



International
Labour
Organization

8.7 
Accelerator Lab

► The GALAB project: Intensifying action against child labour and forced labour in Malaysia



Focus areas



Child labour



Forced labour



Data collection



Due diligence in supply chains



Employers' organizations



Knowledge exchange



Migration



Palm oil



Policy



Public-Private Partnerships



Social protection



Trade unions

► Key activities

- **Government consultations:** Focus on child labour and forced labour in global supply chains, assess the economic costs, and develop innovative data collection methods.
- **Child labour policy consultation for government officials:** Provide capacity-building support to develop child labour policies and action plans.
- **Workshop for department of statistics:** Train staff on operationalizing forced labour and child labour definitions, data collection, research strategies, and financing modalities.
- **Online forum and mission:** Organize an online forum and a mission for government officials to share knowledge on labour rights.
- **Study on labour migration framework:** Examine Malaysia's labour migration regulations and propose measures to improve labour market mobility for migrant workers.
- **Intergovernmental knowledge sharing:** Facilitate knowledge exchange between Malaysia and countries that have removed restrictions on migrant workers switching employment.
- **Provide support to the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC):** Assist MTUC in supporting migrant workers in construction and plantation sectors.
- **Pilot on-arrival briefings:** Help trade unions develop on-arrival briefings for migrant workers in construction and plantations.
- **Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work workshops:** Conduct seven workshops for trade unions on topics such as freedom of association, collective bargaining, and occupational safety and health.
- **Training for community leaders:** Train leaders at Community Learning Centers (CLCs) to raise awareness of child labour and use the ILO's Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media (SCREAM) Education Pack.
- **Train-the-trainer sessions:** Organize sessions to train teachers on implementing the SCREAM programme for child labour awareness.

Context

Migrant workers' rights violations

A 2017 ILO study revealed severe labour rights violations affecting migrant workers in Malaysia, including:

▶ **77%**

withholding identification documents.

▶ **74%**

inability to take leave.

▶ **70%**

excessive work hours.



Plantations sector

A 2018 study by the Ministry of Plantations Industries and Commodities of Malaysia (MPIC) estimates that:

▶ **33,600 children**

are victims of child labour.

▶ **8 out of 1,000 palm workers**

are in forced labour.

Construction sector

- ▶ High reliance on migrant workers, with the potential for exploitative working conditions including debt bondage, irregular schedules, and labour outsourcing practices.

▶ Expected achievements

- ▶ **Government commitment:** Strengthen the government's ability to meet international standards and implement effective measures.
- ▶ **Alliance 8.7 Roadmap implementation:** Finalize the roadmap for eliminating child labour and enhance Malaysia's capacity as an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country.
- ▶ **Labour migration study:** Identify practical measures to improve labour market mobility for migrant workers by examining Malaysia's regulatory framework.
- ▶ **Capacity building for trade unions:** Strengthen trade unions' ability to protect and promote Fundamental principles and rights at work.
- ▶ **Raising awareness on child labour in Sabah:** Empower teachers, children and youth to advocate for the eradication of child labour using the SCREAM Education Package.
- ▶ **Mapping vocational training in Sabah:** Conduct a mapping assessment of vocational training and livelihood opportunities in Sabah based on the ILO's Training for Rural Economic Empowerment (TREE) guide.

What is GALAB project

The Global Accelerator Lab (GALAB) project, funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) with a total budget of US\$15 million, is a major component of the ILO's [8.7 Accelerator Lab](#) initiative. It addresses the critical issues of child labour and forced labour which are key barriers to achieving Target 8.7 of the SDG on decent work and economic growth.

Operating in a global scale, the GALAB project fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing across regions. Through targeted interventions in several countries (Brazil, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria and Somalia) and regions (Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean), the project delivers impactful results at the global, regional and national levels.

GALAB project markers



Innovation: Conduct research on key issues and establish a knowledge management system to share good practices and promote innovative solutions for eliminating child labour and forced labour globally, regionally and nationally.



Strengthening workers' voice: Empower workers, especially in the informal economy, by supporting their organization and enhancing trade unions' capacity to combat child labour and forced labour through awareness campaigns, access to information, and complaint mechanisms.



Social protection: Expand social protection coverage to vulnerable households, helping to keep girls and boys in school and out of work.



Due diligence and transparency in supply chains: Support businesses in addressing child labour and forced labour risks by promoting due diligence frameworks and collaborating with key stakeholders such as the ILO's [Child Labour Platform \(CLP\)](#) and the ILO's [Global Business Network on Forced Labour \(GBNFL\)](#).

Contact: Ahmad Syafiq Audi bin Ali (aliah@ilo.org)
National Project Coordinator
ILO Kuala Lumpur Office

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GALAB project outcomes



Globally (Outcome 1): The GALAB project collaborates with the Alliance 8.7 multi-stakeholder partnership to eradicate child labour and forced labour. This collaboration strengthens global efforts and facilitates the development of innovative solutions with far-reaching impact.



Regionally (Outcome 2): The GALAB project collaborates with regional organizations and stakeholders to build capacity to address child labour and forced labour through knowledge-sharing platforms and the development of targeted regional strategies.



Nationally (Outcome 3): The GALAB project collaborates with national governments and local stakeholders to enhance national policies and develop effective strategies to eradicate child labour and forced labour.

