



▶ The Asia Regional Child Labour (ARC) programme

▶ ILO Country Office for India

▶ At a glance

The Asia Regional Child Labour (ARC) programme aims to reduce vulnerability to child labour and enhance protection of children from exploitation in India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan and to contribute to the eradication of child labour, particularly its worst forms.

The ARC Programme will build the capacities of governments, trade unions and employers' organizations to accelerate action against child labour in the areas of knowledge-generation and sharing, policy enhancement, strengthened implementation, and integrated delivery of services. While reaching out to child labourers and their families at large, it will have a special focus on female-headed households, seasonal migrants, religious and ethnic minorities, indigenous populations, internally displaced persons, refugees and returnee migrants.



Stakeholders

- ▶ National, State and local Governments
- ▶ Employers' organizations
- ▶ Workers' organizations
- ▶ Supply chain actors
- ▶ Academia and Civil Society Organizations



Development Cooperation Partners

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK Government.



Duration

May 2019 to September 2023

▶ Project objectives

The ARC Programme will work with ILO's constituents and other stakeholders in the six countries towards the following objectives:

- ▶ building a credible knowledge base on the causes and drivers of child labour and effective interventions to address them;
- ▶ aligning legislation and policies with international conventions on child labour, forced labour and trafficking in persons and enforcing and implementing them; and
- ▶ developing and applying a holistic approach to eradicating child labour, particularly its worst forms, in selected States.

▶ Project Background

The ARC Programme is designed to step up eradication of child labour, particularly its worst forms, in Asia and contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 by 2025. This will be guided by ILO's Integrated Strategy on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) through its four pillars: Public Policies/Governance, Knowledge/Data, Empowerment/Protection, and Partnerships/ Advocacy.

The Programme will combine research, both through surveys and qualitative studies, and interventions using the integrated, area-based, multi-pronged strategies for national and state/local responses towards prevention and elimination of child labour. Additionally, the Programme will facilitate setting up of child labour-free

► The Asia Regional Child Labour (ARC) programme

zones, monitoring systems combined with the convergent delivery of services for families vulnerable to child labour.

As per Census 2011, the total child population in India in the age group 5-14 years is 259.6 million with over 10 million (4% of total child population) being working, either as 'main worker' or 'marginal worker'. The Census data indicates decreased incidence of child labour in India by 2.6 million between 2001 and 2011 and also that the decline is greater in rural than in urban areas because of rural-to-urban migration.

The national Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act was amended in 2016 bringing the adolescent labour under its purview. India also ratified in 2017, the ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and Convention No. 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour. The project will work with the flagship National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme of the Government of India and the programmes of the State Governments.

► Project Activities

1. Pilot Labour Force Surveys (PLFS) in select States based on the latest International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) guidelines, School-to-Work Transition Surveys (SWTS) in select States, Rapid Assessment of child labour in Mining Supply Chains.
2. Publication of reports for policy makers and fact sheets, video clips, for public awareness raising.
3. Mapping the policy and legal framework on adolescent labour with linkages to education and local resource-base for linkages with Government schemes.
4. Technical support to Governments on access to schooling and vocational training.
5. Private sector working groups of companies to prevent child labour in minerals and cotton supply chains. Development of Code of Conduct for businesses and labour contractors and facilitate its adoption.
6. Capacity development of stakeholders for elimination of child labour.

The project contributes to

- Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- India Decent Work Country Programme 2018-22
 - PRIORITY I Promote, adopt and implement international labour standards for protection of workers from unacceptable forms of work.
 - Outcome 1.1 By 2022, all fundamental ILO Conventions and other selected International Labour Standards have been ratified and implemented
 - Outcome 1.2 By 2022, regulatory and policy frameworks developed or revised and implemented for protection of workers from unacceptable forms of work.



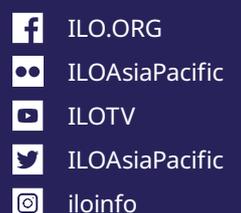
All photos: © ILO

► Contact details:

Mr. Giovanni Soledad
Chief Technical Adviser
E: soledad@ilo.org

Mr. Lakshmi Narasimhan Gadiraju
National Project Coordinator - India
E: gadiraju@ilo.org

Asia Regional Child Labour Programme (ARC) project
W: <http://bit.ly/ARCIIndia>



W: ilo.org/india