



► Nigeria - Sustainable multi-stakeholder governance bodies to ensure the appropriate implementation of policies related to the elimination of child labour



Responds to the following criteria

- Responsiveness
- Sustainability
- Replicability
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency



Main stakeholders

Government: Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Vocational Training and Technical Education, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Mines and Steel Development.

Civil society: Selected local NGOs: Esteem Hub, Raise Foundation, Kids and Teens, ROTDOW, Child and Youth Protection Foundation.

Employers' and workers' organizations: Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA), Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress.

Academic institutions: University of Ibadan (UI), Federal University of Technology in Akure (FUTA), Federal University of Technology in Minna (FUTMINNA).

General institutionalized governance mechanisms uniting all stakeholders at different levels (national, state and local): National Steering Committee Against Child Labour (NSCCL), State Steering Committees against Child Labour (SSCCL), Community Child Labour Monitoring Committees (CCLMCs), community funds (an initiative of the CCLMC in some communities).

► Description

Nigeria is one of the few African countries to have institutionalized the fight against child labour through establishing appropriate governance mechanisms. Since 2004, the Government has developed and implemented relevant child labour legislation and policies, and continues to update them. Similarly, the ACCEL Africa project's work in the country led to Nigeria's second national Action Plan, validated in April 2021. As a result, governance bodies and mechanisms have been built and strengthened at both horizontal and vertical levels.

The Plan responds to a series of child labour programmes implemented in the country over the past few years. It identifies the specific need to assess the status of national as well as community-based multi-stakeholder capacities to develop and implement policies, programmes and

legislation relevant to child labour. In light of this initial assessment, reinforcement of existing programmes and the establishment and training of newly developed ones took place.¹ Governance mechanisms include the **National Steering Committee Against Child Labour (NSCCL)**, which includes all relevant line ministries² and employers' and workers' organizations, as well as NGOs. Vertically organized, **Community Child Labour Monitoring Committees (CCLMCs)** report to **State Steering Committees against Child Labour (SSCCL)**, which then report to the NSCCL.

Besides these governance bodies, a special unit addressing child labour was established in 2011 at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and has been supported by ACCEL Africa. This unit has branches that operate directly under 23 of the 36 Nigerian states. These units comprise the

¹ ACCEL Africa Project Document, output 1.5 and more specifically activities 1.5.1, 1.5.2 and 1.5.4; also ACCEL Africa Nigeria Annex, output 2.6 and more specifically activities 2.6.1, 2.6.6 (which include the setting up of community-based monitoring committees and state steering committees against child labour).

² Ministries of Labour and Employment, Agriculture, Education, Mines and Steel Development, Social Affairs and Federal Development.

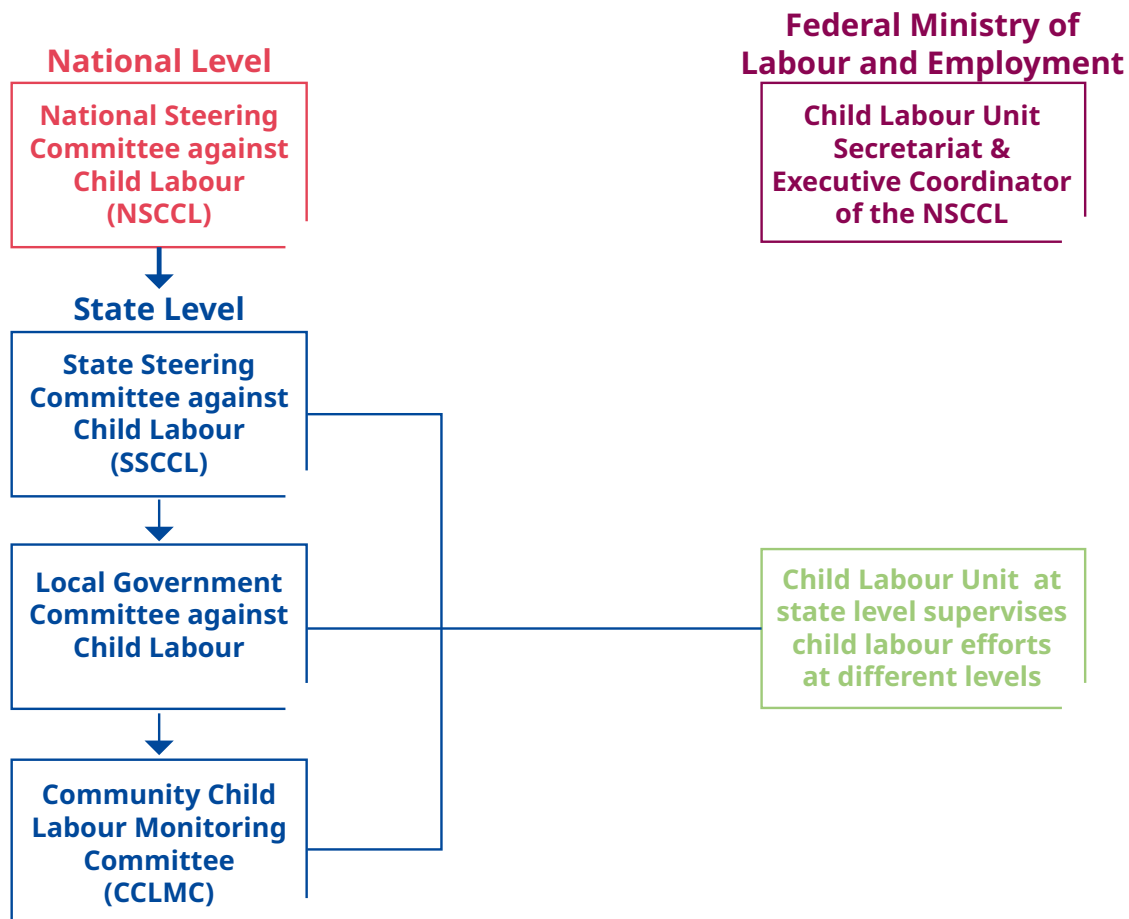
► **Good Practices**

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main executive bodies that implement policies and programmes agreed upon by stakeholders at the national, state and community levels.

Figure 1 shows the main structure of governance, as well as the relationship of executive bodies concerned with child labour.

► **Figure 1. Governance structure**



Horizontal coordination and collaboration has been established and strengthened at national level through the NSCCL, which acts as the main coordinating body for relevant national institutions – especially relevant ministries such as Education, Social Affairs, Health, Agriculture and others, as in other countries which have an NSCCL. However, in Nigeria the NSCCL also includes the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, essential in this case due to the prevalence of child labour in that sector. This sheds light on the fact that any NSCCL needs to continue to assess sectors in which child labour is increasingly observed and include relevant institutions in the NSCCL for further coordination as well as action. Here, as a result of this coordination and sensitization as well as their own initiative, the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development have officially integrated child labour into their workplans and budgets. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture's child labour budget has been steadily increasing over time. At the same time, discussions on school "levies" have been undertaken with the Ministry of Education; such extra expenses refer to (among others) parent-teacher association dues and are an extra burden on parents.

At the **vertical level**, there is strong coordination among community stakeholders in the field, who support action against child labour. A good example is the **community stakeholders' group (community funds)**, comprised of community leaders, influential (at the community level) individuals and funders. These community funds support project implementation, including through providing additional funding through local NGOs and CCLMCs over the long term, thus ensuring sustainability.

Furthermore, the **University of Ibadan (UI)**, the **Federal University of Technology in Akure (FUTA)**, the **Federal University of Technology in Minna (FUTMINNA)** and the **Ministry of Mines and Steel Development** and the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** were brought in to support actions against child labour through the following:

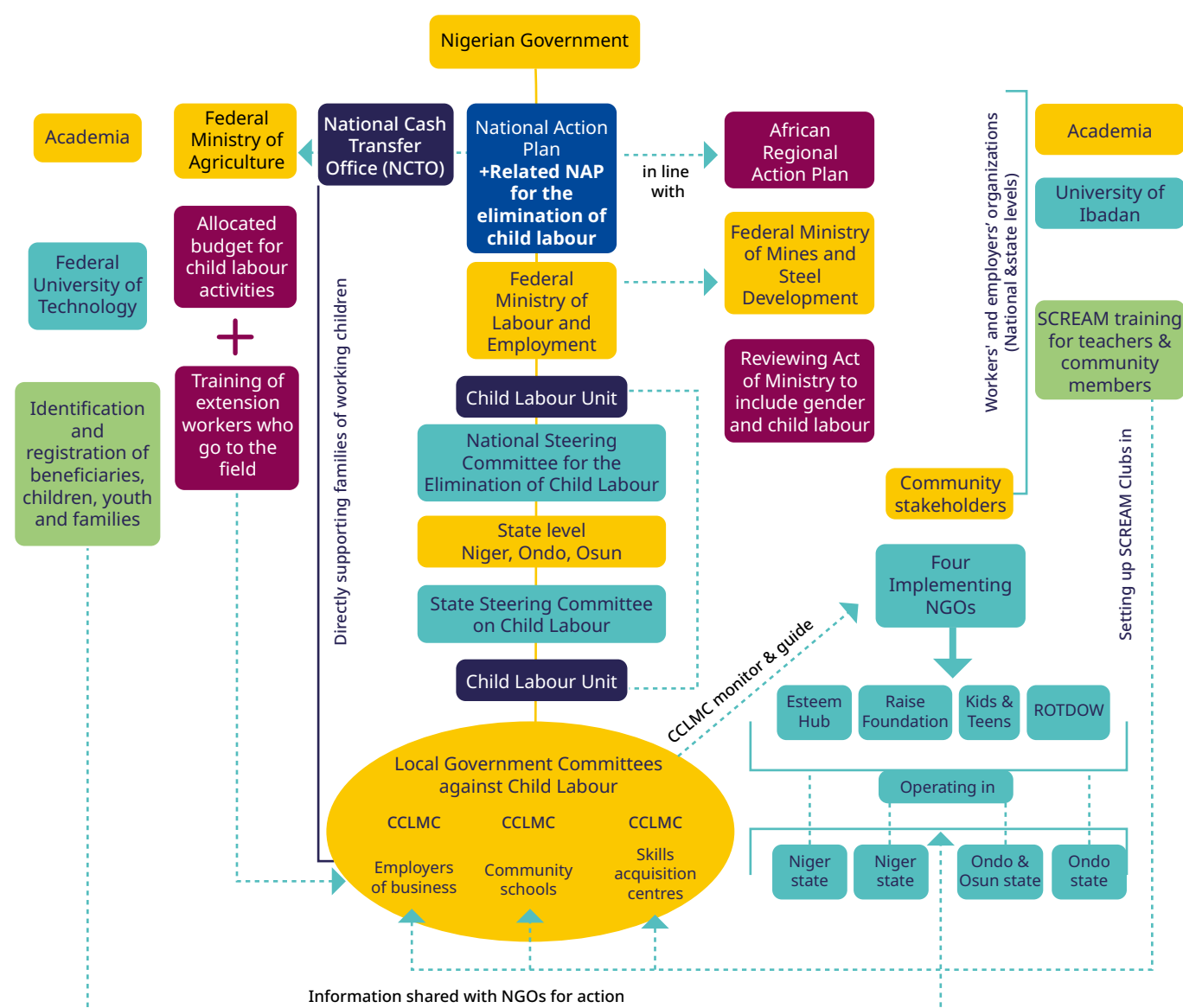
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- Conducting a situational assessment on the prevalence of child labour in the project states and identified communities. The institutions FUTA and FUTMINNA, in collaboration with community leaders, identified children engaged in or at high risk of entering child labour to be targeted by the project.
- Data generation on child labour in the agriculture and mining sectors in two states, Niger and Ondo. ACCEL Africa has supported the FUTs through research grants for qualified applicants resulting in at least 13 new research projects in selected supply chains. The two institutions also conducted a value chain analysis of child labour in the cocoa and artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sectors. The FUTMINNA also took the lead in discussing child labour at various conferences of miners and geologists.
- Mentoring youth in vocational training programmes, as most are ex-child labourers requiring psychosocial support to overcome trauma and start a new career path with decent working conditions.
- The University of Ibadan adopted the SCREAM programme and developed a set of master trainers, who in turn trained teachers and community members within selected communities to create what are referred to as the SCREAM clubs. These have become major community-based awareness-raising platforms on child labour. The University is also mainstreaming the SCREAM programme into its general courses to increase the number of child labour advocates entering the labour market.

The child labour governance mechanisms and their relationship to one another, as well as coordinating partners, are shown in figure 2.

► **Figure 2. Nigeria's child labour governance and coordination mechanisms**



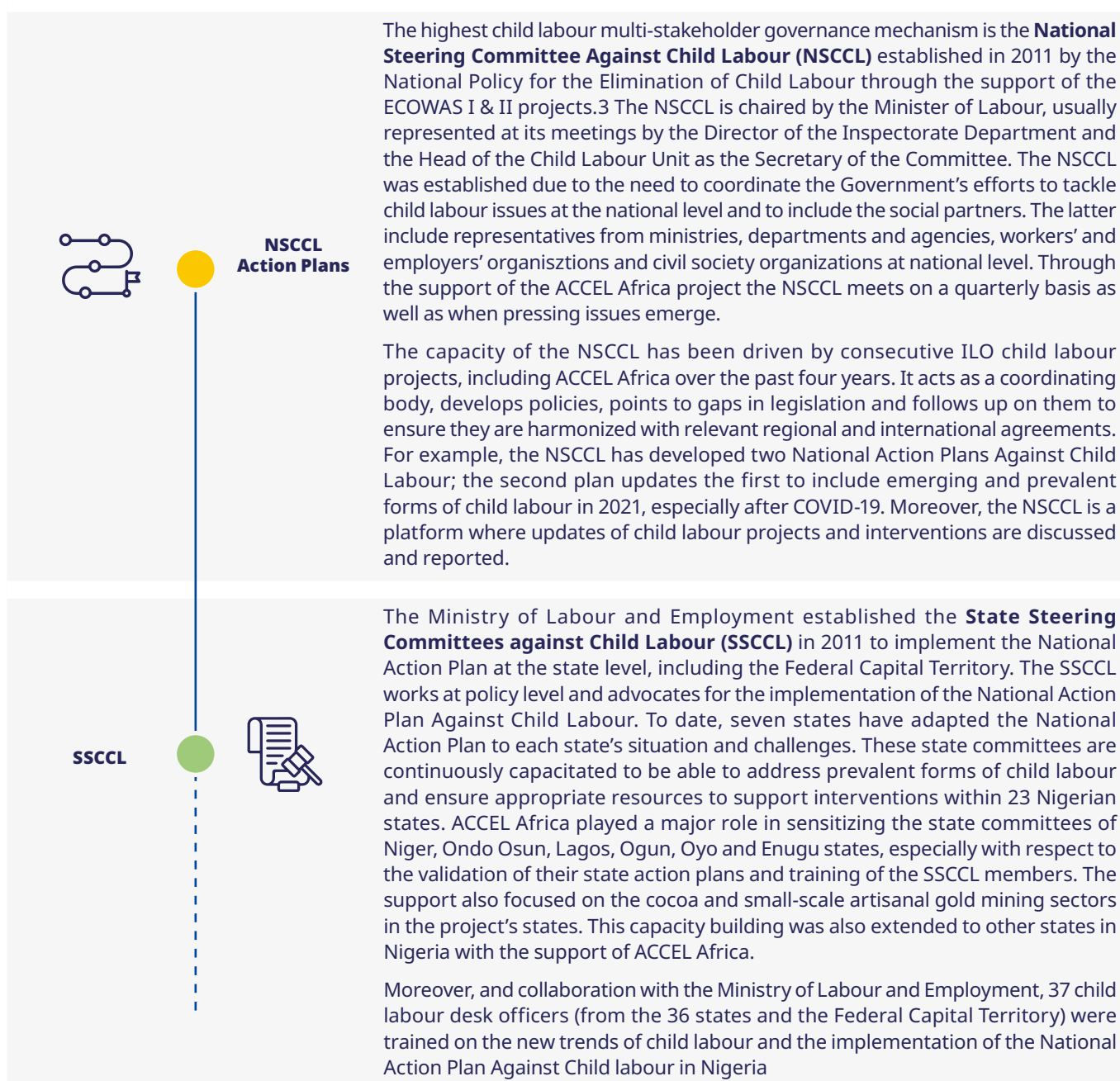
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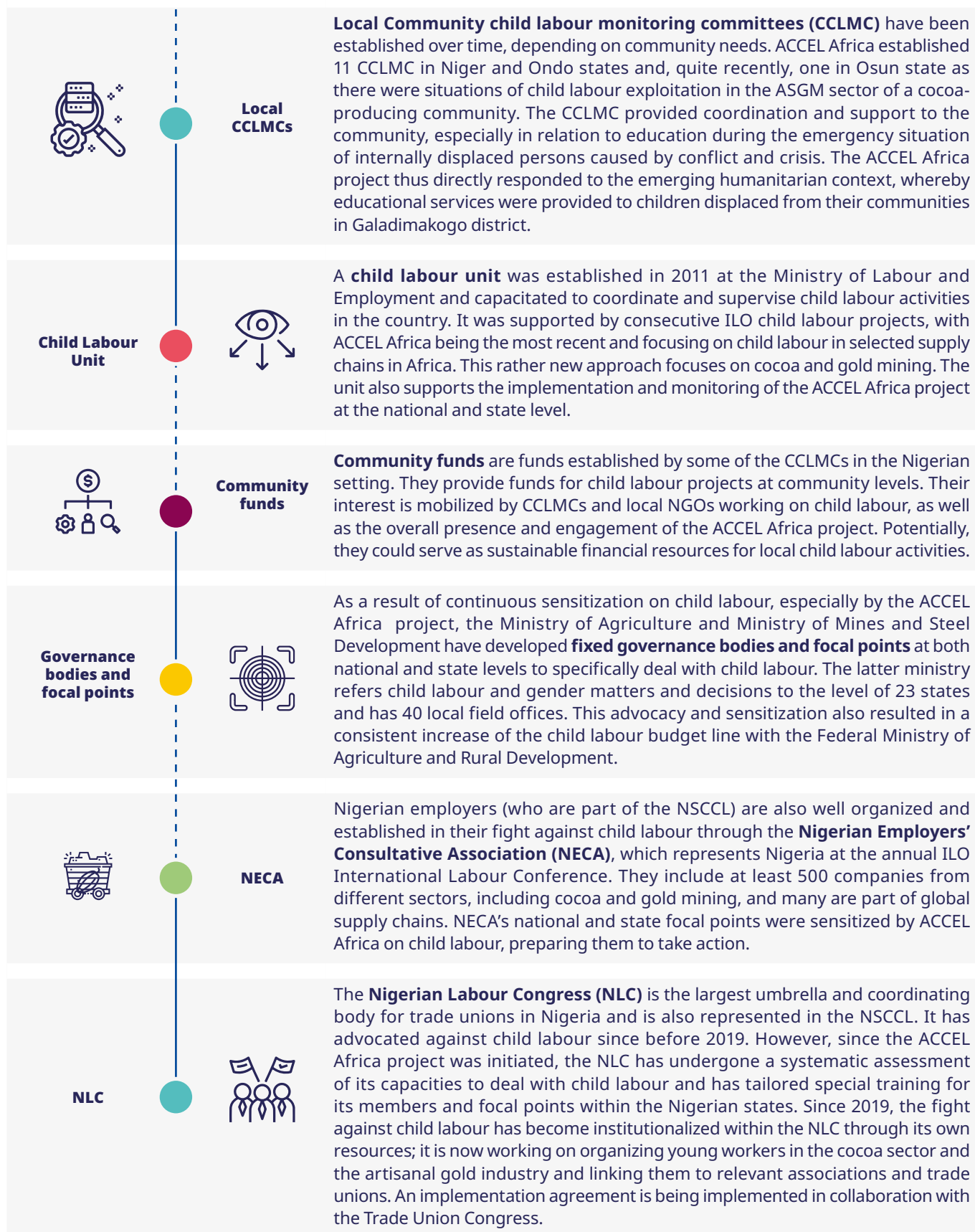
► Process

What distinguishes Nigeria in its fight against child labour is the ability of the Government and local communities to develop **appropriate policies against child labour, continuously update them, and align them with regional policies** such as the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan and the African Union 10-Year Action Plan. Moreover, the country has adapted and integrated such policies into state and local government policies and programmes. Implementation requires specialized governing bodies and platforms to discuss these policies and programmes, continuously adapt them and overcome obstacles that they may face. In Nigeria, these have been established and are operational at different levels.

Governance level



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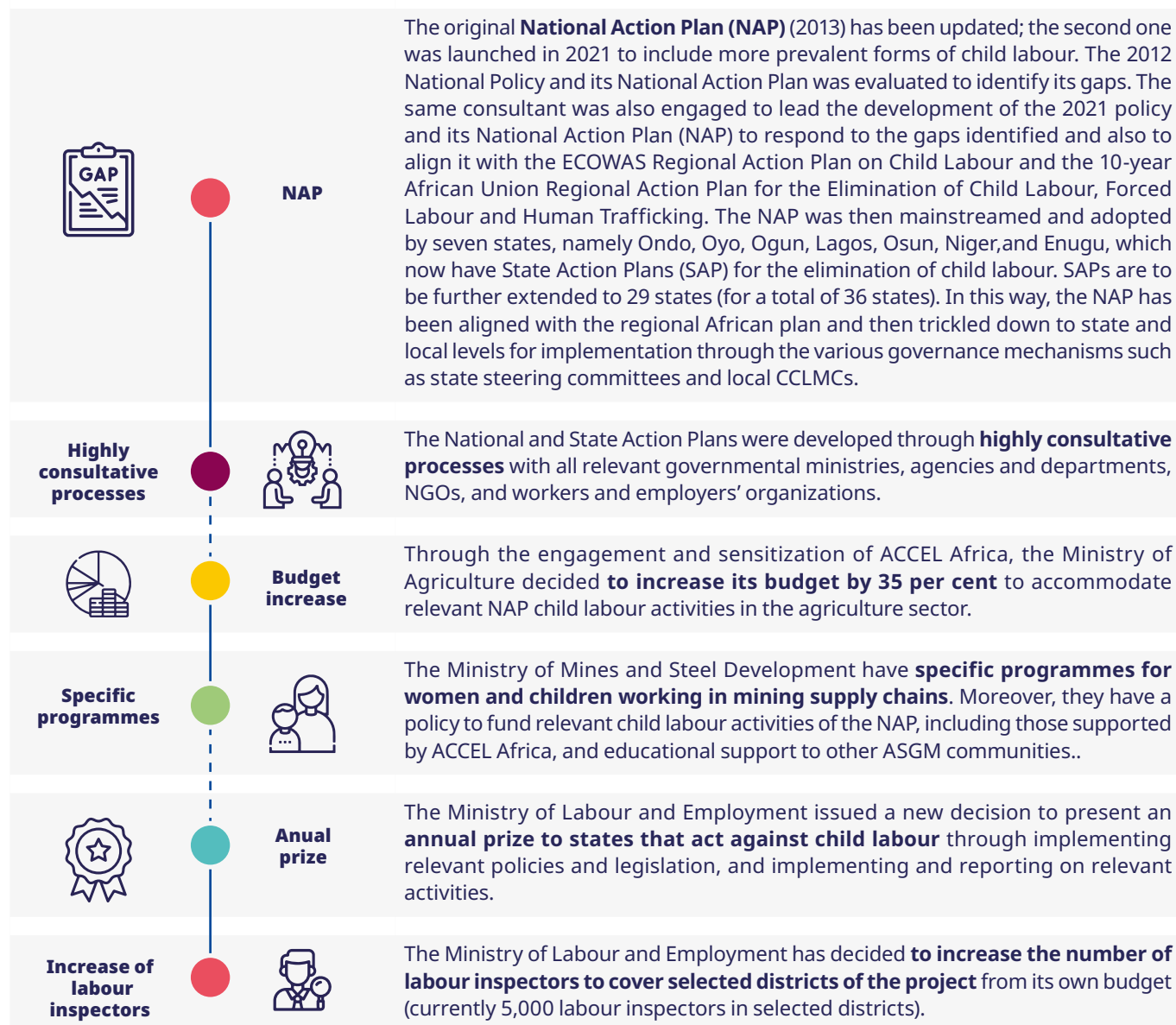


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Next step. Because of the size of the states, the most recent National Action Plan (2021) suggested the establishment of **new child labour governing structures and platforms at local government levels** – that is, local government committees against child labour. These would not be established by the Ministry of Labour and Employment but by local governments themselves. This is to ensure the smooth translation of policies and their implementation at local government level. The new National Policy on Child Labour also confirms the presence of community child labour monitoring committees as part of the child labour institutional structure.

Policy level



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► Expected results

In general, legal, policy and institutional frameworks are improved and enforced to address child labour in global supply chains. Specifically:

- Child labour policies, laws and regulations are drafted and validated with key stakeholders in Nigeria and the ratification and implementation of fundamental and other relevant ILO Conventions is promoted.
- Proposals are made for mainstreaming child labour issues into existing national sectoral policies and programmes, and supply chain sustainability initiatives and programmes are developed and discussed.
- The capacity of national stakeholders to advocate for adoption, funding and implementation of policies, programmes, laws and regulations is increased.
- Social dialogue among workers' and employers' organizations and the Government is enhanced.

The estimated number of beneficiaries include:

- 450 men and women to develop or improve their income-generating activities;
- 1,400 children to be positively impacted and provided with educational support; and
- 400 children aged 15+ years to transition from school to work.

► Results to date

- Implementation of the Nigerian action plan at national, state and community levels; thus there is positive response on the part of communities and families to eliminate child labour. Invariably, child labour is reduced at local levels, especially in ACCEL Africa selected states and sectors of cocoa and small-scale artisanal gold mining.
- A national prize is in place (2021) to be awarded to the state that attends best to child labour (i.e. through implementation of the NAP and relevant activities, monitoring and recording).
- Increase in states' actions against child labour and implementation of relevant policies and legislation.
- Increase in funding for the national plan by the Ministries of Labour, Agriculture, Mines and Steel Development.
- Increase in funding for child labour projects by local community funds (community stakeholders sensitized by CCLMC), especially for existing and new projects.
- Increase in interaction with women and children working in mines and mining areas (through ACCEL Africa and partners such as the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, as well as local NGOs).



► Enabling factors

Political will and commitment to act against child labour at the highest level of the Federal Government

- 1 Increasing action against child labour, which was introduced into Nigeria in 2004 through an initial ILO project entitled “Eliminating child labour in West Africa and strengthening sub-regional cooperation through ECOWAS (ECOWAS I&II)” and has continued to date through several others, for example the FMM West Africa Project up to the present ACCEL Africa project. The political culture to act against child labour, and not only the will, has thus developed over time.
- 2 Updating the original NAP, aligning it with the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan and the 10-year African Union Regional Action Plan, and applying it at state and communal levels through the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- 3 Introducing a strong state-level incentive through a special annual prize for the state that is most active against child labour, and setting specific criteria for it (e.g. activities at different levels of the state and accurately reporting on them).

National and communal ownership

- 4 Having other ministries actively engage in the fight against child labour, starting long before ACCEL Africa project and enhancing their actions after the project. Good examples are the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, which not only have child labour within their organograms and mandate but also have specific budget lines for activities against child labour.

Decentralization of governing bodies and mechanisms

- 5 The ministries and organizations involved, such as the Ministries of Labour and Employment, Agriculture, and Mines and Steel Development, the Nigerian Employers Consultative Association and the Nigeria Labour Congress all have well-capacitated focal points and/or units across at least 23 states to oversee their child labour policies and programmes at state levels, reporting to the centralized national levels.

In brief

In partnership with ACCEL Africa, the **Ministry of Labour and Employment mobilized, upgraded and institutionalized all forms of relevant governing and coordinating institutions** (at national, state and local levels) to support the fight against child labour. At the same time, **relevant policies and programmes were developed, updated and aligned** with regional policies, adapted to state and community levels. Partial funding was sought and implemented mainly through these multi-stakeholder and multi-level governing mechanisms.

Well-established governing and coordinating bodies are critical to accelerating action against child labour in supply chains in Africa. Appropriate policies without appropriate and adequate governing bodies cannot go far. **The synergistic effect of relatively good policies and good governance can help achieve results and, moreover, produce a multiplier effect in terms of target beneficiaries.**