduce. In addition, CSOs note, according to the assessment by the ministry responsible for water and forests, that all 12 of the country's watersheds are polluted¹³, and that this phenomenon is 80% caused by illegal gold panning. This pollution affects aquatic vertebrates that populations consume daily.

CSOs therefore recommend that the State of Côte d'Ivoire:

- *Strengthen equitable access to maternal and child health services, particularly in rural areas and regions with high infant mortality;*
- *Strengthen monitoring and accountability mechanisms for maternal and child health programmes, particularly to ensure the effectiveness of services provided to mothers and children;*
- *Guaranteed sustainable and secure funding for child health and nutrition, including vaccines, nutritional supplies and treated mosquito nets;*

¹⁰ SITAN 2024, P16.

¹¹ Information from data collection in the Poro region.

¹² The persistence of cultural barriers, notably the early introduction of water or herbal teas, and the lack of support for working mothers in the informal sector, are among the reasons that explain non-compliance with exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months.

¹³ The main watercourses concerned are the Bandama (98,500 km²), the Comoé (82,408 km²), the Sassandra (75,000 km²) and the Cavally (30,600 km²). This information was provided during a review workshop held by the ministry responsible for water and forests in 2024 in Divo.

- *Strengthen national mechanisms to combat illegal gold panning, notably the Special Group to Combat Illegal Gold Panning (GS-LOI);*
- *Intensify malnutrition prevention actions and promote practices favourable to child development, including exclusive breastfeeding.*

iv. Child participation

CSOs commend the State's efforts to promote child participation, notably through the institutionalization of the PECCI, the establishment of GEs, and their involvement in drafting texts related to their protection. They also appreciate the recognition of children as climate actors through the Environmental Code, which fosters their participation in eco-citizenship initiatives and environmental processes.

The Forum of NGOs and AWCY-CI also lend a hand to the State through training and awareness-raising on effective child - particularly youth - participation in all communities. A framework for child participation is also being developed by PRCOIDE partners with support from AMWCY and the MFFE.

However, they regret the absence of an operating budget for the PECCI, which limits the renewal of its bodies and the implementation of its action plan. They also note insufficient representation of children in vulnerable situations (children with disabilities, out-of-school children, street children, or those from remote rural areas), owing to barriers related to accessibility, information and socio-economic conditions.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Guaranteed the sustainable functioning of the PECCI and the GEs through inclusive governance and dedicated resources for implementing their action plans, sensitive to environmental and climate issues;*
- *Develop adapted and secure participation spaces and tools enabling children to express their views and have their recommendations integrated into public policies;*
- *Strengthen the inclusive and meaningful participation of children in vulnerable situations, notably children with disabilities, out-of-school children, street children and those in remote rural areas;*
- *Institutionalize mandatory consultation of children's and youth organizations in conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for infrastructure and extractive-industry projects at the local level and in public policies.*

D- CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

i. Name, nationality and birth registration

CSOs commend the State for its initiatives to promote birth registration, materialized by the establishment of 1,512¹⁴ operational centres¹⁵, in addition to the new digitalized mechanism installed in health centres (89% of maternity wards and 98% of vaccination centres). There are also possibilities available at the level of the various Courts, which issue supplementary judgments.

¹⁴ Civil Status Statistical Yearbook 2024.

¹⁵ Situation Analysis of Children in Côte d'Ivoire, 2024 edition, Page 85

However, CSOs note that despite this mechanism, certain births are declared late, amounting to 490,999 (of which 468,446 were declared more than 12 months late).

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Strengthen local awareness campaigns in collaboration with child-protection CSOs among communities on existing mechanisms ;***
- ***Systematically provide birth certificates free of charge following birth declaration ;***
- ***Set up a civil-registration mechanism in private health centers ;***
- ***Allocate more funding to equip civil-registration services with adequate resources.***

CSOs commend the implementation of Law No. 2018-862 on civil registration, which clearly defines each actor's role. Despite clear texts, some regions still suffer from a chronic shortage of qualified civil-registration officers. For example, the Poro regional directorate (DRFFE) reports that several rural registration offices (BEC) operate without permanent, trained staff, without follow-up or retraining, and with no local mechanisms for supervising and evaluating civil-registration agents in Poro.

CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Allocate more funding to equip civil-registration services with adequate resources;***
- ***Increase the number of secondary civil-registration officers and the resourcing of BECs.***

CSOs commend the State for its awareness-raising initiatives in vernacular languages in certain regions of the country, namely Bafing, Nawa, Gôh, San-Pédro and Haut-Sassandra. These campaigns also presented civil-registration provisions, including the special law, Law No. 2018-863 of 19 November 2018.

Despite the awareness campaigns, the adoption of the special law, and its implementation deadlines being extended three times, the birth-registration rate remains notably low (the annual declaration rate is 57.9% and the on-time declaration rate is 56.6% in 2023, compared with an annual declaration rate of 57.6% and an on-time declaration rate of 55.4% in 2024)¹⁶.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Conduct an independent evaluation of the policies and reforms implemented regarding birth registration, in order to identify the structural obstacles explaining the stagnation of indicators and adopt reforms based on the results of this evaluation;***
- ***Establish a National Programme for systematic birth declaration;***
- ***Strengthen the mechanism by training health workers and involving them in birth declaration.***

CSOs commend the progress made by the State in the digitalization of civil registration, marked by the launch in March 2023 of the Cityweb software and its pilot phase (2023-2024) at Grand-Bassam town hall. However, field data highlight a still-limited rollout in smaller localities: in the Poro region, for example, only a few structures, such as Korhogo town hall, benefit from it. Furthermore, despite announced commitments, effective interconnection between all town halls and sub-prefectures remains incomplete to date.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Develop an offline operating solution for the Cityweb software allowing agents to enter data even without an internet connection, with deferred synchronization;***
- ***Accelerate the rollout of the Cityweb software in all BECs, accompanied by solar equipment to offset power outages.***

¹⁶ Civil Status Statistical Yearbook 2023 and 2024.

As a sub-regional [pioneer](#) in the fight against statelessness, Côte d'Ivoire has a dedicated legal framework and has achieved convincing results through PANEACI 2020-2024. CSOs took an active part in this: AFJCI alone raised awareness among 20,154 people through 117 field actions, enabling the issuance of 250 birth certificates for abandoned children and 750 for vulnerable adults.

Nevertheless, the national response is losing momentum: PANEACI was not formally renewed upon expiry, while the influx of new refugees at the Northern (Niornigué) and North-Eastern (Timala) borders creates new, urgent risks of statelessness to address.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Adopt a new National Action Plan for the Eradication of Statelessness (PANEACI II) with ambitious quantified targets and secured national funding, based on the recommendations from the evaluation of PANEACI I ;*
- *Strengthen the capacities of eligibility and appeals commissions by increasing their staffing and operating budget to reduce case-processing times ;*
- *Organize awareness and identification sessions for persons at risk of statelessness in areas with high migrant concentrations ;*
- *Make the PANEACI II steering and monitoring committee inclusive.*

ii. Freedom of expression, conscience, thought, religion, assembly and protection of privacy

CSOs encourage the State's efforts to guarantee children's freedoms of expression, thought, conscience, religion and assembly, notably through the National Child Protection Strategy, partnerships with mobile telephone operators to strengthen online safety, the [compendium](#) of legal texts on children's rights adapted to child-friendly language, the draft bill on the protection of minors in digital spaces, and the support provided by the SPJEJ to preserve the privacy of children in contact with the justice system.

However, civil society notes that the renewal of the bodies of the Children's Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire remains irregular, limiting the effective exercise of children's freedom of expression. It also notes that information on environmental issues is not systematically accessible and adapted to all categories of children.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Finalize the development and adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection and Empowerment of Children in the Digital Space;*
- *Multiply inclusive child-participation spaces in schools, extracurricular settings, youth centres and local authorities, providing them with resources and supervision that respects child-participation standards ;*
- *Adopt a child-participation protocol adapted to cultural values ;*
- *Disseminate information adapted to all categories of children regarding environmental and climate risks.*

iii. Protection against abuse and torture

CSOs commend the State's actions against PPH, notably the existence of ministerial orders against PPH in schools, the existence of hotlines for reporting cases of maltreatment and abuse (116, 1308), and the implementation of positive-education programmes.

However, the social and cultural legitimization of corporal punishment as a means of education persists despite the bans. Furthermore, State initiatives on positive parenting and reporting hotlines are little known among communities and children. In addition, we note a shortage of financial, human and logistical resources for the holistic care of child victims of abuse.

In this regard, CSOs recommend:

- *Describing and explicitly defining PPH in the Children's Code, across all of the child's living environments (school, home, institutions), accompanied by proportionate criminal penalties ;*
- *Developing and rolling out on a large scale a national positive-parenting programme targeting parents and teachers, with concrete educational alternatives.*

E- FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE

CSOs commend the Ivorian State for its ongoing commitment to child protection, illustrated by the decree currently being adopted on the implementation procedures of Law No. 2015-539 of 20 July 2015 on the status of wards of the State, and by the adoption, on 2 July 2026, of the PNPE 2026-2030 and its strategy, endowed with a launch budget of 4,441,295,137 CFAF (XOF). This new legal framework strengthens the child protection and reception system, 11 years after the 2012 policy.

Nevertheless, major gaps persist, namely insufficient support for private care facilities, a shortage of social centres, and staff shortages in existing facilities.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Build more social centres and increase staffing in these centres to bring them closer to the population;*
- *Strengthen the financial and technical support given to public and private reception and care facilities.*

CSOs commend the State's major efforts to strengthen alternative care, based on two main pillars. On the one hand, the sector's clean-up has resulted in Decree No. 2023-89 setting reception standards, followed by Order No. 0071/MFFE/CAB of 1 October 2025, which licensed 34 private Alternative Care Institutions (EPRs). On the other hand, the oversight of foster families has progressed through Decree No. 2023-90 of 15 February 2023 regulating foster families, enabling the identification of 559 families and the training of 201 of them between 2024 and 2026 with support from technical and financial partners (PTFs).

However, despite the technical and financial support provided, CSOs highlight the insufficient resources allocated to these structures, which carry the bulk of the system. Indeed, the sector remains largely dominated by the private sector: of the 84 EPRs listed, only 15.48% are public, and 100% of specialized centres are private¹⁷.

In view of this finding, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Continue the census of unlicensed structures and ensure their compliance;*
- *Increase and extend financial allocations to all licensed EPRs;*

¹⁷ Annuaire statistique du MFFE 2025 Page 58

- *Formulate the order operationalizing foster families and train all 559 identified families;*
- *Scale up the EPR monitoring protocol developed in 2025 and popularize the implementation report.*

CSOs commend and encourage the State for its social-protection initiatives, notably the care programme for Wards of the State and Wards of the Nation, positive-parenting education ("Strong Family" and parenting schools), support programmes for destitute families through Productive Safety Nets programmes, income-generating-activity creation, and the implementation of AVECs.

In this regard, they recommend that the State continue its social-protection initiatives, particularly the "Strong Family" family-training programmes and the promotion of "Parenting Schools".

CSOs commend the existence of 4 public nurseries¹⁸ with different specialities for the holistic care of children with disabilities. They also commend the good collaboration between the State and CSOs operating specialized reception and shelter centres, notably DDE-CI and ONPHACI. This collaboration contributes to the well-being of children with disabilities.

However, they note the insufficient number of centres for receiving children with disabilities, especially those who have been abandoned.

In view of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Accelerate the implementation of the specialized foster-family programme;*
- *Support families with one or more children with disabilities by giving them priority in national social-protection programmes;*
- *Build additional public specialized structures for the care of children with disabilities in each region.*

CSOs commend the State's efforts towards family reunification. They also commend the synergy between the State and children's rights protection actors, notably the NGO Cavoéquiva, DDE-CI, Foyer Akwaba, Foyer Don BCSOo, Foyer Marie Dominique, Communauté Abel, etc.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State maintain this collaboration and support reception and shelter centres with adequate resources for holistic care.

F- BASIC HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

CSOs encourage the progressive increase of the State budget allocated to the health sector between 2023 and 2026. Nevertheless, at only 4.66% of the annual budget in 2026, this share remains well below the 15% commitment set by the Abuja Declaration. This budgetary shortfall weakens the supply of care, notably the availability of supplies, the quality of technical platforms and staff availability, while straining targeted free care programmes. Despite these constraints, the operationalization of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is allowing progressive improvement in patient care.

¹⁸The Marie-Thérèse Houphouët-Boigny Nursery in Adjamé (Abidjan): historic and central, it primarily receives newborns who have been abandoned or orphaned at birth by their mother. The Yopougon Nursery (Abidjan): another key emergency early-childhood care centre in the economic capital. The Dabou Nursery: specialized since 2015 in the exclusive care of children with severe disabilities (cerebral palsy, autism, hydrocephalus, etc.). The Bouaké Nursery: provides coverage and care for infants in the central and northern zones of the country.

Faced with these challenges, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Raise the health budget with a view to reaching the Abuja standard by 2030;***
- ***Increase the budget share dedicated to purchasing medicines and medical supplies.***

CSOs commend the State for its efforts to decentralize health services. In 2024, human resources were strengthened with 5,447 doctors, 17,949 nurses and 9,976 midwives¹⁹. On the infrastructure side, Côte d'Ivoire had 3,286 First-Contact Health Facilities (ESPCs), of which 2,907 are public, a 2.66% increase over the total of 3,201 ESPCs in 2023, plus 112 secondary hospitals (102 of them public). However, international ratios have not been met:

In 2024, the density of health professionals was 12.15 per 10,000 inhabitants, well below the WHO standard of 23 per 10,000. Although the national standard (1 ESPC per 10,000 inhabitants) has been reached, significant regional disparities persist. While 26 of 33 health regions (78.79%) meet the standard, the lowest ratios are found in Abidjan 1 (0.32), Abidjan 2 (0.42), and Haut-Sassandra (0.70) per 10,000 inhabitants²⁰. The standard of 1 hospital per 150,000 inhabitants was also not met in 2024²¹.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Equip health facilities with the necessary equipment and human resources;***
- ***Ensure an equitable distribution of medical staff and infrastructure, particularly in rural areas;***
- ***Increase the number of training institutes, strengthen the technical and ethical competencies of staff, and develop specialized services.***

CSOs commend the State's progress, notably the purchase of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) vaccines via GAVI. The State has also strengthened the supply framework by approving, through Decree No. 2024-622 of 10 July 2024, a 5-year agreement with the NPSP CI to guarantee the distribution of essential medicines and strategic supplies to all public facilities.

However, major dysfunctions persist, notably stock-outs of medicines that continue in certain areas under targeted free care²². Also, between 2023 and 2024, of the 10 mandatory vaccines, 6 (Penta3, PCV13-3, Polio3, IPV, OPV1, HPV) recorded a decline in their vaccination rate, while only 3 of 10 saw a slight increase.

In view of the foregoing observations, CSOs recommend that the State strengthen the logistics chain for the procurement and distribution of medicines.

CSOs note with satisfaction the actions taken regarding the UHC, with a [UHC care package as of 31 December 2024](#) comprising 170 covered pathologies, 919 covered [drug specialities](#), 2,217 UHC-affiliated [public health facilities \(civil and military\)](#), and 1,024 UHC-affiliated private pharmacies. They also note [20 million enrolled persons, representing close to 68% of the Ivorian population as of 18 July 2025](#). As of 31 December 2025, the CNAM reported a total enrolment of 23,230,385 people ([Social protection – The IPS-CNAM ends 2025 with a total of 23,230,385 enrollees](#)).

¹⁹ Annual report on the health situation 2024, pp. 18-20.

²⁰ Annual report on the health situation 2024, p. 21

²¹ Annual report on the health situation 2024, p. 22

²² Annual report on the health situation 2024, p. 25.

Accordingly, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Improve the extension of the UHC care package, taking childhood pathologies into account;***
- ***Make access to UHC care packages free for all vulnerable populations.***

Significant efforts have been made under PSGouv2 to improve access to drinking water, with the [national access rate rising from 50% in 2011 to 80% in 2024-2025](#). While access to drinking water is advancing, basic sanitation remains a challenge, with only [40% coverage](#). CSOs also note persistent pollution of: (i) air, due to the burning of plastics, industrial fumes and exhaust emissions; (ii) soil, caused by illegal dumping, lead, electronic waste and pesticides; and (iii) water, due to toxic effluents, gold-panning (mercury) and inadequate sanitation^{23 24}. These situations expose children to acute respiratory infections (pneumonia and asthma), diarrhoeal diseases, parasitosis, neurotoxic risks, poisoning and developmental delays.

CSOs recommend accordingly :

- ***Strengthening actions to guarantee equitable access to drinking water and sanitation;***
- ***Improving the effective implementation of the Environmental Code;***
- ***Accelerating investments in access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in rural schools and communities.***

G- EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

CSOs commend the State for its efforts to keep vulnerable students in the education system, notably pregnant girls or student mothers, children with disabilities, and students in conflict with the law. This progress is embodied in the adoption of Order No. 254/MENA/DELC of 12 August 2024 setting the procedures for deferring schooling in general education, which broadens the scope of the initial Order No. 0031/MENET-FP/DELC of 5 March 2019.

Civil society recommendations to the State:

- ***Popularize these new provisions among students and their parents;***
- ***Establish a psychosocial care system for pregnant girls, GBV-victim students, sick students, and children in situations of school dropout or social precarity;***
- ***Strengthen national awareness campaigns against pregnancies in school settings and dropout, while supporting CMEF initiatives.***

CSOs commend the State for the SNAS 2024-2025 directives, as well as for the commissioning of 5,602 school canteens benefiting 1,000,000 meal recipients. They also commend the increase in State food distributions, with an [upward trajectory](#): rising from 6,149 tonnes in 2023 to 6,395 tonnes in 2024 over 23 canteen days.

²³ <https://afrique-diplomatique.com/cote-divoire-renforcement-du-controle-des-dechets-industriels-dangereux/#:~:text=Selon%20le%20minist%C3%A8re%20l'Environnement%20et%20de,suivi%20et%20%C3%A0%20la%20tra%C3%A7abili%C3%A9%20des%20flux.>

²⁴ <https://news.abidjan.net/articles/747582/gestion-des-dechets-industriels-dangereux-la-cote-divoire-se-dote-dun-systeme-digital-decontrole#:~:text=Selon%20les%20donn%C3%A9es%20du%20Centre%20Ivoirien%20Anti%2DPollution,d%C3%A9chets%20%C3%A9chappe%20au%20circuit%20officiel%20de%20gestion.>

However, major constraints remain: the 5,602 canteens cover only 36% of needs for the 2023-2024 school year. Only [26 days](#) of meals are currently covered across the entire school year.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Generalize the construction of canteens in all pre-school and primary schools (including in rural and remote areas), secure durable funding for supply chains (storage, transport, distribution), and strengthen coordination between the State, local authorities and partners;***
- ***GAUrantee at least 120 days of meals in at least 80% of school canteens.***

CSOs commend the State for integrating Islamic confessional schools into the formal system, as well as for strengthening teaching staff in the public sector: in rural primary schools, numbers rose from **54,990** in [2023-2024](#) to **59,115** in [2024-2025](#), and in secondary schools, from **31,003** in 2023-2024 to **34,138** in 2024-2025. In terms of public infrastructure, the number of classrooms in use grew from **9,555** in 2023-2024 to **15,593** in 2024-2025.

However, major challenges remain. CSOs note that only 643 of the 2,585 identified Islamic structures (24.87%) have been integrated. Also, despite the rise in the number of teachers, the number of classrooms there declined, falling from **60,657** in 2023-2024 to **58,903** in 2024-2025. Regarding safety, drug-smoking spots persist near certain schools (notably at the secondary schools of Bouaflé and Daloa), exposing pupils to drug-related risks.

In view of the above analysis, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Continue integrating Islamic structures into the education system and strengthen the recruitment of qualified teachers;***
- ***Continue the construction, rehabilitation and equipping of adapted, secure and inclusive school infrastructure, particularly in rural and highly vulnerable areas.***

CSOs encourage the expansion of pre-school provision through the construction of centres, the integration of early childhood into national education policies and strategies, and the organization of awareness campaigns by the State and its partners. These initiatives have driven up the gross enrolment rate (TBS) from 10% in 2020 to 12.29% in 2025²⁵, the number of teachers from 12,103 (2023-2024) to 12,513 (2024-2025), and the number of classrooms from 9,264 (2023-2024) to 9,956 in [2024-2025](#).

However, CSOs note that the pre-school TBS stood at only 12.29% for 2024-2025.

In this regard, they recommend that the State:

- ***Build additional pre-school classrooms and conduct national awareness campaigns aimed at parents to further increase the pre-school TBS;***
- ***Build and equip more specialized pre-school facilities adapted to children with disabilities.***

CSOs commend the State for progress in completion rates in primary and secondary school, the strengthening of institutional commitment to school retention, and the establishment of the Individualized Support Programme (PAI), which fosters children's retention in school, notably in rural areas²⁶.

²⁵ 2024–2025 Pocket School Statistics, P.25.

²⁶ All data are available in the “2024–2025 Pocket School Statistics” publication.

CSOs deplore the insufficiency of hygiene facilities adapted for girls, notably in rural areas, the persistence of girls' school dropout especially at secondary level, early pregnancies, child marriages and child labour, which continue to particularly affect girls' schooling; insufficient school infrastructure, notably in rural areas; insufficient numbers of social workers and lack of logistical means to ensure regular monitoring of vulnerable children; and insufficient community awareness capable of durably changing certain discriminatory social norms towards girls²⁷.

CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Extend and sustain the “Girls' Spaces” mechanism within all schools;*
- *Train and redeploy sufficient numbers of social workers for proximity support in high-risk areas;*
- *Establish a national dropout monitoring and alert platform, based on disaggregated data (sex, age, disability and region);*
- *Increase direct financial support for destitute families to eliminate dropout caused by economic hardship.*

CSOs commend the State for adopting policies and [national strategies on the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth](#), and for training health workers, [social workers](#) and community actors on reproductive-health issues.

CSOs nevertheless deplore the phenomenon of [early pregnancies](#) in Côte d'Ivoire which, particularly in school settings, persists despite the State's awareness campaigns.

Furthermore, although SRH policies have been strengthened, adolescent girls living in rural areas still face obstacles related to the distance of certain health centres, social and religious norms, the stigmatization of unmarried adolescent girls seeking family-planning services, and the lack of age-appropriate information.

As for girls living with disabilities, they face additional difficulties related to service accessibility, lack of adapted information, and prejudice.

CSOs therefore recommend that the State:

- *Integrate ECS into school curricula while taking Ivorian socio-cultural realities into account, involving parents, community and religious leaders, and youth movements to overcome social reticence;*
- *Extend access to SRH services in rural areas through mobile clinics, outreach strategies and their integration into existing community health centers ;*
- *Recruit and train health personnel capable of providing adolescents with confidential, adapted services free of stigmatizing judgment ;*
- *Amplify national campaigns against early pregnancies and sexual violence, prioritizing areas with high female school-dropout rates ;*
- *Set up listening, information and referral facilities in schools and communities to strengthen the protection of young girls.*

²⁷ See the “2023–2024 and 2024 - 2025 Pocket School Statistics”.

H- SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

i. Refugee and displaced children

CSOs commend the State for opening two refugee centres (Niornigué in the north and Timala in the north-east) to meet the needs of the [75,853 people, 55% of them children](#) (according to UNHCR proGres – 2026, DAARA as of 31 May 2026). They also commend the progress made in education, health, protection and psychosocial support for these children, thanks to collaboration with international agencies, NGOs and host communities.

However, CSOs note the absence of updated disaggregated data on internally displaced children from State databases, even though UNICEF's [December 2025 report](#) counted 12,092 internally forcibly displaced persons, including children, owing to the deteriorating security situation at the country's northern border. They also note the absence of disaggregated data on birth-certificate registration for refugee, migrant and internally displaced children, as well as the insufficiency of reception centres, which fosters overcrowding²⁸, and the absence of data on children displaced by climate change. CSOs note the State's apparent passivity when the population occupies public spaces or land, which later leads to internal displacement at the time of evictions, amplified by the effects of climate change, notably [flooding and landslides, which have caused several fatalities : about 30 in 2023, more than 20 in 2024, around 25 to 30 in 2025, and 59 in 2026](#))²⁹.

In addition, CSOs note that climate change is contributing to the increase in child labour in agriculture, fishing and mining, and is worsening household poverty by causing forced displacement. Poor harvests, loss of livestock and water shortages are pushing families to resort to child labour as a survival strategy³⁰.

Furthermore, gender analysis shows that security, migration and climate crises reinforce existing inequalities between girls and boys. Indeed, girls - particularly adolescent girls and girls with disabilities - face increased vulnerabilities in terms of protection, education and health. Boys, in particular adolescent boys, are perceived as needing to quickly contribute to family income, which increases school dropout and their exposure to physical and psychological violence. Girls, meanwhile, are often exposed to sexual abuse and exploitation.

Given the current situation described, CSOs recommend:

- ***Producing disaggregated data (by sex, age, disability and climate factor) and systematically registering all children in civil registries;***
- ***Guaranteeing asylum-seeking children's access to higher-education institutions and colleges;***
- ***Strengthening synergy between the State and local child-protection organizations.***

²⁸ Source: Asmae study, 2022-2023.

²⁹ https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20260702-59-morts-inondations-debut-saison-pluies-cote-ivoire-afrique-abidjan?utm_source=copilot.com
https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1809132/societe/inondations-en-cote-divoire-59-morts-selon-le-porte-parole-du-gouvernement/?utm_source=copilot.com

³⁰ Informations issues de la collecte données en juin 2026

ii. Children in conflict with the law

The establishment of [SPJEJ units in the 39 first-instance courts](#)³¹, the existence of 3 COMs, the relocation of the PPA's COM to Bingerville, and 2 CRMs. In addition, 109 children received legal assistance from lawyers through the DPJEJ-UNICEF partnership. CSOs also note the growing number of PJEJ staff (236 in 2023, versus 298 in 2024 and 387 in 2025)³², the adoption of the 4th PAPS 2026-2030, which provides for the construction of CHPMs, and, lastly, collaboration between the State, PTFs and CSOs.

However, they deplore the absence of COMs and CRMs at most courts, the low reception capacity of existing structures, and the difficulty of separating certain COMs from adult detention facilities.

In view of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- **Take appropriate measures to guarantee the separation of adults and minors throughout judicial proceedings ;**
- **Sign agreements with local children's-rights organizations for the implementation of reintegration projects for children in conflict with the law.**

CSOs commend the State for its ongoing commitment to the judicial framework for children and youth, notably through the popularization of laws, public awareness-raising, and the strengthening of judicial and police actors' capacities with the support of organizations such as AFJCI and CNDH.

However, CSOs note the non-adoption of the PNPJEJ, whose draft has existed since 2024.

In view of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State accelerate the adoption of the PNPJEJ and provide it with sufficient resources for its implementation.

iii. Children of imprisoned mothers

CSOs commend the State for the strict application of Article 46 of the Penal Code and Article 223 of Decree No. 2023-239 of 5 April 2023 on the regulation of penitentiary establishments and setting the procedures for detention execution.

CSOs encourage the State to continue its efforts to apply these two articles.

iv. Sexual exploitation

CSOs commend Côte d'Ivoire's legislative framework and firm commitment against gender-based violence (GBV), marked notably by the **national commitment of 13 June 2026** under the patronage of the First Lady for “zero tolerance”, the existence of the **PNEEG 2024-2030**, and the creation of the **PNLGBV**. In addition, there are community reporting mechanisms and assistance hotlines (**1308** and **116**), as well as the establishment of local platforms (“Child Protection” and GBV) bringing together the State, NGOs and technical partners to coordinate actions, pool resources, and strengthen the care of vulnerable children and awareness actions on child protection and combating GBV, carried out by the MFFE (2,717 localities reached by awareness activities)³³ and by the DPJEJ (3,643 localities in 2024).

However, the toll-free helplines that have been established are not available 24 hours a day, and the persistent use of amicable settlements often escapes the attention of the competent authorities, thereby limiting the prosecution and conviction of certain perpetrators. Furthermore, although a medical certificate is no longer required when filing a complaint, it remains an essential element in the subsequent stages of the proceedings, and its provision free of charge has not yet been fully ensured for all survivors. Lastly, the statistical yearbooks of the ministries responsible for justice and children reveal that in 2025, of 10,747 reported

³¹ 2024 - 2025 Judicial and Prison Statistics Yearbook, Page 83.

³² 2024 - 2025 Judicial and Prison Statistics Yearbook of Côte d'Ivoire, Page 76.

³³ MFFE Statistical Yearbook 2025, (Page 14)

GBV cases, only 10.8%³⁴ resulted in a formal complaint, i.e. 1,161 GBV cases. Of these 1,161 cases, 57.67% concerned rape, i.e. 670 cases. Of these 670 rape cases, the justice system reports having processed 370³⁵ cases through first-instance prosecutors' offices.

In view of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Ensure the 24/7 operation of assistance hotlines (1308 and 116) by strengthening staffing and operator shift coverage;*
- *Take steps to make medical certificates genuinely free of charge;*
- *Combat out-of-court settlements by establishing a strict protocol of prohibition and community-level awareness-raising, and by making it mandatory for law enforcement to pursue cases ex officio as soon as a GBV case is reported;*
- *Increase the processing capacity of first-instance prosecutors' offices to reduce the critical gap between reports and prosecutions;*
- *Financially support local platforms ("Child Protection" and GBV) to maintain synergy between State services, NGOs and technical partners nationwide.*

CSOs commend the State for issuing Orders No. 0075/MEN/DELC of 28 September 2009 banning PPH against pupils in schools, and No. 0041/MENETFP/DELC of 13 April 2017 on the creation, organization, functioning and remit of CMEF clubs, which help combat physical assault, gender discrimination, early marriage and violence against girls in the education system.

However, CSOs note that the integration of clear GBV-module content into the training curricula of institutions such as CAFOP and ENS is not yet effective. Also, with only 42 dedicated bureaus for more than 300 territorial units (police/gendarmerie), not all children manage to access a gender bureau.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Formalize networked collaboration between gender bureaus, the Minors' Brigade, SPJEE, health and justice actors to ensure comprehensive, continuous follow-up of victims;*
- *Integrate a GBV-prevention module into EDHC courses starting from the primary cycle;*
- *Extend the operational presence of SDLTEDJ nationwide;*
- *Establish a periodic mechanism to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of gender bureaus and units.*

CSOs commend the State for making statistical yearbooks available, which include disaggregated child-protection data.

However, CSOs note the existence of digital violence³⁶. Indeed, [12,100 complaints related to incivility and cybercrime were recorded in 2024](#). In addition, 2,822 complaints concerned violations of human dignity, identity theft, attacks on image or honour, and content misappropriation for that same year. Such violence can be ongoing and have a lasting impact on victims' lives, particularly among the 15-25 age group, the most affected bracket.

³⁴ 2025 Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Women, Family and Children, p 32.

³⁵ 2024 - 2025 Judicial and Prison Statistics Yearbook, p 108.

³⁶ Digital violence encompasses acts of harassment, threats, blackmail, invasion of privacy, unauthorized dissemination of images, or identity theft committed through digital media. Anonymity, the speed of exchanges, and the widespread use of social networks increase the risks.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Finalize as soon as possible the adoption of the law on regulating minors' access to the internet and their protection in digital spaces;***
- ***Collect data on digital violence against children and disaggregate it in future statistical yearbooks;***
- ***Ensure, in liaison with the ministries of the interior and of justice, traceability of complaints concerning violations against minors;***
- ***Develop an integrated, interconnected platform among protection structures (health, justice, social action) to ensure rapid, harmonized data flow;***
- ***Popularize statistical yearbooks among communities to reduce violations against children.***

CSOs commend the State for establishing a national mechanism to coordinate the care of child victims of violence. The State is also commended for rolling out the project “Strengthening border-area governance to consolidate social cohesion and prevent conflict”, funded by the Peace Building Fund (PBF) and implemented with UNICEF and UNDP. This project has concretely revitalized local cross-border child-protection mechanisms (e.g. Tchologo and Bounkani on the Ivorian side)³⁷. At the national level, Côte d'Ivoire has mechanisms to combat trafficking and the illicit movement of children, notably SOSTECI, MNR, DLTE, CNS, CIM and SDLTEDJ.

However, porous borders undermine all initiatives to combat cross-border trafficking. The National Referral Mechanism (MNR) is not fluid, as not all elements rely solely on State structures - many private structures are also involved.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State consolidate operational collaboration with neighbouring countries to secure borders and curb cross-border child trafficking.

CSOs commend the State for all its actions taken to protect children against cybercrime and all forms of violence in the Digital Space, notably the creation of the PLCC and ANSSI. They also note the existence of a draft bill regulating minors' access to the internet and their protection in digital spaces, the ratification of the AU Convention on Cybersecurity and the drafting of its national strategy, as well as the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection and Empowerment of Children in the Digital Space.

However, CSOs note that the National Strategy for the Protection and Empowerment of Children in the Digital Space has not yet been made operational nationally.

In light of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Adopt as soon as possible the law regulating minors' access to the internet and their protection in digital spaces;***
- ***Allocate a dedicated budget line within the State budget to finance the operational action plan of the National Strategy for the Protection and Empowerment of Children in the Digital Space;***
- ***Deploy national awareness campaigns and provide families and schools with adapted filtering and protection tools.***

v. Sale, abduction and trafficking of children

CSOs commend the State for strengthening the institutional, legislative, strategic and operational framework in the fight against child trafficking. These include, notably, the revision of the Penal Code strengthening the

³⁷ [Rapport final Évaluation formative du projet transfrontalier CIVBFA “renforcer la gouvernance des zones frontalières pour consolider la cohésion sociale et prévenir les conflits”.](#)

repression of trafficking perpetrators; the 2025-2029 National Action Plan to combat trafficking, exploitation and child labour, embodying the synergy of action among State actors, CSOs, the private sector and technical and financial partners; Standard Operating Procedures (POS); and the development of the National Referral Mechanism (MNR). In addition, there is the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CNLTP), the National Monitoring Committee for Actions Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour (CNS), SDLTEDJ, SOSTECI and DLTE.

However, child trafficking persists: [1,857 child trafficking victims rescued and 603 arrests in 2023](#).

In this regard, CSOs encourage the State to continue its reaffirmed commitment to preventing and repressing trafficking in persons in all its forms. They accordingly recommend:

- *Strengthening the response mechanism to the phenomenon of trafficking and exploitation of children, as well as the capacities of NGOs engaged in combating trafficking in persons, for greater effectiveness;*
- *Equipping early-warning and identification mechanisms, as well as care mechanisms, with autonomous financial and human resources;*
- *Training personnel working to combat trafficking on the National Referral Mechanism, the Child Labour Observation and Monitoring System in Côte d'Ivoire, and the Standard Operating Procedures;*
- *Providing figures on rehabilitation and reintegration services offered to child victims of trafficking, child labour and exploitation.*

CSOs recognize the existence of a mechanism deployed in cases of child abduction known as the “[abduction alert plan](#)”, in response to the [growing number of child abduction and disappearance cases](#)³⁸, and the Police service line for child abduction, [100 \(toll-free\) or 01 70 900 600 \(WhatsApp\)](#)³⁹. However, CSOs note the persistence of abductions (32 cases handled in 2024 and 35 in 2025)⁴⁰, as well as the low rate of deployment, which is burdened by complicated cumulative criteria.

In view of the foregoing, CSOs recommend that the State:

- *Automate search notices and the deployment of first-response units as soon as a presumed abduction is reported, without waiting for the end of the preliminary-investigation deadlines;*
- *Establish a centralized, automated national registry of missing-child and abduction reports, interconnected between the Police, Gendarmerie and Justice, for real-time monitoring;*
- *Interconnect the alert system with enhanced surveillance at border posts and transit points (roads, airports, tollbooths) to prevent children from being taken out of the country;*
- *Strengthen the operational capacity of the 100 hotline and the WhatsApp number (01 70 900 600), and run awareness campaigns to make these numbers known to the general public.*

vi. Street children

CSOs commend the State of Côte d'Ivoire for the efforts undertaken to protect children in street situations. These are reflected in the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children and Adolescents in Social Rupture and the Emergency Plan for the withdrawal of children from street situations, endowed with a budget of 1.2 billion CFAF (XOF), led by the MFFE, which has reduced the phenomenon

³⁸ [Missing Child Alert Plan / NCI Report](#)

³⁹ [Ministry of the Interior and Security: News – Activities](#)

⁴⁰ 2024–2025 Judicial and Prison Statistics Yearbook of Côte d'Ivoire, Page 108

of children and adolescents in social rupture, commonly known as “microbes”; the installation of secure spaces for children (“Child-Friendly Spaces”) during refugee influxes or crises; the launch of the “Zero Children in Street Situations” initiative, resulting in the equipping of 5 large transit centres; the adoption of Decree No. 2023-90 of 15 February 2023 to regulate foster-family placement and promote alternative care; and civic training and health education for young people by the Secretariat of State for Civic Service, aimed at rehabilitating hundreds of vulnerable young people through specialized centres (e.g. Guingéréni in Boundiali). However, CSOs note certain shortcomings, namely: the absence of statistical data in the State's report, which prevents assessing the real implementation of this strategy; the lack of State-run reception centres in most administrative regions of the country; and low subsidies for CSOs - the State's partners - that run reception, transit and socio-professional reintegration centres.

In view of these findings, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Build and equip State-run reception, transit and reintegration centres across all administrative regions of the country, to ensure complete and equitable territorial coverage;***
- ***Create a national information and archiving system (with a unique identifier per child) to document the situation of street children, evaluate the real impact of street withdrawals, and provide precise indicators on their socio-educational reintegration;***
- ***Significantly increase financial support to CSOs managing reception, transit and socio-professional reintegration centres, in order to consolidate their partnership with the State and strengthen their field-level care capacities.***

vii. Harmful practices

CSOs note with satisfaction the good collaboration among religious leaders, traditional leaders, civil society and State actors in promoting the abandonment of harmful practices through awareness-raising, training and reporting; the creation of local child-protection committees involving village chiefs; the existence of the 2021-2025 national plan to promote the abandonment of FGM; the adoption of the MFFE's 2024-2026 strategic plan on combating GBV; and the repression of FGM under Articles 394 to 398 of the Ivorian Penal Code.

Despite all the State's efforts, the phenomenon persists, all the more so since the 2021-2025 plan to combat FGM was never implemented. Also, CSOs note that the phenomenon has become cross-border, with young girls being taken to neighbouring countries to be cut⁴¹.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State:

- ***Strengthen collaboration and synergy between the State and CSOs, together with community and religious leaders, on combating GBV and harmful practices;***
- ***Strengthen cross-border provisions to combat FGM;***
- ***Specify, within the remit of Kings and traditional chiefs, their commitments to promoting the abandonment of harmful traditional “GBV” practices;***
- ***Update the national plan to promote the abandonment of FGM and provide it with a budget for its implementation;***
- ***Strictly apply Law No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 on the repression of certain forms of violence against women;***
- ***Encourage legislators to harmonize the age of sexual majority (15 years) with the marriage age (18 years).***

⁴¹ Information collected as part of the data collection process for this supplementary report, June 2026

I- RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHILD

The responsibility of the child remains a focus of interest for the State Party, verifiable through the subject of Education on Human Rights and Citizenship (EDHC), which has been included in the school curriculum from the primary cycle through to the 3rd grade. This subject addresses children's rights and duties. In 4th and 3rd grade, one lesson focuses on “Citizen Behaviours”, enabling students to learn their duties towards institutions, the symbols of the Republic (respect for the national flag and anthem), and community cohesion. Civil society also supports the State's efforts through awareness-raising and capacity-building projects within communities, so that children assume their responsibilities, ensure their self-protection against abuse, and so that local authorities and community leaders are supportive of their involvement in local governance.

Despite these efforts, CSOs note insufficient understanding of the issue of children's rights and duties among certain parents. Also, Côte d'Ivoire still does not have a Children's Code enabling all actors to better frame their actions, even though, as part of monitoring the implementation of recommendations, the Forum of NGOs brought together CIMPE Expert Committee members, including children, from 11 to 14 August 2025, to discuss the question of the Children's Code.

In light of the shortcomings identified, CSOs recommend that the State Party:

- ***Strengthen community awareness-raising to reassure communities that children's duties are taken into account in protection mechanisms;***
- ***Raise children's awareness of their responsibilities and develop mechanisms and channels for expressing these obligations;***
- ***Develop and adopt the Children's Code to further frame child protection.***

J- ENVIRONMENT

i. Legal framework relating to the environment

CSOs commend the State for taking children's rights into account in the Environmental Code⁴², the revision of the Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0 (NDC 3.0), and the Maritime Code⁴³. These provisions herald good climate governance. However, other provisions do not explicitly take children's rights into account: the law on coastal protection⁴⁴, the Water Code⁴⁵, the measures on taking children's rights into account in the NDC 3.0 and the BTR (<https://environnement.gouv.ci/actAULite/333>), the Fisheries and Aquaculture Code⁴⁶, the Forestry Code⁴⁷, the law on waste management⁴⁸, the Mining Code⁴⁹ (currently being adopted), and the law on national parks and nature reserves⁵⁰.

In this regard, CSOs recommend that the State Party explicitly take children's rights into account during the forthcoming revisions of these various laws.

⁴² Law No. 2023-900 of 23 November 2023 on the Environmental Code, particularly Articles 14, 52, 53 and 54, which specifically address children's participation in climate decision-making processes and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs).

⁴³ Law No. 2017-442 of 30 June 2017 on the Ivorian Maritime Code.

⁴⁴ Law No. 2017-378 of 2 June 2017 on the development, protection and integrated management of the coastline.

⁴⁵ Law No. 2023-902 of 23 November 2023 of the forest Code (Law No. 2019-675 of 23 July 2019).

⁴⁶ Law No 2016-554 of 26 July 2016

⁴⁷ Law No. 2019-675 of 23 July 2019 on the Forest Code.

⁴⁸ Law No. 2023-429 of 22 May 2023 on waste management.

⁴⁹ Law No 2014-

⁵⁰ Law No. 2002-102 of 11 February 2002 on the establishment, management and financing of national parks and nature reserves.

iii. Strategic and operational framework relating to the environment

CSOs commend the State for the existence of national monitoring committees for the environment and climate change, and environmental focal points within certain ministries. They note the completion of the [evaluation of climate action in Côte d'Ivoire](#)⁵¹ and major infrastructure works and projects (WACA Project)⁵². In addition, there is the “Blue Côte d'Ivoire” Initiative, with a national plan endowed with about 208 billion CFAF (XOF) focused on the sustainable enhancement of marine resources, the creation of green/blue jobs, and coastal protection, as well as WACA+ as well as WACA+⁵³ (the extension of the WACA programme validated to cover new critical zones such as the Assinie sand spit. CSOs also note with satisfaction the existence of the Network of Coastal Municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire (RECOL-CI), which conducts environmental-protection initiatives, such as the [awareness day held on 19 October 2024 in San-Pédro](#)⁵⁴ to draw further attention to the precarity of populations caused by coastal erosion. CSOs commend the establishment of a consultation framework between State actors, CSOs and businesses to account for children's rights in business operations.

However, CSOs note the insecurity in coastal zones due to risks linked to illegal marine sand extraction, which is worsening coastal erosion⁵⁵. Indeed, although ANAGIL is provided for in the legal texts to regulate these spaces, civil society (35 CSOs from the Benkadi network) had to conduct public advocacy to demand the effective signing of its implementing decrees and its operationalization on the ground⁵⁶.

The Terms of Reference for ESIA do not include a paragraph dedicated to consulting children, as stipulated by the Ivorian Environmental Code.

CSOs therefore recommend that the State:

- *Intensify the popularization of laws, mechanisms and policies among communities and children;*
- *Strengthen oversight of ESIA consulting firms during studies to ensure the consultation of children, by effectively integrating a paragraph dedicated to taking children's views into account in ESIA Terms of Reference, in accordance with the Environmental Code;*
- *Strengthen children's participation in climate governance;*
- *Strengthen social safety nets for vulnerable families following climate disasters;*
- *Redefine public policies to protect populations and drive the economic development of the coastline;*
- *Revise the coastal code to specifically integrate a child-focused component;*
- *Accelerate the adoption of the Mining Code, make it sensitive to children's rights, popularize it among all stakeholders, and allocate it a sufficient budget for its implementation;*
- *Finance children's participation in environmental programmes.*

⁵¹ <https://environnement.gouv.ci/uploads/publications/177332542898.pdf>

⁵² <https://www.fratmat.info/article/2642443/economie/erosion-cotiere-la-cote-divoire-accelere-la-lutte-avec-la-construction-dinfrastructures-majeures>

⁵³ <https://environnement.gouv.ci/accueil>

⁵⁴ <https://recolci.ci/2024/10/19/journee-de-sensibilisation/>

⁵⁵ https://www.woordendaad.nl/app/uploads/2024/03/Etude-6-Rapport-definitif_CIRES.pdf

⁵⁶ <https://www.aip.ci/cote-divoire-aip-trente-cinq-osc-plaident-pour-la-signature-du-decret-de-creation-de-lagence-nationale-de-gestion-integree-du-littoral/>

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