

Forced Labor Indicators Project (FLIP)



Spotlight: Second Joint Technical Working Group Meeting in Big Ada, Ghana



Group photo of Technical Working Group members from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and Ms. Yune Lee, Senior International Relations Officer at USDOL.

On August 3 and 4, 2023, a Joint Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting between members of the Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire FLIP TWGs was held in Big Ada, Ghana. This follows the first joint meeting held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in February 2023. The meeting aimed to review the main recommendations from the first meeting, provide an update on achievements and impact of the project, and discuss opportunities for collaboration and joint strategies on efforts against forced labor.

The two-day workshop brought together over thirty (30) members from government ministries, civil society organizations, trade unions and private sector organizations from both Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire. Also in attendance was Ms. Yune Lee, USDOL Senior International Relations Officer and FLIP Project Officer. In her remarks, Ms. Lee reiterated the U.S. government's commitment in supporting the efforts of both governments against forced labor. She also commended the strong collaboration between the two TWGs. The Acting Chief Labor Officer of the Ghana Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, Mr. Dawuda Braimah gave the official opening remarks for the meeting stating that the issue of forced labor in the world of work was a matter of priority and requires the collaboration of all actors.

A major highlight of the meeting was discussions related to regional collaborations against forced labor. Discussions centered on identifying key gaps in stakeholder capacity, and developing capacity building action plans together to address some of the identified gaps.

Mr. Amany Konan, from the Oversight Committee to Combat Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor (CNS) in Côte d'Ivoire, in speaking on the next steps, made recommendations including capitalizing on what had been learnt in the workshop, contextualizing the forced labor indicators to suit the national context and integrating forced labor into national action plans.



[Visit the FLIP website](#)

Trainings on Forced Labor in Côte d'Ivoire



Forced labor trainings run by FLIP in Côte d'Ivoire (from top left): Social and Cultural Affairs Committee of the National Assembly; Labor Inspectors; Police officers from the Korhogo Police Academy

Forced Labor Training for the National Assembly

On July 5, FLIP conducted a one-day training for the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee (CASC) of the National Assembly on forced labor. Twenty-five (25) people from the Committee participated in the training, including Members of Parliament, the Secretary General, parliamentary assistants, and administrative staff. During the training, several topics were covered including forced labor and human trafficking, the ILO's indicators of forced labor, root causes of forced labor, and practical guidance for contextualizing forced labor indicators.

Forced Labor Training-of-Trainers for Labor Inspectors

Following a successful first ToT on forced labor for labor inspectors in March 2023, and working together with the General Directorate of Labor, the FLIP team led the second Training of Trainers (ToT) for labor inspectors in Côte d'Ivoire from July 25 – 27. Thirty (30) people participated in the second ToT, including twenty-four (24) labor inspectors, mainly General Directors. It is expected that these ToTs will enable participants to be able to cascade the knowledge down to their colleagues.

Forced Labor Training for the Korhogo Police Academy

From August 28 to 29, the FLIP team conducted a training for Ivorian police officers, in particular the Korhogo Police Academy. The training brought together thirty (30) participants, including supervisors, student police commissioners, officers, and non-commissioned officers. The aim was to equip national police officers to be more effective on their efforts on forced labor and human trafficking in the course of their duties. Using a participatory approach, the topics covered included: international standards on forced labor and human trafficking; Côte d'Ivoire's legal and policy frameworks relating to forced labor and human trafficking; risk assessment and understanding the root causes of forced labor. The training also covered law enforcement strategies and approaches for police officers; strengthening investigations in the informal economy and the importance of prevention.

[Visit the FLIP website](#)

Forced Labor Trainings in Ghana





Forced labor trainings run by FLIP in Ghana (from top left): Law Enforcement Officers; World Cocoa Foundation; MELR Staff; Police officers; MELR and the Domestic Workers Union

Forced Labor Training for the Ghana Immigration Service

Officers of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Persons Unit of the Ghana Immigration Service participated in a two-day training on forced labor on July 4 and 5, 2023. The training aimed at building the capacity of officers to understand forced labor and its related concepts, the International Labor Organization's (ILO) forced labor indicators and its approach. Participants engaged in interactive exercises and case studies to apply these indicators to real-life scenarios. As a result of this training, the participating officers are better equipped to better identify, investigate, and respond to potential forced labor issues within their jurisdiction.

Forced Labor Training for Staff Members from the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations

Two (2) one-day trainings on forced labor were conducted for a total of seventy-nine (79) staff of the Ministry of Employment & Labor Relations (MELR) on August 28 and 29, 2023. The trainings were facilitated by the MELR representatives who sit on the FLIP TWG and who have also been trained in FLIP ToTs on forced labor. The MELR in Ghana has the mandate of formulating policies on labor and employment issues and coordinating employment related interventions. Thus the knowledge gained by the staff will contribute to the work of the ministry, particularly on forced labor related policies.

Forced Labor Step-Down Trainings for Police Officers

In October 2022, twenty (20) officers from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Ghana Police Service undertook a Training of Trainers (ToT) on forced labor conducted by FLIP. These Officers were selected from all the AHTU regional offices in the country and trained to be able to replicate the trainings (step-down) to their colleague officers. Following the ToTs the step-down trainings were conducted from July 2 through to September 19, 2023 across the country, covering selected officers from all regions of Ghana. These step-down trainings have increased the capacity of the police officers on the ILO's indicators of forced labor and will enhance their law enforcement efforts against issues of labor trafficking.

Forced Labor Training for Law Enforcement Officers

FLIP collaborated with the Human Trafficking Secretariat of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) as part of the World Day Against Trafficking In Persons (Blue Day) celebrations, to train law enforcement officers from the Ghana Police Service and the Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO). The two-day training of these officers from July 12 to 13 build their capacity on the concepts of forced labor and the ILO's indicators of forced labor amongst many other related topics. Additionally, the training enhanced collaboration among the participating officers from the different institutions to better collaborate on law enforcement efforts on forced labor and human trafficking.

Forced Labor Training-of-Trainers for the World Cocoa Foundation

From August 29 to 31, 2023, FLIP conducted a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for members of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) in Ghana on forced labor and the ILO's indicators of forced labor. The training also covered other related areas such the legal frameworks on forced labor in Ghana, root causes of forced labor and the ILO's indicator approach in identifying risk of forced labor. With this ToT, participants will in turn be able to cascade down the knowledge gained and also incorporate learnings into their programing at the field level.

Forced Labor Training for Labor Inspectors and the Domestic Workers Union

On September 4 and 5, 2023, a select number of labor inspectors of the MELR and executives of the Domestic Services Workers Union of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) were trained on the Labor (Domestic Workers') Regulations, (L.I. 2408) which was passed in 2020. The purpose of the regulation is to protect the rights of domestic workers and set out regulations to guide the relationship between domestic workers and their employees. It also makes reference to domestic workers not being subject to forced labor. Participants of the training were also given a refresher on forced labor. This training was facilitated by the MELR representatives who sit on the FLIP TWG. FLIP is confident that the training of these two groups will contribute to the fulfillment of their respective mandates.

[Visit the FLIP website](#)

Project and Contact Information

For more information, contact Josephine Dadzie at jdadzie@verite.org or Helga Osei Aku at hoseiaku@verite.org.

Funding is provided by the United States Department of Labor under cooperative agreement number IL-31474. 100 percent of the total costs of the project or program is financed with federal funds, for a total of 4,362,897 dollars. This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.

Follow Verité



Verité
413.253.9227
verite@verite.org
verite.org

The photo(s) included in this email are used solely to illustrate the locations and situations in which risk of forced or child labor is being discussed. The people shown in the photo(s) do not represent any specific person or group of people noted in the text unless otherwise specified.

Verité | 44 Belchertown Road, Amherst, MA 01002

[Unsubscribe](#) comms@verite.org

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by flip@verite.org