

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITHIN AND FROM AFRICA

Co-organised by **Caritas Internationalis** and the **Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People**

DRAFT AGENDA

5 September 2016 – 7 September 2016

Abuja - Nigeria

hosted by **CARITAS NIGERIA**

ISSUE: Child exploitation, trafficking and labour in Africa

CURRENT SITUATION IN AFRICA

- Many children are directly or indirectly exploited in various circumstances, such as sexual exploitation, domestic work, work in mines or on agricultural plantations, recruitment by groups and armed forces in conflict zones;
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 59 million children between 5 and 17 years of age, equivalent to 1 in 5 children, work mainly on the continent's plantations and in mines;
- According to UNICEF, around 40,000 children were working in the mines of Katanga in the south-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2014 (quoted in *Jeune Afrique*, 56th year, no. 2894, of 26 June to 2 July 2016);
- Almost all the children are employed in the informal sector;
- They are insufficiently protected by public authorities, unable to go to school and often perform dangerous tasks that are harmful to their health (such as carrying heavy loads, using sharp objects, handling chemicals, sexual exploitation).

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Raising of all stakeholders' awareness of the problem so that they may engage in the fight against trafficking/ exploitation of children
- Dissemination of existing texts (conventions, laws, etc.) and their implementation

- Creation of a favourable environment for the fight against trafficking/exploitation and child labour in Africa (development of protection mechanisms, etc.).

STAKEHOLDERS WORKING ON THE ISSUE AND THEIR ROLES

No.	Actors	Roles	Recommendations
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public authorities - Parliament - Governments - Justice system - Specialised services (police, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting legislation - Decision makers - Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening of anti-trafficking laws - Punishment of actors in the child trafficking chain
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National, regional, sub-regional and international NGOs - Faith-based organisations - Local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy and lobbying - Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of surveillance and protection mechanisms - Strengthening of networking
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multinational companies in the mining and/or agricultural sectors - Cooperatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploitation/trafficking of children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assuming their societal/social responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Criminal networks, suppliers, pimps, etc. - Many and various intermediaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploitation/trafficking of children 	

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES OF ACTIONS CARRIED OUT AND THE CHANGES ACHIEVED

A. BY OTHER ACTORS?

In the mining sector

- Disclosures and/or pressure from NGOs and media, for example:
 - o in January 2016: AfreWatch and Amnesty International produced a report that accused 16 large groups (including Apple, Samsung, Microsoft and Sony) of not carrying out basic checks to ensure that their product manufacturing did not include cobalt mined by children in the DRC, which represent 50% of global cobalt production

- in March 2016, the newspaper Le Monde accused Lafarge–Holcim of manufacturing cement made from ore mined by children in Uganda
- Lukewarm commitments from stakeholders such as mining sector multinationals. For example, in response to Le Monde's accusation, Lafarge–Holcim states that "an in-depth investigation was carried out by qualified independent auditors who found no material evidence that Hima (its Ugandan subsidiary) or its suppliers use or are aware of the use of child labour in the supply chain" ... before guaranteeing that "it has adopted strict policies in line with the principles of the United Nations and put in place a suppliers' code of conduct", and admitting, however, that it needed "to review and continuously improve its monitoring process".

In the agricultural sector, for example on cocoa plantations

- More than 50% of cocoa production takes place in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

The case of Côte d'Ivoire

- Between 330,000 and 1 million children were working on cocoa plantations in 2014
- The International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), established in 2002, aims to implement the Harkin–Engel Protocol, and also has all the leading players in the sector (Mars, Mondelez and Ferrero) as partners

B. BY FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND ESPECIALLY OUR CHURCH?

In the disarmament, mobilization and reintegration (DDR) sector, Catholic Church organisations in certain countries that have experienced conflicts (DRC, etc.), such as Caritas Congo ASBL (national and diocesan), have benefited from the support of the World Bank and the African Development Bank in accompanying the socio-economic reintegration of former combatants and children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFG).

The following points regarding these children may be noted:

- Some of them have been put back into school and have benefited from accompaniment by Caritas (payment of school fees, healthcare, school materials, etc.) until the end of their studies. Cases of pupils finishing their secondary schooling have been reported, including some who went on to university.

- Others have been sent back to their communities of origin after tough negotiations to have them accepted.

A GOOD PRACTICE (BRIEF DESCRIPTION)?

- Documentation/building on experience and publication of a specific, shareable document describing the new lives of these former CAAFG (success stories?)

IF SO FAR, THE CHURCH HASN'T CARRIED OUT DIRECT AND IMPORTANT WORK ON THIS ISSUE, HOW CAN WE CHANGE THIS SITUATION AND COMMIT OURSELVES FURTHER IN THE NEAR AND LONG-TERM FUTURE?

- Raise awareness of the issue among Church authorities (bishops), universities and religious congregations
- Support Church structures with a view to setting up pilot projects/programmes
- Carry out evaluations of these pilot projects/programmes and disseminate the outcomes in order to extend the experience on a larger scale
- Catholic universities can conduct research and produce reports, which the Church could use for advocacy/lobbying based on the findings

REFERENCE TO THE SDGS

- Raise awareness of the SDGs among Church authorities, universities and religious congregations (not everyone is familiar with them)
- Encourage Church structures (Caritas, Justice and Peace, universities, religious congregations, etc.) to participate in dialogue and discussion settings that bring together several actors (governments, technical and financial partners, civil society organisations) with a view to monitoring implementation of the SDGs in their respective countries
- Carry out independent evaluations of implementation of the SDGs and use the ad hoc reports for advocacy

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING TO WORK ON PREVENTION AS RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS

Develop advocacy and lobbying actions so that:

- African public authorities engage more in the fight against the exploitation and trafficking of children in Africa;
- African public authorities increase the portion of their state budget allocated to the education of the youngest (on average 40% of the population have never

attended school in most African countries). Here, Church organisations can carry out budget/ public expenditure tracking;

- Relevant international law regulations may be ratified for all African countries: for example, the International Labour Organisation has enacted regulations regarding child labour, which have so far been ratified by 168 countries including Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Senegal. These regulations set the minimum working age at 15 (Convention 138) and at 18 for the most difficult and dangerous kinds of work (Convention 182).

Raise communities' awareness

- In Africa, many children help their parents (in the fields, domestic work, etc.): children from 13 to 15 years of age may be authorised to do light work if it isn't detrimental to their health, schooling or safety

Strengthen collaboration with the private sector, especially companies (Corporate Social Responsibility)

- Some multinational companies have liaison officers (who are paid, as is the case for Nestlé in Côte d'Ivoire) in communities and cooperatives, whose role is **identify risky situations and raise the awareness of populations;**
- Others only rarely assume their social/societal responsibility.

Questions for discussion during the Conference:

1. What do you see as the key added value that Church organisations could bring in the response to the human trafficking issue?
2. What role could Church organisations perform better regarding this issue in the future?
3. What are the particular challenges to be dealt with?

Basic documents used:

1. Dossier Responsabilité sociétale des entreprises. Le travail des mineurs, un défi majeur, published by Jeune Afrique, 56th year, no. 2894, of 26 June to 2 July 2016, pp. 64-66
2. Child migrants and child trafficking in West Africa, article prepared for the German development magazine Welt-sichten (due for publication in German, February 2010).