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# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GHANA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

by

Erica Miller

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment  
Of the Requirements for the  
University Honors Program

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Department of Criminal Justice  
The University of South Dakota  
May 2019

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GHANA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The members of the Honors Thesis Committee appointed  
to examine the thesis of Erica Miller  
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# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GHANA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

## ABSTRACT

Human Trafficking in Ghana: A Comparative Analysis

Erica Miller

Director: Timothy Schorn, Ph.D.

In a comparative analysis of case study, this thesis focuses on the literature behind human trafficking in Ghana and three other comparative countries –Brazil, Indonesia, Cote d’Ivoire. These comparative countries were selected based on specific criteria such as the country’s GDP, the literacy rates of each country, the country’s level of development, and the total population below the poverty line within the country. Case study analysis is the primary focus of this thesis. In order to understand case study, a detailed examination of case studies and misconceptions surrounding case studies was used to understand the literature behind this comparison analysis. Each country used in this comparison experienced sex trafficking and forced labor as the most prominent forms of trafficking. The implications of this thesis is to analysis the differences in human trafficking in similar countries. There is a limitation to this comparative analysis due to the literature only coming from the United States of America Department of the State’s annual Trafficking in Persons Report. In future research on human trafficking, this comparative analysis could be used to help find solutions to human trafficking in countries with similar GDP, literacy rates, level of development, and total population below the poverty line.

**KEYWORDS:** human trafficking, trafficking in persons, Ghana, Brazil, Indonesia, Cote d’Ivoire

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## INTRODUCTION

### Human Trafficking Defined

*Human trafficking: “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments of benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation” (the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, September 2003).*

Trafficking in persons, or human trafficking, is a form of modern-day slavery (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018) and it affects over 40 million victims globally (International Labour Organization, 2019). According to the U.S. Department of the State, there are seven major forms of human trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). There are seven major forms of human trafficking. The most abundant form of trafficking is sex trafficking, which is “when an adult engages in a commercial sex act, such as prostitution, as the result of force, threat of force, fraud, or coercion or any combinations of such means” (United States of America Department of the States, June 2018, p. 5). Child sex trafficking is a form of sex trafficking that deals with children under eighteen (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). Forced labor is the second most prominent type of trafficking and occurs “when a person uses force or physical threats, psychological coercion, abuse of the legal process, deception, or other coercive means to compel someone to work” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 32). Forced child labor is a sub category of forced labor that deals with children under the age of 18 (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). Debt bondage occurs when the imposition of a bond or debt is used against a victim and this type of trafficking is used by both sex and labor traffickers (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). Involuntary domestic servitude

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occurs when “a domestic worker is not free to leave his or her employment and is abused and underpaid, if paid at all” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 33).

Lastly, child soldiering is another form of human trafficking that “involves the unlawful recruitment or use of children—through force, fraud, or coercion—by armed forces as combatants or other forms of labor” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 33).

In every country in the world, there is some form of human trafficking occurring within its borders. The purpose of this thesis is to explore the literature on human trafficking in Ghana and three comparison countries based on specific criteria through a case study comparison analysis. This thesis will begin by first defining what a case study is as well as investigating the misconceptions surrounding case study research. Then this thesis will look at actions that both international and the United States governments have taken against human trafficking. Next, this thesis will examine the prevalence of human trafficking within Ghana. Lastly, the prevalence of human trafficking will be examined for three other countries – Brazil, Indonesia, and Cote d’Ivoire—based on specific criteria, such as GDP, literacy rates, level of development, and population below the poverty line.

I.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE STUDIES**

**Case studies defined**

Case studies, as defined by the *Dictionary of Sociology*, are “detailed examination[s] of a single example of a class of phenomena” (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 220). A case study can also be described as a “detailed examination of a single example” (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 220). Some say that case studies lack reliable information when it comes to broader topics, but they are useful during the preliminary stages of investigation because it provides the researcher a hypothesis that can be tested systematically with a broad spectrum of cases (Flyvbjerg, 2006). However, this is explained as an oversimplified definition and can be grossly misleading (Flyvbjerg, 2006).

**Misconceptions**

There are two points that Flyvbjerg makes regarding the role of case studies and theories of human learning. The first is that case studies produce “the type of context-dependent knowledge that research on learning shows to be necessary to allow people to develop from rule-based beginners to virtuoso experts” (Flyvbjerg, 2006). Context-dependent knowledge as well as experience lies at the center of case studies as “a research and teaching method or to put it more generally still, as a method of learning” (Flyvbjerg, 2006). The second is that “in the study of human affairs, there appears to exist only context-dependent knowledge, which, thus, presently



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rules out the possibility of epistemic theoretical construction” (Flyvbjerg, 2006).

According to Flyvbjerg, there are five misconceptions that surround case studies (Flyvbjerg, 2006). The first misconception revolving around case studies is that theoretical knowledge is more important than concrete knowledge, which is commonly used in case study (Flyvbjerg, 2006). Support against this misconception by Eysenck states that “sometimes we simply have to keep our eyes open and look carefully at individual cases –not in the hope of providing anything, but rather in the hope of learning something” (Flyvbjerg, 2006). Therefore, the revised misconception put forth by Flyvbjerg is that theoretical knowledge cannot be found in daily human affairs, which is why concrete knowledge is more valuable for predictive theories (Flyvbjerg, 2006).

A second misconception about case studies is “that one can generalize on the basis of a single case is usually considered to be devastating to the case study as a scientific method” (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 221). Support against this misconception by Flyvbjerg states that formal generalization, whether that be of large sample or single cases, is overrated as a main source of the scientific process (Flyvbjerg, 2006). Therefore, Flyvbjerg corrects this second misunderstanding, by stating that “one can often generalize on the basis of a single case, and the case study may be central to scientific development via generalization as supplement or alternative to other methods” (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 228).

“Case method is claimed to be most useful for generating hypothesis in the first steps of a total research process, whereas hypothesis testing and theory building are best carried out by other methods later in the process” is the third misconception about case studies (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 229). This misunderstanding is derived from the second misunderstanding and therefore can be revised to mean that case study can be useful for generating as well as testing hypothesis

and are not limited to just research activities (Flyvbjerg, 2006). Eckstein argues that case studies are better used for testing hypotheses rather than developing them (Flyvbjerg, 2006).

The fourth misunderstanding is “that the method maintains a bias toward verification, understood as a tendency to confirm the researcher’s preconceived notions, so that the study therefore becomes of doubtful scientific value” (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 234). Case studies, according to proponents of this misunderstanding, have the drawback of not applying the scientific methods that are useful in solving the pre-existing interpretations of data (Flyvbjerg, 2006). Those against this misunderstanding say that case studies can focus on real-life situations and also test theories as they unfold in real time (Flyvbjerg, 2006). Therefore, a revised version of this fourth misconception is that “case study contains no greater bias toward verification of the researcher’s preconceived notions than other methods of inquiry” (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 237).

The fifth and final misconception involves the idea that it is difficult summaries case studies into general theories because they are rather specific (Flyvbjerg, 2006). Hard to summarize narratives, according to proponents of case study, are “often a sign that the study has uncovered a particularly rich problematic [and that] the question, therefore, is whether the summarizing and generalizing [...] is always desirable” (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 237). The revision of this last misconception, according to Flyvbjerg, is that “it is correct that summarizing case studies is often difficult, especially as concerns case process [...] The problems in summarizing case studies, however, are due more often to the properties of the reality studied than to the case study as a research method” (Flyvbjerg, 2006, p. 241).

### **Analysis**

For each of the case studies presented in this thesis, there are three main focuses of

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comparison. The first main focus will be on the types of trafficking within the country. For this comparison, the results are expected to show that each country will have both sex trafficking and forced labor, given that they are the two most prominent forms of trafficking. However, it is expected that the types of forced labor trafficking in each country will vary slightly based on infrastructure and labor demand. This analysis will also compare each of the countries ranking on the United States of America Department of the State's Trafficking in Persons report. The expected result will be that each country is on the same level or Tier as the others, based on the specific criteria –GDP, literacy rates, level of development, and population below the poverty line—we used to choose each country for comparison. Lastly, this analysis will compare each countries government's involvement/response to trafficking both within their borders as well as trafficking of their own peoples going out of the country. Based on socioeconomic factors and the level of development within these countries, it is expected that there will be a small amount of government involvement in the fight to end trafficking.

## II.

### ACTIONS NATIONS TAKE TO FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#### International Agreements

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the United Nations adopted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, which supplemented the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, November 2000). There are three primary purposes of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children: to **prevent** as well as combat trafficking in persons especially when it comes to women and children; to **protect** and assist victims of trafficking while maintaining respect for their rights as individuals; and to **promote** cooperation amongst states parties to help meet these objectives (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, November 2000). States that signed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, must uphold the three primary purposes and can only withdraw from the Protocol by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and will go into effect one year after the notification is received (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, November 2000).

Every year, the United States Department of the State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons releases their annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Each year, countries

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are sorted into different Tiers of action, based on if they meet the standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act’s. There are four tiers: Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3. Tier 1 consist of “countries whose governments fully meet the [TVPA] minimum standards” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 40). Tier 2 is for “countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 40). Tier 2 Watch List is slightly more complicated than the previous. It involves the same standards as Tier 2 but with three other additional standards: the number of victims of a severe form of trafficking is significant or increase substantially; if the country fails to provide evidence of its increasing efforts to combat the most severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; and if the commitments by the country to make significant efforts to be in compliance with the minimum standards was based on “commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year” (Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, July 2015, p. 40). Table 2.1 gives an insight of the ranking of some countries over the years analyzed in this comparison.

<b>TABLE 2.1</b>				
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE STATES TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT RANKINGS</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	Tier 2	Tier 2	Tier 2	Tier 1
<b>China</b>	Tier 2 Watch List	Tier 2 Watch List	Tier 3	Tier 3
<b>Germany</b>	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 1
<b>Ghana</b>	Tier 2 Watch List	Tier 2 Watch List	Tier 2 Watch List	Tier 2
<b>United States</b>	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 1

### **American Domestic Laws**

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 proposes to fight against human trafficking, primarily the sex trafficking, forced labor, and involuntary domestic servitude, and also reauthorize federally funded programs that work to prevent violence against women (United States of America Department of the State, 2013), enacted by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States of America. Existing laws against trafficking before the TVPA failed to protect victims, mainly because victims of trafficking are often from other countries making them illegal immigrants within their destination country and are punished more harshly than those who trafficked them (United States of America Department of the State, 2013).

Not only is the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 part of American Domestic law, it also puts in minimal standards for eliminating trafficking for international governments. One such standard is requiring governments of countries to prohibit the most severe forms of trafficking as well as punishing those who are involved in these severe forms (United States of America Department of the State, 2013). If states fail to meet these minimum standards provided by the TVPA, the United States is not required to provide nonhumanitarian or nontrade-related to these governments (United States of America Department of the State, 2013). The act also establishes an Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, which the President of the United States shall oversee the appointment of members to the Task Force (United States of America Department of the State, 2013).

The President is required to provide direct assistance to foreign countries or through

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nongovernmental or multilateral organizations for programs that are designed to meet the minimum standards provided by the TVPA (United States of America Department of the State, 2013). The TVPA requires that the Secretary of the State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, with consultation from nongovernmental organizations, establish programs and assist foreign countries in the integration, reintegration, and resettlement of human trafficking victims (United States of America Department of the State, 2013).

### III.

#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GHANA**

##### **Why Ghana?**

The reason why Ghana was selected for this analysis was because of academic background on the human trafficking issues within the country, specifically in the fishing industry along Lake Volta, while taking a human trafficking course offered by the University of South Dakota. Ghana was also chosen due to a connection with the country, having traveled there on a Faculty Led Program through the University of South Dakota.

##### **Types of Trafficking in Ghana**

Forced labor and sex trafficking are the two types of trafficking that are the most prominent within the country (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Transnational trafficking of foreign migrants is relatively low in prevalence as compared to the trafficking of Ghanaians within the country (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Young boys and girls in Ghana are subjected to forced labor within the fishing industry, the domestic service sector, the agricultural industry, street hawking, quarrying, herding, artisanal gold mining, and portering (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). The trafficking of children occurs in part to the way children are socialized in Ghana (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). In Ghana, work is deemed as necessary for children to become responsible adults (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Children are seen as an investment and are



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expected to contribute to the family income (Lawrance, 2010).

The fishing industry is where most of the trafficking of children into forced labor occurs (Johansen, n.d.). Children are often trafficked from their home villages to live along the banks of Lake Volta, which is considered to be one of the biggest manmade lakes in the world (Johansen, n.d.). One study notes that parents often see work in the fishing industry as a way for their children to learn skills that will help these children survive poverty in their adult years (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Some ethnic groups in Ghana believe that children need to learn at a young age in order to prepare them for the future (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). These children live in meager conditions and are subjected to long working hours every day of the week. Research has indicated that more than half of the children who work on or around Lake Volta were born in other communities who are trafficked by fishermen to the region. These children are “subjected to forced labor, not allowed to attend school, given inadequate housing and clothing, and are controlled by fishermen through intimidation, violence, and limiting access to food” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017, p. 184). Local villagers are not in favor of this abusive nature (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Bodies of young children will wash up on shore in the mornings and it has gotten so bad that these villagers no longer report them to the police (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Police know that fisherman are forcing children to dive into the waters to remove nets which results in drowning, but they typically declare these deaths as natural ones (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015).

Most fishermen who exploit Ghanaian children are desperate to feed their families and make a living in a country where work is hard to come by and large hauls of fish everyday are hard to come by due to stock decreases (Johansen, n.d.). Children are considered not only to be cheap labor, but also very useful to fishermen for their ability to release fish from smaller nets

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due to their small, nimble fingers (Johansen, n.d.). Children are often useful in helping disentangle fishing nets within Lake Volta. Many trees and tree stumps remain within the lake after a rainforest was flooded with the completion of the Akosombo dam in the early 1960s (Johansen, n.d.). Nets are dragged along the bottom of the lake, causing them sometimes to become tangled on the remaining rainforest or stuck in the mud. To free the nets, children dive from boats on the surface (Johansen, n.d.). This is very dangerous for children, for they could catch a water-based disease—such as bilharzia or guinea worm—or they could die from drowning due to their inability to swim or from colliding with a tree stump (Johansen, n.d.).

Ghanaian children are also prone to sex trafficking, which is the most prevalent in the Volta region and in the oil producing western regions of the country (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Prostitution of children is more common amongst girls than it is boy, though boys are still subjected to prostitution (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In recent years, Ghanaian girls and young women who come from the northern region have migrated to greater Accra looking for work as head porters (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). These girls and women are at a high risk for forced labor along with sex trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Young girls are also more likely to be placed into a force labor situation due to traditional beliefs of the Ghanaian people. These girls are placed in a form of ritual servitude to atone for a family members sins that can last from a few months to several years (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015).

Ghanaian men, women, and children are also recruited to the Middle East under false pretenses and are subjected to forced labor within the domestic sector as well as at times into prostitution (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Some Ghanaian men

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and women have been identified as victims of forced labor within the United States in recent years (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Agencies that are both licensed and unlicensed recruit Ghanaian women for jobs in the domestic service sector and hospitality industry in other Gulf countries in Africa (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). 2017 reported unethical agencies arraigned transport of Ghanaians that were seeking employment to Europe through neighboring West African countries (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). These Ghanaians were “subjected to sexual exploitation and [were] held involuntarily by traffickers who extort[ed] funds from the victims” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017, p. 184).

Women and young girls from Vietnam, China, and neighboring West African countries migrate to Ghana and are subjected to sex trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Those who migrate from other West African countries to Ghana are also subjected to forced labor within the agricultural industry and the domestic service sector (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Nigerian women and young girls are lured to Ghana with the promise of a good job, but once they arrive in the country “are coerced into prostitution to pay [unreasonably high] debts for transportation and lodging” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 201). Ghana is also considered to be a transit point for sex trafficking between West African countries and Europe, with Italy and Germany being the receivers of the most peoples (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015).

### **Government Involvement in the Prevention of Human Trafficking**

2005 brought around the creation of the Human Trafficking Act (United States of

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America Department of the State, July 2015). It was amended in 2009 in order “to align its definition of human trafficking with the 2000” United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which prohibits all forms of trafficking and recommends penalties of five to 20 years’ imprisonment (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015, p. 168). The 2005 Human Trafficking Act “also provides that a defendant will be guilty of the crime of sex trafficking of a child if the child is induced to engage in prostitution without regard to the use of force, fraud, or coercion” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017, p. 182). The 2005 Act also created The Human Trafficking Fund, which was established “to finance protection efforts” for victims of Trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015, p. 168). In November of 2015, the government issued new regulation for this Act that “specify that where a parent or guardian or another person with parental responsibilities and right over a child exploits such child in trafficking in persons, the penalty is a fine or five to 10 years imprisonment or both” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016, p. 181). The United States Department of the State said that to allow fines in place of imprisonment for actions that deal with trafficking of persons does not fulfill the criteria of being sufficiently stringent to deter the crime of human trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

Between 2015 and 2017, Ghana ranked on the Tier 2 Watchlist on the United States Department of the State’s annual Trafficking in Person’s report (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In 2017, Ghana was almost moved down to Tier 3, however, they were granted a waiver by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act because the government had devoted substantial resources to a written plan that once implemented, would be considered significant efforts to meet the minimum standards for them to remain on the Tier 2

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Watchlist (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). In 2018, Ghana was moved up from the Tier 2 Watchlist to Tier 2, due to “the government demonstrating increased efforts” in preventing human trafficking compared to previous years (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 198). They did so by “validating and implementing the national anti-trafficking action plan and expending funds allocated for the plan” for prosecuting and convicting those who are involved in labor and sex trafficking and other efforts to help end the trafficking of persons within Ghana (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 198).

There have been reports over the years examined in this study that the Ghanaian government, specifically within the judicial system, is prone to corruption and bribery, which prevented progress for anti-trafficking measures (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). The Ghanaian government in 2015 also did not “employ formal procedures to identify victims among vulnerable groups, such as women in prostitution or children at work sites” (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015, p. 169). In 2016, the government failed to provide adequate operating funds for law enforcement and protection agencies which hindered the government’s anti-trafficking efforts within the country (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). In the same year, the government did not provide any funding for the Human Trafficking Fund, which is “intended to support victim services or for maintenance or repair of its one shelter for child trafficking victims” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016, p. 181). It has also been reported that the government has made no substantial efforts to reduce the demand for forced labor and commercial sex acts within Ghana

Despite lacking substantial efforts when it comes to ending human trafficking within the

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country, the Ghanaian government has implemented smaller efforts. In partnering with local administrative bodies and donor support “to conduct awareness campaigns on the dangers of child labor and child trafficking,” the Ghanaian government “participated and assisted in the organization of [...] anti-trafficking information campaigns” on state-owned radio and television programs (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015, p. 169). In 2016, the Ghanaian government reported that it had two open prosecutions that involved trafficking: one involving “two defendants accused of recruiting a young Ghanaian woman who endured forced labor and sexual abuse in Kuwait” and another dealing with a child subjected to forced labor (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016, p. 181).

In the same year, with the help from international organizations, the Ghanaian government continued their efforts to review a draft for a national action plan on human trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). And in 2017, the Ghana Immigration Services reported that it was in the midst of preparing to prosecute “one defendant in a case involving three Ghanaian children intercepted before being sent to Cameroon for suspected labor trafficking” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017, p. 183). In 2018, the Ghanaian government signed an agreement with other West African countries that provided a promise to fight against the trafficking of children “and the worse forms of child labor within the cocoa sector” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 201).

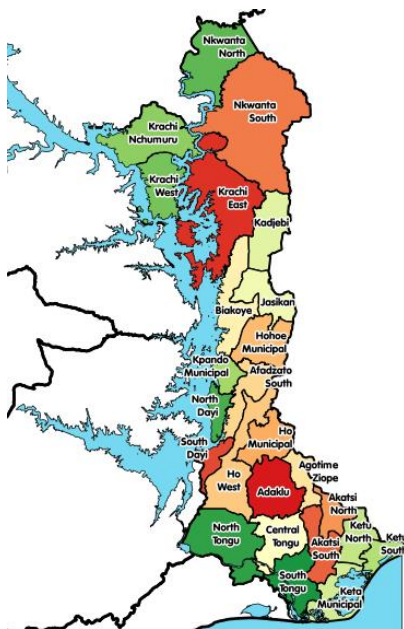
### **Human Trafficking Case Study of Ghana**

Hamenoo and Sottie in *Stories from Lake Volta: The lived experiences of trafficked children in Ghana*, interviewed children that were former slaves known as *trokoshi*, or street

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children, as well as trafficking children from cocoa plantations in three West African countries (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Their study was “a means of giving the children a voice to make their experience known” as well as “to build upon existing studies on child trafficking on Lake Volta by exploring the lived experiences of the children” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 105). This study was carried out in three districts of the Volta region in Ghana: South Tongu, North Tongu, and Krachi West (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). The researchers choose these three districts within the Volta region “because of [their] proximity to Lake Volta and also because [they are] known to serve as both a source and a destination for many of the children fishing on Lake Volta” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 105). They wanted to explore the experiences that the children trafficked in the region experienced while working as fishing hands on Lake Volta as well as to understand the effects of trafficking has on the children from their own perspectives (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Figure 3.1 shows a map of the Volta Region in Ghana.

**FIGURE 3.1: MAP OF VOLTA REGION, GHANA**



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Participant selection was based on convenience and access and they “were drawn from diverse background [in order] to capture a comprehensive picture of the complexity of the experiences of rescued children and child trafficking for fishing purposes” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 105). The study managed to gather 43 rescued participants to take part in the study (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Of these children, eighteen were sheltered children and 25 were rescued and returned children, with the selection of rescued children based on four criteria:

- (a) s/he was trafficked into a fishing community along Lake Volta.
- (b) s/he was rescued, rehabilitated, and reunited with a foster family or his/her family by an organization or placed as a resident in a shelter of one of the selected INGOs/NGOs.
- (c) S/he is regularly visited by the selected INGO/NGO.
- (d) S/he was rescued before the age of 18 years (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 106).

The researchers used a participatory approach, which is described as “researching ‘with the people rather than on people’ and ‘a means by which people engage together to explore some significant aspect of their lives’” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 106). Participants were actively involved in the data generating process by telling their stories (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Since there were more than one language spoken in the region and the researchers spoke predominately English, drawings were created by the participants to serve as a common ground for the children to describe their experiences with human trafficking (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). This also reduced possible difficulty participants would have when recalling details of past experiences (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015).

The procedure for data analysis involved a narrative structure and thematic procedures, which were called *framework* in this case (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). *Framework* is described as



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“a matrix based analytic method which facilitates rigorous and transparent data management such that all the stages involved in the analytical hierarchy can be systematically conducted” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 106). This allowed the analyst to move back and forth amongst “different levels of abstraction without losing sight of the raw data” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 107). There were five stages of this procedure: raw data; identification of concepts; indexing; data sorted according to the index placed on them; and content summarized to build a thematic chart (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015).

In order to manage the data, the researcher’s audio recorded the participant’s so that they could capture the statements made by the participants in their own words (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Each participant was given a pseudonym and the interviews were only printed once the data collection had ended (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Since there were three languages spoken by participants, “a combination of literal and free translation was adopted (a) to preserve participants’ voices as much as possible and (b) to make the write-up much more readable while conveying meaning” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 107).

When it comes to research dealing with individuals, especially victims of human trafficking who are vulnerable, it to consider the ethical problems that might be brought up during the research process. One of the ethical considerations the researcher’s considered was involving only children whose safety could be guaranteed after the end of the study period (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). The NGO’s who protected these children that were involved in the study were informed of the purpose of the study and the researchers also sought permission to collect the data with the children themselves (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Parents and guardians were also informed of the purpose of the research (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Participants were also made aware that there was counseling services available to them both during and after data

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collection (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Researchers also considered the welfare of the participants throughout the research process, making sure that it was upheld by being aware “of the dignity, respect, and wellbeing of participants” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 107).

Confidentiality was key issue for the researchers involved in this study (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015).

Out of the 43 participants, “42 were actively used as fishing servants” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 108). Children were made to go fishing on open water alone for long periods at a time and were also required to perform other task in the community such as farming and selling goods in the market” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Fifteen of the 43 participants “recounted neglect of one form or the other” such as “starvation, sleep denial, non-provision of clothes and health care, and denial of access to education” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 109). Fourteen of the 43 participants were forced to dive in deep waters in order to remove trapped nets without any breathing apparatus or proper clothing, which was an easy way for these children to drown (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). If the net was torn in the process, these children faced punishment (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Nineteen of the 43 participants “endured moments of continuous physical abuse from the hands of their masters” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 110). Three of these participants were also verbally abused, and two participants, both of them girls, were sexually harassed (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015).

This study strengthened the views of maltreatment that children suffer while fishing along Lake Volta (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). It also showed that with effective implementation of both 1998 Children’s Act and the 2005 Human Trafficking Act could have protected these children on Lake Volta from maltreatment (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Hamenoo and Sottie recommended that “a rigorous implementation of the Human Trafficking Act to deter child

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traffickers in all sectors [to] ensure arrest and prosecution of child traffickers within Ghana [...] ensuring that children do not continue to go through the experiences narrated by the participants in this study” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 111). They also encouraged “researchers with interest in child welfare to produce and disseminate more research on intra-country child trafficking to create awareness and elicit interest from legislators and human rights practitioners” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 111). Lastly, researchers noted that there is a “need for further studies on the living conditions of those rescued from trafficking and strategies to be implemented to avoid their re-trafficking” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 111).

It is important to note that there are two limitations to this study. The first is that “there are other avenues apart from fishing into which children are trafficked in Ghana” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 111). The second limitation is that “stories of participants from the selected communities pertain only to them, as not all communities which received children rescued from fishing on Lake Volta have been included in the study” (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015, p. 111).

### **Results**

From our analysis of human trafficking in Ghana, we have discovered that the two major types of trafficking within the country are sex trafficking and forced labor. The trafficking of Ghanaians is more prominent within Ghana than transnational trafficking. The fishing industry has a high occurrence of child trafficking. Women and children are at high risk for sex trafficking in Ghana, especially in the more heavily populated areas like the Greater Accra region. Ghanaians have been exploited as victims of human trafficking in the Middle East; neighboring West African countries; parts of Europe, specifically Germany and Italy; and the United States. Young women and girls from Vietnam, China, and neighboring West African

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countries, specifically Nigeria, have been discovered as victims of trafficking within Ghana.

Ghana has seen some fluctuations with its ranking on the United States Department of the State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, remaining on the Tier 2 Watchlist from 2015 to 2017, before being moved up to a Tier 2 ranking. When it comes to human trafficking within Ghana, the government has some prevention methods. One such method is the Human Trafficking Act of 2005. This Act also allows the government to set up funding for victims of trafficking within the country. However, the government has failed to provide adequate funding for the Human Trafficking Fund. Also, despite government action against human trafficking, there has been reported instances of corruption within the Ghanaian government that has hindered antihuman trafficking efforts. Still, this has not stopped the judicial system of Ghana from prosecuting a few instances of human trafficking within the country during the years examined in this study.

The case study examined looked at the trafficking of children in the fishing industry around Lake Volta, specifically within three regions centered around the Lake. Of these 43 children interviewed by researchers, fifteen experienced some form of neglect. Fourteen of these children were forced to dive beneath the water to untangle fishing nets and were not given the proper equipment to do so. Nineteen of the participants experienced physical abuse from their masters, while three of the participants were verbally abused. Two female participants were sexually harassed by their master and others in the fishing industry.

### **Limitations**

There were two limitations to this study: the study only focused on one industry where child trafficking occurs in Ghana and the experiences recorded by the participants are their own

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experiences and might not be the same as other members of the community who were not chosen as participants to the study.

**IV.**

**COMPARISON WITH TRAFFICKING IN OTHER COUNTRIES**

**Reasoning Behind Selected Countries**

The three countries selected for comparison on their issues of human trafficking with Ghana are: Brazil, Indonesia, and Cote d'Ivoire respectively. All three countries produce coffee and/or cacao. Cacao and coffee bean production, having similar farming methods. These countries also have major fishing industries. These similarities in infrastructures—agriculture and fishing—are also ideal outlooks for human trafficking, because they lack mechanization which then requires more labor-intensive work from farmers and fishermen. They are also similar to Ghana in that, based on such factors—GDP, literacy rates, pop and others—are considered to be developing or sub-developed countries. Cote d'Ivoire was chosen due to its close proximity to Ghana as a neighboring country along the African Ivory Coast. Brazil and Indonesia were selected to give a broader global perspective on the prevalence of human trafficking. Indonesia is made up of a variety of islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, whereas Brazil is a coastal country along the Atlantic Ocean that covers almost half of the South American continent. Table 4.1 shows the comparison of both Ghana and the three other selected countries for this analysis.

<b>TABLE 4.1 COMPARISON FACTORS</b>				
	<b>GDP</b>	<b>Literacy Rate</b>	<b>Level of Development</b>	<b>Population Below Poverty Line</b>
<b>Ghana</b>	\$47.02 Billion USD as of 2017	76.6% as of 2015	Developing	24.2% as of 2013
<b>Brazil</b>	\$2.055 Trillion USD as of 2017	92% as of 2015	Sub-developed	4.2% as of 2016
<b>Indonesia</b>	\$1.015 Trillion USD as of 2017	95.4% as of 2016	Sub-developed	10.9% as of 2016
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	\$40.47 Billion USD as of 2017	43.1% as of 2015	Developing	46.3% as of 2015

### **Human Trafficking in Brazil**

Forced labor and sex trafficking are the two most common forms of human trafficking in Brazil (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Child prostitution is a significant proportion of sex trafficking within Brazil. The northern and northeastern regions of Brazil have the highest child prostitution rates in the country (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Child prostitution has led to child sex tourism within the country, specifically in the resort and coastal areas (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Official reports show that some law enforcement officers tolerate child prostitution; assault and rob women who engage in prostitution; and frequently do business in brothels (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Brazilian women are also exploited in sex trafficking as well as transgender Brazilians (United States of America Department of the State, July 2018).

About 250,000 Brazilian women and children are exploited in domestic servitude (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Women and girls from other countries in South America are also exploited for domestic servitude (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Men, women, and children from other countries—China, Bolivia, Haiti,

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and Paraguay—have also been found to be exploited in forced labor in industries throughout Brazil (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). These industries include construction; the textile industry of Sao Paulo; and small businesses (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Some of these victims can also be forced to engage in criminal activities such as drug trafficking within Brazil as well as neighboring countries (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Women and girls from other South American countries have been found as victims of sex trafficking in Brazil (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

Brazilians have also been found as trafficking victims in other countries. Women from Brazil have been found in Western Europe and China as victims of sex trafficking, while Brazilian men and transgender Brazilians are exploited for sex trafficking in Spain and Italy as well (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). Most Brazilian victims of forced labor have been found in Europe (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

Brazilian law defines forced labor as *trabalho escravo*, which is essentially slave labor or labor that is performed in degrading conditions or during exhausting work days (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Men are the more likely subjected to *trabalho escravo* than are women, most often as a form of debt bondage in rural parts of Brazil (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). The industries that *trabalho escravo* is used in are: agriculture, charcoal production, ranching, logging, and mining (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In urban areas, *trabalho escravo* has been used in construction, factories, the restaurant industry, and the hospitality industry (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). *Trabalho escravo* has been found to be used by



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sub-contractors who construct subsidized housing for government programs (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Government officials, current and former, have been investigated and prosecuted for *trabalho escravo* as well (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015).

From 2015-2018, Brazil was ranked as a Tier 2 country on the United States Department of the State's annual Trafficking in Persons report (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). Most forms of trafficking are prohibited under Brazilian Law (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Article 231 of the penal code prohibits international and domestic sex trafficking while Article 231-A defines this as only when it involves violence, threats, or fraud "as aggravating elements as opposed to necessary elements of the offense" (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015, p. 99). Both these articles recommend two to eight years' imprisonment for those who violate them (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015).

Article 149 prohibits *trabalho escravo*, with penalties of a minimum of two to up to eight years of imprisonment (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). This article includes situation that involve people held under force, fraud, or coercion, but it also criminalizes other treatments of individuals, such as subjecting workers to long work days or filthy working conditions (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). However, Article 149 doesn't adequately criminalize the use of non-physical coercion of people, such as when foreign victims are threatened with deportation if they do not continue to work (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Article 149a, part of a new anti-human trafficking law in 2016, "criminalizes brokering, enticing, recruiting, transporting, transferring, buying, harboring, or receiving a person by grave threat, violence, coercion, fraud,

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or abuse for the purpose of organ removal, forced labor [...] illegal adoption, or sexual exploitation” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017, p. 98). Article 244A “criminalizes inducing a child to engage in sexual exploitation, without the need to prove that means of force, fraud, or coercion were used” unlike article 149a, which does not include the exemption of force, fraud, or coercion when it comes to the sex trafficking of children (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017, p. 97).

In October of 2016, law 13.344 was passed by the Brazilian government (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). This law was an “anti-trafficking law that criminalizes all forms of trafficking in persons and updated existing statutes to generally harmonize the definition of trafficking with international law” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017, p. 98). In the same year, the government of Brazil, along with an international organization, developed guide lines that were specific to the helping of migrants, refugees, returned Brazilians, and trafficking victims in border areas (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017).

The Brazilian government made substantial progress to help fight trafficking in the country over the years analyzed. In 2014, Brazilian authorities increased penalties that dealt with commercial sex exploitation of children (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In 2014, the federal police force of Brazil “helped identify points of increased risk for sexual exploitation of children along federal highways” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016, p. 99). 2015 produced legislation that would harmonize the definition of trafficking to fit the definition put forth by the 2000 United Nation Trafficking in Persons Protocol (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In 2016, lawmakers in Brazil introduced legislation that would redefine *trabalho escravo* to only include instances that

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involve forced labor (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). In the same year, the National Justice Council launched FONTET, which was a national task forum whose goal was to increase judicial efficiency in the handling of cases involving human trafficking and ensuring that victims of trafficking are not punished for the crimes they commit as a result of being subjected to human trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017).

When it comes to helping victims of human trafficking, the Brazilian government operates specialized social service centers across the country (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). These centers staff psychologist and social workers that provide assistance to vulnerable people (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In 2015, only 23% were certified centers that could assist victims of trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). This number went up to 28% in 2016 (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). However, this number dropped to about 15% in 2017 (United States of America Department of the State,

Victims of *trabalho escravo* are provided unpaid wages with an additional three months' minimum wage salary and transportation home from the Brazilian government (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In 2015, the Brazilian government reported that 3.1 million Brazilian reals—about 860,000 U.S. dollars—was given to rescued workers as back pay (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

In July of 2014, a list, known as the *lista suja* or the Dirty List, was published that identified individuals and businesses that were responsible for *trabalho escravo* (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). On the July 2014 list, 609 employers were cited and denied access to credit by both public and private financial institutions because they were on

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this list (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). The federal supreme court of Brazil banned the publication of the list in December of the same year (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In March of 2017, the publication was resumed and only 68 business were included (United States Department of the State, June 2017).

### **Human Trafficking in Indonesia**

Sex trafficking and forced labor are two major forms of human trafficking that occurs in Indonesia (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Indonesian peoples are exploited in the fishing, construction, plantation, mining, and manufacturing industries under forced labor (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Victims of sex trafficking in Indonesia are often first recruited for jobs in restaurants, factories, or domestic services before they are forced into sex trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Recruitment of classmates by university and high school students using social media has become a new way for Indonesians to fall victim to trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Children can be found practicing in prostitution in the Riau Islands and West Papua districts (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Women along with young girls can be found near mining operations in Maluku, Papua, and Jambi provinces partaking in prostitution (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015).

It is estimated that 6.2 million Indonesian people work abroad in other countries (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Many of these Indonesians are women who work in domestic service, factories, construction, on plantations, or on fishing boats (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Some of these workers experience forced

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labor through debt bondage in countries in the Middle East and in Asia, specifically on fishing boats (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Most migrant workers from Indonesia can be found in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). The Indonesian government has a suspension of domestic work permits for Saudi Arabia, along with Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, and Syria (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). This leads to many Indonesians to travel undocumented overseas to these countries, which makes them vulnerable to trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Indonesians have also been found in other Asian Countries, the Middle East, the Pacific Islands, Africa, and in North America (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). Women and girls from Indonesia have been identified as victims of sex trafficking in Malaysia, Taiwan, and the Middle East (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015).

In 2007, Indonesia passed an anti-trafficking law that prohibits all forms of trafficking, with penalties ranging from three to up to fifteen years imprisonment (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). The 2006 Witness and Victim Protection and the 2002 Child Protection laws were amended by the government in October 2014 (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). This allows victims to receive restitution from their traffickers (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). In December of 2014, the Indonesian government froze licenses and destroyed fishing boats in order to decrease illegal fishing within the country (United States of America Department of the State, July 2015). A red-light district was closed in 2014 by the Indonesian government (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

Like Brazil, Indonesia has remained a Tier 2 country on the United States Department of

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the State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report from 2015 to 2018 (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). In September of 2015, the Indonesian government, along with the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding to help facilitate a joint investigation by the two governments of trafficking networks, "the exchange of anti-trafficking law enforcement information, and full access to Indonesian trafficking victims in [United Arab Emirates] for Indonesian officials" (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016, p. 205). In October of the same year, the fisheries minister drafted and adopted a ministerial regulation that established protocols for inspecting fishing vessels as well as screening for trafficking victims amongst crew members (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). The Ministry of Labor launched eighteen anti-trafficking centers in migrant source villages in November of the same year, making them the first centers in Indonesia (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). In the same year, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, adopted a 2015-2019 national action plan in order to combat trafficking and it focuses on enhancing rehabilitation and reintegration services that are provided for victims (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

In 2016, the Indonesian Supreme Court issued new regulations that would expand the courts' ability to prosecute corporations that comply with trafficking of persons (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). In June of the same year, the Indonesian government issued regulations with goals to help improve coordination and cooperation between the ministries and increase prosecutions for trafficking offenses (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in 2016 partnered with a communications company to organize information on 943 trafficking victims featured in media outlets in an attempt to broaden victim identification

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methods within the country (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). The Commission for the Protection of Children did a similar publication separately that helped identify 307 child trafficking victims (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017).

The Indonesian government passed the Law No.12/2017 in 2017 which ratified the ASEAN Convention (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). This law expands the government's authority to prosecute those who are suspected for illegal recruitment for trafficking and it provides a legal basis for law enforcement agencies to collaborate with other countries who use ASEAN (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). The Supreme Court in August issued a decree on the Guidelines to Prosecute Women Facing Legal Cases which specified that judges should protect females who have been victims of trafficking during review of the case, conviction, and the judicial review phases of the legal process (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). They encouraged judges to consider gender equality and psychological trauma as well as preventing re-traumatization by allowing the victim to do video testimony (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). In October of the same year, the Indonesian government passed amendments on an overseas worker law which "added sentencing guidelines for illegal recruitment crimes and limited the role of private recruitment and placement agencies by revoking their authority to obtain travel documents for migrant workers" (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 227).

### **Human Trafficking in Cote d'Ivoire**

Similar to other countries analyzed in this study, Cote d'Ivoire experiences sex

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trafficking and force labor (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

Trafficking within the country occurs more often than trafficking out of the country and a majority of these victims are children (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). Ivoirian women and girls are mostly subjected to forced labor within the domestic service and restaurant industries but can also be exploited in sex trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). Boys are primarily used in force labor within the agricultural and service industries, specifically within cocoa production (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

Boys from Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Mali, Togo, and other West African countries are exploited in the agriculture industry, particularly in the cocoa, coffee, pineapple, and rubber plantations in Cote d'Ivoire (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). These boys are also seen in the mining sector, carpentry, and construction (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). Girls from Benin, Togo, and Ghana are recruited for domestic work as well as to be street vendors (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). Women and girls from Ghana and Nigeria are recruited to become waitresses and can also be subjected to sex trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

Women and girls from Cote d'Ivoire have been found in Saudi Arabia in the domestic sector (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). Ivoirian women and girls have also been found in Burkina Faso and Cyprus on their way to be exploited in Saudi Arabia (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). France and Morocco have exploited Ivoirian women and girls in sex trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).



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Law No. 2010-272 Pertaining to the Prohibition of Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor, which was enacted in September of 2010, “prohibits compelling children into or offering them for prostitution and prescribes penalties of five to 20 years’ imprisonment and a fine ranging from 500,000 to 50,000,000 West African CFA francs” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016, p. 143). Articles 335 and 336 “prohibit pimping and exploitation of adults and children in prostitution by means of force, violence, or abuse” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016, p. 143). Article 376 “criminalizes entering into contracts that deny freedom to a third person, prescribing punishments of five to 10 years’ imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 to 5,000,000 FCFA” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016, p. 143). And Article 378 “prohibits the forced labor of adults and children, prescribing [...] penalties of one to five years imprisonment and a fine” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017, p. 139).

From 2015-2016, Cote d’Ivoire was considered to be on the Tier 2 watchlist on the United States Department of the State’s annual Trafficking in Persons Report (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). In December of 2016, the president of Cote d’Ivoire passed Law No. 2016-111, the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons, which is the first law to prohibit both child and adult trafficking in Cote d’Ivoire (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). This Law prohibits both forced labor and sex trafficking, with penalties ranging from five to up to ten years imprisonment and a fine of over 10 million West African CFA francs (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). Law 2016-111 also provides for protection and assistance for victims who participate in investigations/trials against their traffickers (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). In the same year, the government revised the National Solidarity Fund in order to

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allow victims of trafficking to be included as beneficiaries for government assistance (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017). The Ivoirian government drafted a 2016-2020—adopted in April of 2016— action plan that addressed adult and child trafficking, which the government had committed 1.94 billion FCFA over a five-year period to the plan (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). The first lady of Cote d’Ivoire, and the first ladies of Ghana and Burkina Faso signed a bilateral accord in order to combat cross-border child labor and trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2017).

From 2017-2018, Cote d’Ivoire moved up from the Tier 2 Watchlist to Tier 2 on the annual Trafficking of Persons report produced by the United States Department of the State (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018). The Ivoirian government created an anti-trafficking committee in April of 2017 that, under the direction of the nation’s prime minister, is responsible for leading “anti-trafficking prevention efforts, including implementation of the 2016-2020 anti-trafficking national plan” (United States of America Department of the State, June 2018, p. 153).

The National Monitoring Committee and the International Ministerial Committee was established in 2011 (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). These two committees serve as national bodies that coordinate on issues of child trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). The government in 2015 enacted a new labor code that would raise the minimum working age for children from fourteen to sixteen years of age (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). In November of 2014, the Ministry of Solidary had begun to draft legislation that would define and prescribe penalties for both child and adult trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016). The government also funds a national hotline that receives reports of child trafficking (United

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States of America Department of the State, June 2016). The National Monitoring Committee puts out a nationwide awareness campaign to warn the public of Cote d'Ivoire about situations that involve exploitation and trafficking (United States of America Department of the State, June 2016).

### **Results**

All three comparison countries experience both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Brazil has a high prevalence of child prostitution as well as high rates of sex tourism. Law enforcement officers in Brazil tolerate the prostitution of children and sometimes do business with brothels where trafficking victims work. Domestic servitude also prominent in Brazil amongst women and children. Men, women, and children from other South American countries, China, Bolivia, Haiti, and Paraguay are found to be exploited in the domestic service industry within Brazil. Brazilians have been found in Western Europe, specifically Spain and Italy, as well as in China as victims of both sex trafficking and forced labor. In the years examined in this study, Brazil has remained a Tier 2 country on the United States Department of the State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report. Brazilian law prohibits most forms of trafficking. However, current and former government officials during the years examined had been investigated and prosecuted for using *trabalho escravo*, or slave labor. Brazil has specialized government social services for victims of human trafficking. The government of Brazil also provides unpaid wages, a three-month minimum wage salary, and finances transportation back to the victim's home country.

Like Brazil, Indonesia was given a Tier 2 ranking on the United States Department of the State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report during the years examined. Child prostitution is

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concentrated to two districts within Indonesia, while women and girls are sexually exploited near mining operations. Most Indonesians work abroad and some of these workers experience debt bondage. This occurs primarily on fishing boats in the Middle East and Asia. Indonesians can also be found as victims of trafficking in Malaysia, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, the Pacific Islands, Africa, and North America. During the years examined, the Indonesian government placed suspensions on work permits for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Syria, which caused many of the Indonesians to travel undocumented to these countries vulnerable to trafficking. Indonesia has an anti-trafficking law that prohibits all forms of trafficking. The Indonesia government signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Arab Emirates which facilitates a joint investigation of human trafficking networks. Indonesia's Ministry of Labor during the years examined created eighteen anti-trafficking centers in migrant villages. Their Supreme Court also issued new regulations that expanded the courts' ability to prosecute corporations that do not comply with trafficking of persons.

A majority of trafficking victims in Cote d'Ivoire, during the years examined in this study was ranked on the Tier 2 Watchlist from 2015-2016 before being moved to the Tier 2 ranking in 2017. A majority of trafficking victims in Cote d'Ivoire were children. Trafficking occurs mostly within the country's borders than out. Ivorian girls and women are subjected to forced labor in the domestic service industry but can also be victims of sex trafficking. Boys are mostly used in the production of cocoa. Girls from Benin, Togo, and Ghana are trafficked for domestic work and street hawkers. Boys from Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Mali, Togo, and other West African countries are also used in the cocoa production industry as forced labor. Women and girls from Ghana and Nigeria have been found as victims of sex trafficking. Ivorian girls have been found in Saudi Arabia, Burkina Faso, and Cyprus as victims of forced labor in the domestic sector. In

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France and Morocco Ivorian women and girls are sex trafficked. The Ivorian government has enacted laws that prohibit child trafficking and labor as well as laws against trafficking in person in general. The government during the years examined also set up a National Solidarity fund that allows victims of trafficking to receive government assistance. The first Lady of Cote d'Ivoire signed a bilateral accord with the first ladies of Ghana and Burkina Faso to combat cross-border child trafficking between the three countries. The government also puts out a nationwide awareness campaign to warn the public about situations that may involve trafficking. Table 4.2 summarizes the prevalence of trafficking in persons in Ghana and in the three other countries selected in this comparison.

	<b>Types of Human Trafficking</b>	<b>Laws</b>	<b>Rates</b>
<b>Ghana</b>	Forced labor Forced child labor Sex trafficking Child sex trafficking	<i>2005 Human Trafficking Act</i> : amended in 2009 to conform with the definitions of human trafficking provided by the 2000 United Nations Trafficking in Person Protocol.	Total victims of trafficking in person identified by the State authorities in Ghana, 2003-2007: 61
<b>Brazil</b>	Forced labor Sex trafficking Child sex trafficking	<i>Law 13.334 of 2016</i> : criminalizes all forms of trafficking in persons.  <i>Article 231</i> : prohibits international and domestic trafficking.  <i>Article 231-A</i> : prohibits international and domestic trafficking only when it involves violence, threats, or fraud.  <i>Article 149</i> : prohibits <i>trabalho escravo</i> or slave labor.	Total victims found in slave labor conditions by the Federal Mobile Group from the Ministry of Labor in Brazil, 2003-2007: 21,850  Total victims of trafficking in persons identified by federal and statecourts in Brazil during criminal proceedings, 2004-2007: 85

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		<i>Article 244A</i> : criminalizes child sex trafficking/prostitution.	
<b>Indonesia</b>	Sex trafficking Child Sex trafficking Forced labor	<p><i>Child Protection Law of 2002</i>: allows victims to receive restitution from their traffickers.</p> <p><i>Witness and Victim Protection Law of 2006</i>: allows victims to receive restitution from their traffickers.</p> <p><i>Anti-trafficking Law of 2007</i>: prohibits all forms of trafficking.</p> <p><i>Law No. 12/2017</i>: expands government's authority to prosecute those who are suspected for illegal recruitment for trafficking.</p>	Total victims of human trafficking identified by police in Indonesia, 2003-2007: 1,483
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Sex trafficking Child sex trafficking Forced labor Forced child labor	<p><i>Law No. 2010-272 Pertaining to the Prohibition of Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor</i>: prohibits child sex trafficking.</p> <p><i>Law No. 2016-111 Fight Against Trafficking in Persons</i>: first law to prohibit sex trafficking.</p> <p><i>Articles 335 &amp; 336</i>: prohibit pimping and exploitation of both adults and children for prostitution through the means of force, violence, or abuse.</p> <p><i>Article 376 &amp; 378</i>: criminalizes and prohibits forced labor.</p>	Total victims of trafficking in persons identified by State authorities in Cote d'Ivoire, 2005-2007: 336

### CONCLUSION

The purpose of this thesis was to explore the literature from Ghana and three comparison countries, involving human trafficking through a comparative analysis of case study. As expected, each country in this comparison had both sex trafficking and forced labor as their most prominent forms of trafficking. This is likely due to sex trafficking and forced labor being broad categories of human trafficking. However, the different types of forced labor did not vary from each country, since each country examined in this study relied on relatively the same infrastructures: agriculture, fishing, and domestic services to name a few. As expected, the countries used in this comparison were mostly ranked the same on the United States Department of the State's annual Trafficking in Persons Reports. Brazil and Indonesia remained ranked as Tier 2 for the years examined, while Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire were initially ranked on the Tier 2 Watchlist, before being moved to a Tier 2 ranking. Our expected result of each country's government involvement in anti-trafficking action was not what we predicted. While countries like Ghana, Indonesia, and Cote d'Ivoire's governments small efforts made by the government to combat trafficking, the Brazilian government had made substantial progress in their anti-trafficking measures/actions. There are many possibilities why this is the case; one such possibility could be that the issues of human trafficking within Brazil have received more media attention.

The value that this case study adds to the overall discussion on human trafficking is an overall broader perspective on human trafficking on a global scale. This case study also adds to the discussion by comparing countries with similar infrastructures and development levels together to see the similarities and differences of their human trafficking problems and how their governments involvement in anti-human trafficking efforts. One thing we could not address was

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solutions to the trafficking problems within each country. This is due to trafficking being a broad and challenging topic that takes more than one close examination of research and statistics behind the issue to come up with a solution. Trafficking is also not only a within borders issue for all countries in the world, but also spans across borders, making it almost impossible to find one solution fits all approach to this global issue.

One limitation to this study was the lack of case studies published on human trafficking in Ghana, leaving us with only a small selection to choose from in our examination. Another limitation is that when collecting data on human trafficking within the countries used in this comparison, our research was primarily from the United States Department of the State's annual Trafficking in Persons Reports, which gives us a narrower data pool. A third limitation to this study is the rates of human trafficking we found for Ghana and each country of comparison. The rates that we found were over a decade old and these rates might not reflect the current situation within each country

The similarities of each the chosen countries efforts to combat trafficking may eventually make it easier to deal with trafficking as a larger issue. With our decision to select countries that were similar in infrastructure and level of development, we can share their methods and actions with each country. While one method or action might not work as efficiently in one country, it may be more efficient in another. However, differences between how governments are structured would make this difficult, especially when it would come to government regulation on these methods and actions. Regional differences might also affect how other country's methods or actions are implemented. Cultural and religious differences could also affect these methods and actions as well.



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