Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa (ACCEL AFRICA)
ACCEL AFRICA AT A GLANCE

Project title: Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa

Project Development Objectives

The overarching goal of the project is to “Accelerate the elimination of child labour in Africa”. Egypt Chapter of the project focuses on eliminating child labour in the cotton, textile and ready-made garment (RMG) supply chain.

Outcome 1: Policy, legal and institutional frameworks are improved and enforced to address child labour in global supply chains

Outcome 2: Innovative and evidence-based solutions that address the root causes of child labour in supply chains are institutionalized

Outcome 3: Strengthening partnership and knowledge sharing among global supply chain actors working in Africa

Countries covered: Africa Region, with focus on Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda

Pilot states in Nigeria

Ondo- Cocoa Supply chain
Niger- Artisanal Gold Mines Supply chain

Implementing Partners: Government, Employers, Workers, Civil Society Organisations and research institutions

Time frame: 15 November 2018
15 November 2022

• vulnerable children, families and communities
• Governments, and primarily labour, education, social welfare, agriculture, mining and trade ministries, and other relevant government bodies at the national and state levels;
• Employers’ organizations, industry associations and their members;
• Workers’ organizations and their members;
• Actors along the cocoa and AGM supply chains, including investors (finance sector), buyers, traders, cooperative organizations and SMEs;
• Community, traditional and religious leaders;
• Civil society organizations and research / academic institutions;
• Multi-stakeholder and sectoral initiatives;
• UN Organizations;

STAKEHOLDERS

SUMMARY

The project has the overarching goal to accelerate the elimination of child labour in Africa, through targeted actions in selected supply chains in Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda. To achieve this goal, the Project has identified four inter-related components (i.e. three outcomes and one cross-cutting knowledge component). The Project will work on a) public policy and good governance; b) empowerment and representation, and c) partnership and knowledge sharing among global supply chain actors working in ILO EXTRA-BUDGETARY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRODOC
Africa. In addition, the Project will be supported by continuous research and identification of good practices from the Project implementation and from other sources. Gender is considered as cross-cutting theme; all outcomes will address gender-strategic needs.

The Project theory of change is based on the assumption that by working on the above-mentioned components, the elimination of child labour in the targeted countries will be accelerated. These assumptions build on lessons learned from over 25 years of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and overall ILO experience. The Meta-analysis of evaluations on ILO child labour programmes and projects in Africa 2009-2014, the report on Ending child labour by 2025: A review of policies and programmes, as well as other evaluations of implemented projects, including those funded by the Netherlands are among the main sources of the assumptions under which this project is based.

The Project also builds on the experience of the ILO with tripartite constituents at global, national and local level, and with actors along global supply chains (GSCs) and the private sector. The ILO constituents (governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations) and other key partners such as supply chain actors, UN agencies, investors, communities and civil society organizations will be actively involved in the implementation of the Project. In this context, the Project will build synergies with ongoing ILO projects on global supply chains and existing public and private initiatives on child labour in the region, particularly in the target/participating countries.

The supply chain approach is at the heart of the Project. While the focus is mainly on the lowest tiers of the supply chain, the Project will involve work with informal networks, supply, production and national and international markets (through the component on partnerships).

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Context on child labour in Nigeria

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with a population of almost 200 million, more than half living in poverty, and sustained population growth. Recent data by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) estimates that about 43 per cent of Nigerian children, in the age range between 5 and 11 years, are involved in economic activities. When looking at age-specific thresholds of economic activity, more than 29 per cent of children were involved in economic activities at or above the age-specific threshold. In rural areas, most children work in agriculture, cultivating crops, such as cocoa, cassava, cotton and tobacco. Children are also engaged in the rearing of cattle, cutting/weeding of bush with cutlass, harvesting of crops with tools meant for adults, application of agrochemicals to crops, fishing in deep waters and usage of all sorts of machines (e.g. grinders) in processing of farm produce, which might result into injuries.

Nigeria’s exports are dominated by oil, however due to the fluctuations in oil prices, the government is trying to diversify its exports. Agriculture contributes to almost 22 per cent of GDP economy. Cocoa is the leading agricultural export in Nigeria, which is the fourth producer globally and the third largest exporter. Cocoa exports sharply increased in 2017, driven by a devaluation of the Nigerian currency, and cocoa production is considered to have a great potential to contribute to livelihoods and employed for millions of people, especially unskilled workers. The cultivation of cocoa is done by many small-scale farmers on farmlands of around 2 hectares while export is dominated by a few firms. The cocoa industry however requires sustained investments to overcome some of the challenges that hinder production such as aging trees and farms, low yields, inconsistent production patterns, disease incidence, pest attack and little agricultural mechanization has contributed to a stagnant cocoa industry. Following the liberalisation of cocoa marketing, currently, farmers sell their products indirectly through a cooperative or a licensed buying agent who in turn sell it to exporting firms. The major states that produce cocoa are Ondo, Cross River, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, Edo, Ekiti, Delta, Osun and Oyo.

Mining is a relatively underdeveloped sector for Nigeria’s economy and export, compared to its potential in terms of resources. Gold is mainly found in northern Nigeria, especially in Niger State. After the Second World War, gold extraction and refining came to a halt, replaced by the discovery of oil. There is no large scale gold mining operation in Nigeria today, though there is small-scale mining. ASGM, which for the majority is informal, is tolerated in the country as it provides an important source of livelihoods. Artisanal and small scale mining, especially of gold, sees the involvement of children in hazardous work. The activities in most of the sites are carried out with children involved mostly in processing of the gold, from transporting to washing, panning sluicing and burning of gold amalgam with mercury. In 2015, 28 children were reported dead in Rafi Local Government as a result of lead poisoning due to processing of gold from quartz that is associated with a poisonous lead. Some of these sites uses dangerous chemicals like mercury, cyanide and ammonium that are disposed of haphazardly, posing risk to children, entire communities and the environment. The Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (MMSD) had identified gold as one of seven strategic minerals that have the potential to contribute significantly to Nigeria’s economic development.

Nigeria serves as a transit hub for trafficking in West Africa and to a lesser extent, a destination point for young children from nearby West African countries. Nigeria continues to face the challenges posed by the armed group Boko Haram which has resulted in large scale displacement within the country. Over 1.7 million people remain internally displaced (IDPs) and many become vulnerable to trafficking across the Sahara

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5 http://www.fao.org/3/a-at586e.pdf
desert into Libya and eventually to Europe. IDPs have their livelihoods and access to basic services severely affected resulting in an increased occurrence of child labour.

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, The Child’s Rights Act (CRA) 2003 and The Child’s Rights Law of Lagos State (CRL) 2007 are the main reference texts on child labour, in addition to ratification of main Conventions. The 2015 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act prohibits commercial sexual exploitation, pornography, drug trafficking, and trafficking for the purposes of forced or compulsory recruitment into armed conflict, and punishes such offenses with fines and imprisonment. The Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (2004) provides for free and compulsory education for children until the age of 15. The 2003 Child Rights Act in Nigeria consolidates all laws relating to children into a single legislation and specifies the duties and obligations of government, parents and other authorities, organizations and bodies including children. Despite this, as of 2013, only 24 of the 36 states of Nigeria have ratified the law with all but one of the remaining states being in northern Nigeria where child labour is most severe. The legal framework has inconsistencies, one example being that the minimum age for work set at 12 years of age is below international standards. In terms of relevant policy frameworks, the Federal Government of Nigeria launched, in 2014, a National Policy on Child Labour, though its implementation has been a challenge. Nigeria also adopted a National Action Plan for Elimination of Child Labour (2013-2017), and developed the List of Hazardous Child Labour (2013). In addition, state level action plans have been developed such as the Ogun State Action Plan for Elimination of Child Labour in Nigeria 2014-2017, and the Oyo State Action Plan for Elimination of Child Labour in Nigeria 2014-2017.

Table 1: Summary situation of child labour in the selected supply chains in Nigeria

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<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>FACTORS MOTIVATING THE SELECTION</th>
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| Nigeria | Cocoa  | - Fourth world cocoa producer (third in Africa after Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana)  
- Potential to further substantially increase cocoa production, especially to diversify the economy from oil exports.  
- Plans to establish a Cocoa Corporation of Nigeria (CCN), mainly private, to support sustainable development of the sector and its smallholders. However sector reform is stalling and there is need for support the government is addressing child labour.  
- Cocoa is on the USDOL list of goods produced with child labour and forced labour. |
| Gold    |        | - Gold extraction is an underdeveloped sector in Nigeria and mainly based on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). Activities in most of the extraction sites are carried out with children involved mostly in processing of the gold, from transporting to washing. Use of dangerous chemicals is widespread, posing OSII and environmental threats.  
- Gold is on the USDOL list of goods produced with child labour and forced labour |

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7 Government of Nigeria; Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, No. 24, enacted July 2003 and amended in 2005.
