The ingredients for change: the “theory of change” to eliminate forced labour in the fishing sector

**THE PROBLEM**

- A minimum of 128,000 fishers (likely an underestimation) are trapped in forced labour on fishing vessels. They face extreme isolation, hazards excessive working hours, low pay, dangerous working conditions, and limited means to report complaints due to poor connectivity, long trips at sea and few port calls. These fishers often suffer from illnesses, injuries, and various forms of labour abuse, including psychological and physical violence.

- Migrant fishers are particularly vulnerable to contract deception and the payment of exorbitant recruitment fees to unscrupulous labour recruiters, often resulting in debt bondage.

- Jurisdictional issues exacerbate fishers’ vulnerabilities in a sector which is transnational in nature. Very few labour inspections of fishing vessels are conducted worldwide, leading to poor monitoring of working conditions.

**THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE**

Our goal is to eradicate forced labour in the fishing sector. ILO’s model of intervention tackle three interconnected levels (national, regional, and global), where diverse stakeholders collaborate to achieve interrelated paths of change.

**THE ADDED VALUE OF THE 8.7 ACCELERATOR LAB**

- To expedite progress towards SDG Target 8.7 and the eradication of forced labour by 2030, the 8.7 Accelerator Lab influences interventions by mainstreaming six Acceleration Factors:
  - Foster and Develop Political Commitment
  - Address Root Causes
  - Focus on Vulnerable Population
  - Create and Share Knowledge
  - Support Sustainable Financing
  - Leverage Innovation

- The 8.7 Accelerator Lab is strategically targeting interventions, exchanging knowledge, breaking silos across projects, and scaling up good practices to achieve desired results as demonstrated in this ToC for eradicating forced labour in fishing.

For more information, click on the icons.