



Working to eliminate the
worst forms of child labor,
forced labor, and human
trafficking worldwide through

***international*
research
policy engagement
technical cooperation**



Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD LABOR AFFAIRS
United States Department of Labor



Child Labor

Child Labor is defined by ILO Conventions 138 on the Minimum Age and 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. It includes employment below the minimum age as established in national legislation, hazardous unpaid household services, and the worst forms of child labor: all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale or trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, or forced or compulsory labor; the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic purposes; the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities; and work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

The Global Problem of Child Labor and Modern Slavery

Newly released 2016 estimates from the International Labor Organization indicate that there are 152 million children 5-17 years old in child labor, of which about 73 million are in hazardous labor that by its nature can have adverse effects on their health, safety, and moral development. Concerted efforts by governments, workers, and employers have resulted in a reduction of nearly 94 million children engaged in child labor in the last 15 years, which is a significant achievement. Still, far too many children today carry heavy loads and wield machetes on farms; scavenge in garbage dumps and are exposed to electronic waste; endure physical, emotional, and verbal abuse as domestic servants; and fight as child combatants in armed conflict. An estimated 25 million people are trapped in forced labor, including over 4 million children. Children and adults are forced to climb into mine shafts in search of diamonds and gold; are coerced, deceived, and trapped on fishing vessels by unscrupulous labor recruiters; and are forced to toil in the extreme heat of brick kilns to escape from a vicious cycle of bonded labor.

152 million children
are engaged in **child labor**

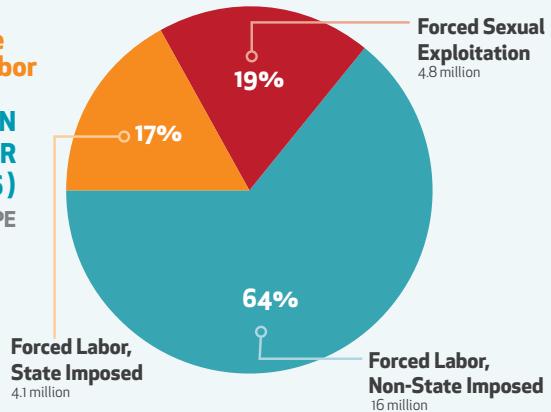
**GLOBAL DATA ON
CHILD LABOR (2016),
5-17 YEARS
BY TYPE**



Source: International Labour Organization and WalkFree (2017)

25 million people
are engaged in **forced labor**

**GLOBAL DATA ON
FORCED LABOR
(2016)
BY TYPE**



ILAB'S Impact

ILAB engagement and technical cooperation initiatives to address the worst forms of child labor have made a critical difference in helping reduce the number of child laborers worldwide by 94 million over the past two decades.

Collectively, ILAB projects have rescued and provided education to close to 2 million children and supported nearly 170,000 families to meet basic needs without relying on child labor.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Response

Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking

With nearly 25 years of experience, the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) in the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) at the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) is a world leader in the fight to eradicate these labor abuses. OCFT combats child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking by:

- **Researching** and **reporting** information to inform U.S. foreign policy, trade policy, and cooperation initiatives;
- **Raising awareness** and **engaging with governments, civil society, and businesses** to ensure that each do their part to make these unscrupulous practices a relic of the past; and
- Providing **technical cooperation** through more than 300 initiatives in over 90 countries designed to eliminate the most hazardous and exploitative forms of child and forced labor.

More broadly, ILAB's work to monitor and enforce the labor provisions of trade agreements and preference programs, which include prohibitions on child labor and forced labor, helps ensure fair competition and a level playing field for U.S. workers and businesses. ILAB's efforts to eliminate hazardous and exploitative labor practices also respond to concerns of U.S. consumers that the imported products they buy should be made in a way that is consistent with their values. For more information or to contact us, please visit DOL's website at <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/about/offices/>.



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Meet One of ILAB's Project Participants

Aragash had been weaving since a young age. She used to work for a business owner who exploited her. "Often, I would eat only once a day and would regularly get punished," she said. "I also started work early in the morning at 6 a.m. and would work throughout the night." Through the E-FACE (Ethiopians Fighting Against Child Labor) project, Aragash received life skills and weaving skills training and is now self-employed. Now that she is of legal working age, Aragash works in a government workspace with other young weavers and can support herself to attend school in the evening. "Although I am the only girl working here, they are like my brothers," she says of her fellow young weavers. "We all went to the same training, and I am so happy to work with them."



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Research and Reporting on International Child Labor and Forced Labor ILAB as a Knowledge Generator

ILAB's research and reporting are carried out under Congressional mandates and Presidential directives. They provide specific, actionable information to various stakeholders about how to combat labor abuses in countries around the world.

- Foreign governments use the reports to strengthen policies and programs for vulnerable children and families in or at-risk of child labor or forced labor.
- Companies rely on these reports as a critical input into risk assessments, to conduct due diligence on their supply chains, and to develop strategies to address the problem.
- Civil society organizations, including academic institutions, use the reports to inform advocacy efforts to assist victims in accessing appropriate referral and/or grievance mechanisms and remedy.
- U.S. federal government agencies use the reports to safeguard federal procurement and imports of goods made with child labor and/or forced labor.

Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (TDA Report)

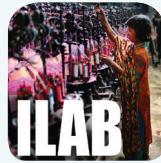
The TDA Report is prepared in accordance with the Trade and Development Act (TDA) of 2000. The TDA added the requirement that a country implement its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in order for the President to consider designating the country a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. The TDA also mandates the President to submit to Congress the Secretary of Labor's findings with respect to each "beneficiary country's implementation of its international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor." ILAB carries out this responsibility on behalf of the Secretary on an annual basis by assessing the efforts of approximately 140 countries and territories to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the areas of laws and regulations, institutional mechanisms for coordinating and enforcement, and government policies and programs. This assessment is based on a progress scale that includes significant, moderate, minimal, or no advancement. The TDA Report also presents findings on the prevalence and sectoral distribution of the worst forms of child labor in each country.



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Sweat & Toil: Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking Around the World

ILAB's Sweat & Toil app is the first U.S. government mobile application of its kind.



The app puts over 1,000 pages of research on child and forced labor in over 140 countries into the palm of your hand and contains detailed reporting from all three of ILAB's flagship reports.

You can download the free app from the iTunes or Google Play store and access the data behind the app on our website:

<http://developer.dol.gov/others/sweat-and-toil>.



List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor (TVPRA List)

The TVPRA List is required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005, which directs ILAB to provide information regarding trafficking in persons and forced labor to other U.S. Government agencies, and to "consult with other departments and agencies of the United States Government to reduce forced and child labor internationally and ensure that products made by forced labor and child labor in violation of international standards are not imported into the United States." As of September 2017, the TVPRA List includes 139 goods from 75 countries and a total of 379 items.

List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor (EO List)

Executive Order (EO) 13126, issued in 1999, requires DOL, in consultation with the Departments of State and Homeland Security, to publish and maintain a list of products, by country of origin, which the three Departments have a reasonable basis to believe might have been mined, produced, or manufactured by forced or indentured child labor. This List is intended to ensure that U.S. federal agencies do not procure goods made by forced or indentured child labor. Under procurement regulations, federal contractors who supply products on the List must certify that they have made a good faith effort to determine whether forced or indentured child labor was used to produce the items supplied. As of September 2017, the EO List includes 35 products from 26 countries.

ILAB reports are available on DOL's website at <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/>.

Other Research

ILAB also funds research projects which pilot new tools and methodologies that deepen our knowledge and understanding of child labor and forced labor, including their root causes. ILAB programming has supported:

- The collection and analysis of credible data on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking from over 90 national child labor surveys and 10 surveys focused on forced labor or forced child labor;
- The development of new survey methodologies, qualitative and quantitative studies, and statistical guidelines on child labor and forced labor; and
- The establishment of International Labor Organization global estimates on child labor and forced labor, which serve as the standard for measuring worldwide progress on these issues.



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ILAB Research Serves as a Blueprint for Governments to Combat Child Labor

ILAB's Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (CLEAR) project provides an opportunity for willing countries to act upon information and specific suggested actions contained in the TDA report. These actions often include bringing local and national laws into compliance with international standards; improving the monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies related to child labor; adopting and implementing national plans of action on child labor; and strengthening programs aimed at child labor reduction and prevention. As a result of support from the CLEAR project:

- The Government of Serbia formally adopted the Regulation on Hazardous Labor for Children which delineates work activities that are prohibited for children under 18;
- The Government of Sri Lanka used data from their Child Activity Survey to update their Child Labor Policy and Hazardous Forms of Child Labor List; and
- The Government of Paraguay is improving coordination between the country's two largest anti-poverty programs, *Programa Abrazo* and *Tekoporã*, to better leverage government resources and reach more children and families.

Policy Engagement to Achieve Meaningful and Sustained Action

Promoting Collaboration between Governments, Civil Society, and Businesses

ILAB works with governments, civil society, and businesses to ensure that each does its part to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. ILAB's experience demonstrates that all of us need to play a meaningful and constructive role toward achieving genuine and sustainable progress.

Empowering Civil Society

ILAB helps increase the ability of civil society organizations to play a critical role in monitoring and responding to cases of child labor, forced labor and human trafficking. The often hidden and unlawful nature of these abuses makes it difficult to obtain accurate and objective information on the nature and magnitude of the problem in a particular country or sector. In addition, when information does exist, there is frequently a lack of independent verification and ways to disseminate the information, hold violators accountable, and monitor follow-up actions for victims. Through its technical cooperation and direct engagement, ILAB

Comply Chain: Business Tools for Labor Compliance in Global Supply Chains



Comply Chain is our newest tool for addressing child labor and forced labor in global supply chains. This free online and mobile application contains best practices guidance for companies on developing social compliance systems to reduce child labor and forced labor in their supply chains.

Comply Chain includes eight modules ranging from stakeholder engagement to code of conduct provisions, and from auditing to remediation to reporting. Companies that are new to social compliance can work through the modules in order, and more experienced companies can select modules based on their continuous improvement goals.

You can download the free app from the iTunes or Google Play store, or access it on our website:
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/complychain>.

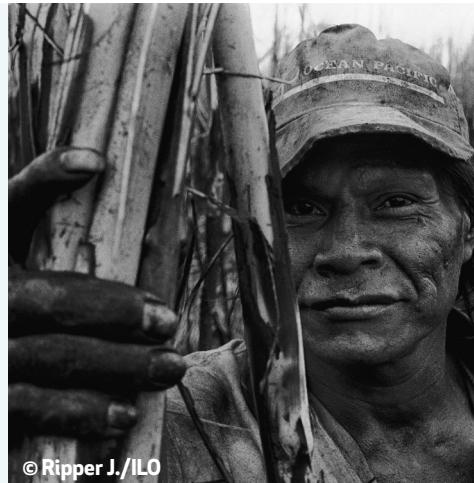


strengthens and expands the ability and role of civil society to carry out key actions to address such abusive labor practices. ILAB funding has made it possible for civil society organizations to:

- Collect data on these abusive practices and use that information to shine a light on the problem, such as in Malaysia, where ILAB-funded research on forced labor in the electronics industry highlighted cases of labor exploitation and helped spur industry commitments to tackle the issue in their supply chain;
- Provide regular and ongoing monitoring and reporting of labor rights abuses, including child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking;
- Call for more effective action by governments and private sector actors to address child labor, forced labor and human trafficking; and
- Demonstrate effective ways for victims of child labor, forced labor and human trafficking to access assistance.

Partnering with the Private Sector

Around the world, ILAB engagement with private sector partners is helping confront the persistence of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking in business supply chains. As more and more companies pursue a wide variety of risk-mitigation strategies, many are increasingly looking to ILAB for assistance. ILAB responds to these requests by assisting firms in understanding relevant laws, regulations, and policies and by highlighting effective approaches for monitoring and remediation.



Meet One of ILAB's Project Participants

Melisa was ready to drop out of school when she reached the ninth grade. Among other things, the arduous 6 hour commute to the nearest high school was making it nearly impossible for her to get her education. "The coffee rust fungus destroyed the entire coffee crop my dad had cultivated," Melisa said. "He remained in debt, sick and unable to recover. With tears in his eyes, he asked us to return to the community. He did not want anything bad to happen to me and my brother in the city. I lost hope that I'd be able to study this year. I did not know what would become of my life." That changed thanks to the ILAB-funded *Semilla* project, a partnership with the Peruvian Government, which allowed Melisa to finish high school by accessing a tutoring program. Melisa won a prestigious scholarship from the national government and is on a full ride to college to study sustainable tourism. Her goal is to bring greater economic development to her village.



Innovative Approaches to Eliminate Child Labor in the Vanilla Sector

The Supporting Sustainable and Child Labor Free Vanilla-Growing Communities in SAVA (VANILLA) project aims to reduce child labor in the production of vanilla in the Sava region of Madagascar. The project will assist the vanilla industry to eliminate child labor in Madagascar's vanilla supply chain and will build the capacity of Madagascar's law enforcement to enforce child labor laws. The project will also work with local communities to provide education opportunities to children engaged in or at risk of child labor and will support impoverished families by teaching adults marketable skills to increase family income and how to access credit through village savings and loan associations.





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Targeted Initiatives to Combat Child Labor and Forced Labor

A Focus on Capacity Building and Assistance for Vulnerable Children and Families

Building Governments' Capacity

ILAB works with governments to make them more effective in combating labor abuses, through efforts in areas such as data collection, monitoring, and enforcement. As a direct result of ILAB initiatives:

- Approximately 80 countries have strengthened their monitoring and enforcement of laws, regulations, policies, and programs to combat child labor, forced labor and human trafficking;
- More than 50,000 labor inspectors and law enforcement officials have been trained to more effectively enforce child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking laws and regulations; and
- Effective practices for providing services to child and adult victims have been adopted more broadly worldwide. For example, ILAB worked in partnership with the Government of Brazil to design and pilot a monitoring tool that tracks participants of the Integrated Action Program, an initiative that provides job and entrepreneurship opportunities to victims of forced labor.

Assistance for Vulnerable Children and Families

ILAB projects adopt a holistic approach to promote sustainable efforts that address child labor's underlying causes, including poverty and lack of access to education.

From Protocol to Practice: A Bridge to Global Action on Forced Labor (The Bridge Project)

ILAB's Bridge project aims to assist countries with efforts to address forced labor, using the ILO's Protocol and Recommendation to Convention 29 on Forced Labor as a basis for concrete and sustained action. The Recommendation aims to advance forced labor prevention, protection, and compensation measures around the world. As a result of support from the Bridge project, 17 countries have ratified the Protocol. Among these ratifications is Mauritania, which is the last country in the world to have abolished slavery. The project is working with the Government of Mauritania to address the vestiges of slavery. The project is also supporting efforts to carry out research to collect reliable data and share knowledge across institutions at the global and national levels. In particular, it is engaging with the governments of Nepal, Peru, and Thailand to carry out research, including nationally representative statistics on child labor and forced labor. The results of these studies will provide vital information for these countries to develop more targeted policies, programs, and enforcement efforts related to forced labor.

ILAB Projects are Monitored for Results

ILAB focuses on achieving results and assessing performance while being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. ILAB monitors program implementation from a results-based framework and ensures that resources are used appropriately. Audits and attestation engagement help ensure fiscal accountability of grants. ILAB also places a major emphasis on learning through implementation and impact evaluations to assess performance, identify good practices, and, when needed, implement corrective action.

Addressing Root Causes to Eliminate Child Labor in the Sugarcane Sector

Through key partnerships, advocacy efforts, and awareness-raising, the ABK3 LEAP (Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy & Protection to Reduce Child Labor in Sugarcane Areas) project in the Philippines reduced child labor in target sugar producing communities by 86 percent, provided opportunities for education to over 54,000 children, and provided more than 30,000 households with the necessary resources to keep children out of hazardous work in farms. The project also assisted 130 villages in incorporating child labor and child rights issues into annual community development plans. It also mobilized the private sector – more than 70 sugar industry institutions and associations – to implement programs to reduce child labor in sugar supply chains. In addition, ABK3 LEAP worked closely with the Government of the Philippines to integrate child labor prevention into policies, guidelines, and training to ensure that protections for children were addressed at every stage of sugarcane production.





Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labor

The Iqbal Masih award reflects the spirit of Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani child sold into bonded labor as a carpet weaver at age 4. He escaped his servitude at age 10 and became an outspoken advocate of children's rights, drawing international attention in his fight against child labor. Masih was killed in Pakistan at age 13 in 1995.

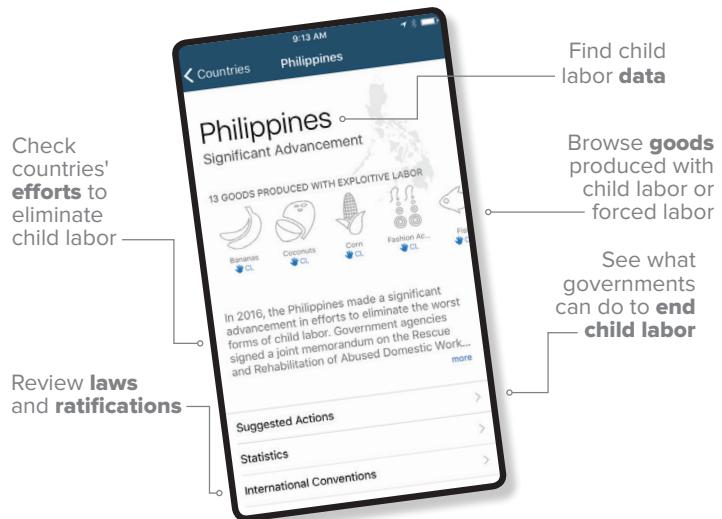
The United States Congress established the Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labor in 2008 to recognize exceptional efforts by an individual, company, organization or national government to end the worst forms of child labor.

To learn more about the Iqbal Masih Award and USDOL's efforts to combat child labor, visit our Web site at www.dol.gov/ilab.



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