

## FLIP

Forced Labor Indicators Project

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### Introduction from the FLIP Team

We are happy to share the latest updates on FLIP events, including a just-ended collaboration between the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana FLIP Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to raise awareness on forced labor and human trafficking.

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### Côte d'Ivoire Country Updates



#### Joint Technical Working Group (TWG) Event

From August 26th to 30th, 2024, an awareness raising and sensitization campaign on forced labor and human trafficking was held by the joint Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana in Aboisso and Noé, two (2) cities in Sud-Comoé region, Côte d'Ivoire.

The objectives were first to take stock of and monitor actions taken by TWG members in their respective institutions on forced labor and human trafficking. Secondly, the event aimed to raise awareness among authorities and communities about forced labor, human trafficking and related risks; and finally, to build capacity of transport union leaders, communities and religious leaders, law enforcement agents (Police, Immigration, Gendarmerie "military police" and Customs) to understand, identify and report risks of forced labor and human trafficking.

The activity was important for effective coordination and collaboration among national and international stakeholders involved in FLIP implementation in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana as well as stakeholders relevant to the topics of forced labor and human trafficking. It provided the platform for each TWG member to provide insight on their institutional contribution to the work on forced labor and human trafficking in both countries and share experience and best practices.

The number of participants, excluding the TWG members and Verité team was 31 in Aboisso and 39 in Noé. Participants were selected from communities in and around the borders of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, and driver unions who move between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

After the awareness raising event, participants demonstrated their level of understanding of the subject matter through role plays that highlighted human trafficking and forced labor, their identification, risks, reporting and remediation approaches.

Through this event, participants also learnt that the two countries were using the same 4P approach (Prevention, Protection, Partnership and Prosecution) in addressing human trafficking and forced labor. This approach engages all stakeholders to collaborate on these two issues.

The event was an opportunity for the Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire institutions working on the subject area to meet each other. An official from Ghana said happily "it was great meeting my counterpart from Côte d'Ivoire and exchanging contacts...it will facilitate the coordination of our actions". "We need to be very careful about who the travelers are in our vehicles to avoid being indicted as a trafficker" said a participant from a Côte d'Ivoire transport union. The Superintendent of Tiapoum expressed the need of having similar events in all the cities and communities along the Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire border.



Left: Group picture at the Aboisso meeting in August. Right: Aboisso meeting in August.



Left: Group picture of Noé awareness raising campaign. Right: Consultation between the deputy police superintendent from CDI and participant.

## Benin Country Updates



### **Workshop for Members of the National Steering Committee for the Fight Against Child Labor**

On September 4th and 5th, a workshop was organized for members of the National Steering Committee for the fight against child labor, on the International Labor Organization's (ILO) indicators of forced labor and on human trafficking, at the Ministry of Labor.

Thirty-nine (39) participants attended, including key ministry representatives, legal advisors, members of civil society, and the National Council of Employers representatives, who are members of the committee. Although initially scheduled for one day, the engaging discussions led the event to extend to two days.

The training enhanced synergy and collaboration among stakeholders, setting a strong foundation for coordinated efforts on forced labor and human trafficking.

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### **ToT for Members of the FLIP Technical Working Group and GUPs (Single Windows for Social Protection)**

From September 10th to 12th, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was held for members of the FLIP Technical Working Group and Guichets Uniques de Protection Sociale (GUPs, Single Windows for Social Protection) on the International Labor Organization (ILO) Indicators on Forced Labor and on Human Trafficking. Thirty-one (31) participants attended, representing various departments.

The discussions throughout the workshop were notably active and engaging. The event concluded with participants expressing their satisfaction and enthusiasm for further engagement on the subject.



*Members of the FLIP Technical Working Group and GUPs (Single Windows for Social Protection) in September.*

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### **Training and Information Workshop for the Confederations of Farmers and Producers and the Transporters' Associations of Benin**

On September 13th, a training and information workshop was organized for the Confederations of Farmers and Producers and the Transporters' Associations of Benin. Nineteen (19) participants attended, representing various departments of the country. Among the participants were producers of cotton, pineapple, rice, transporters, as well as representatives from the National Platform of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations in Benin.

This workshop provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange which participants found very beneficial. They expressed great interest in the topics discussed and their eagerness to continue exploring the issues.





Photo from left: The General Director of Labor speaking at the training and information workshop for the Confederations of Farmers and Producers and the Transporters' Associations of Benin in Calavi, Benin. Second and third from left: Participants and Verité Staff at the training.

## Ghana Country Updates



### Training with Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP)

As part of the events in commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2024 (Blue Day 2024), FLIP, in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) organized a two-day training for fifty (50) law enforcement officers. The training was held on July 24th and 25th 2024, at the Coconut Groove Hotel in Accra. Participating officers were trained in identifying, investigating and reporting suspected forced labor and Trafficking in Persons (TIP) cases. Participants were also equipped with knowledge on the national reporting mechanisms to ensure accurate and timely documentation. The training also promoted inter-agency collaboration among officers from the different law enforcement agencies. The sessions were co-facilitated by experts from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Ghana Police Service, the Narcotics Control Commission (NCC), Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations (MELR) and the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), some of whom have been trained through FLIP. Thus, providing an opportunity to cascade down knowledge from FLIP trainings.



Left: A section of law enforcement officers during the training. Right: Group photo with officers, MoGCSP staff and Verité.

## Closing Remarks

Congratulations to our Ivorian and Ghanaian TWG members for successfully conducting a joint event highlighting your commitment to the cause of ensuring that people have the right information to keep them and others from falling victims of forced labor and human trafficking.

## Meet our new team members



**Laurette TOVALOU EKON**  
*FLIP Benin Country Director*

Laurette TOVALOU EKON brings 25 years of dedicated experience in sustainable development and human rights, child labor, human trafficking, and labor law abuses. With a robust background in training, capacity building, project management, and strategic partnerships, she currently serves as the Country Director for the FLIP project in Benin.

She is proud to be part of the FLIP team and looks forward to embracing new challenges with Verité in the pursuit of a fair, safe, and legal world of work.



**Maria DJON**  
*FLIP Benin Project Associate*

Maria DJON boasts a background in business development, logistics, and coaching, supported by studies in social sciences. Before joining the FLIP team, she spent 7 years spearheading initiatives in the IT, hospitality, and travel sectors, focusing on optimizing operations, cultivating partnerships, and fostering sustainable growth.

Passionate about social change, Maria has championed initiatives addressing issues such as mental slavery, facilitating access to vital resources, and establishing support networks to support victims of emotional abuse.



**Sophiatou BABAEDJOU COLLIE**  
*FLIP Côte d'Ivoire Country Director*

Sophiatou has 20 years' work experience in the private sector and sustainable development in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire. She has worked in the areas of legal and regulatory assessment, program and project management, lobbying and advocacy plan development and implementation, technical and organizational capacity assessment and development,



**Stéphane MONNEY**  
*FLIP Côte d'Ivoire Project Associate*

Stéphane MONNEY is from Côte d'Ivoire. He has a degree in computer science and in finance, accounting and business management. He has been working for 15 years in administration, financial and logistics management for national and international organizations in Côte d'Ivoire. Stéphane is excited to be part of the FLIP team in Côte d'Ivoire as a Project Associate.

network analysis, organizational performance index assessment and analysis, collateral management, marketing, financial modelling and investment analysis.

In her advocacy duties, Sophiatou contributed to the contents of the zero tax Presidential Executive Order No. 73 issued by President Helen Johnson Sirleaf on December 1, 2015 on the importation of all agricultural equipment and inputs into Liberia.

[Visit the FLIP website](#)

## Project and Contact Information

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