



International
Labour
Organization

8.7
Accelerator Lab

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



Focus areas



Child labour



Forced labour



Domestic work



Migration



Policy



Social protection



South-South cooperation



Trade unions

► Key activities

- **Establishing a resource centre for migrant domestic workers:** To combat child trafficking and enhance the protection of migrant domestic workers along the migration corridor of Nioro du Sahel (Mali), Kobenni, and Aioun in Mauritania by strengthening workers' rights.
- **Conducting orientation seminars and information sessions:** Organize seminars and information sessions for migrant workers and descendants of slaves to provide essential guidance and support.
- **Engaging stakeholders:** Collaborate with stakeholders to raise awareness about of child protection and care issues.
- **Enhancing coordination mechanisms:** Strengthen coordination mechanisms to improve access to protection and justice vulnerable people.
- **Implementing cross-border monitoring:** Establish a cross-border monitoring committee, contingent on the security situation, to oversee and ensure the safety of migrant workers.

► Expected achievements

- **Establishing a resource centre for women migrant workers:** Set up a resource centre for women migrant workers on the Mauritanian side of the migration corridor in Aioun and Kobeny.
- **Strengthening skills of migrant women and their families:** Provide training and organize awareness-raising campaigns to prevent forced domestic labour.
- **Ensuring access to health services for young migrant girls from Mali:** Through collaboration with regional health facilities, support the most vulnerable migrant workers and their children.
- **Strengthening the Alliance 8.7 in Mauritania:** Support for the organization of a national round table in Mauritania with three key partners: the Ministry of the Civil Service and Labour, the Ministry of Social Action, Children and the Family, and the National Authority to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling.

Context

Child labour prevalence

▶ **37.6% of children**
(24,516) aged 5-17 years are victims of child labour.¹

▶ **26.3% of children**
in child labour work in dangerous conditions.

▶ **45% of child labour**
are in rural areas.

▶ **27% of child labour**
are in urban areas.



Child labour concerns

▶ Child labour is a significant problem in Mauritania, affecting particularly children living in extreme poverty and those who are not enrolled in school. Over one third of the children in child labour are girls.

Mauritania's commitment to eradicating child labour

▶ Since 2001, the Mauritanian Government has demonstrated a strong commitment to combating child labour, specially through the ratification of the ILO's Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment or work and Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour. With the support of the ILO, the Ministry of Civil Service and Labour has developed the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (PANETE-RIM). Additionally, a list of hazardous work prohibited for children has been established.

Domestic work: A high-risk sector for forced labour

▶ Domestic work remains a high-risk sector for forced labour, particularly affecting migrant women and girls, as well as those descended from slaves. The efforts of Mauritania's tripartite actors, supported by the ILO, focus on several key areas: child domestic labour; collective bargaining; forced labour; international labour migration; labour inspection; remuneration; workers' organization, working hours and other working conditions.

Female migrant workers vulnerability

▶ Instability in Mali has led to increased migration to Mauritania, where migrants working in precarious jobs in towns and rural areas are exposed to abuse. Young girls from Mali are particularly vulnerable, often finding themselves in precarious working relationships that can lead to human trafficking, exploitation, and inadequate social protection.

Local initiatives to combat forced labour

▶ The ILO and its partners are actively supporting various local organizations. These include: the Regional Union of Women's Agropastoral Cooperatives of Hodh el Garbi (URCAFHG), the regional services of the Ministry of Social Action, Children and the Family, the Ministry of the Civil Service and Labour, and the National Instance for the Fight against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (INLCTPTM).

¹ 2015 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Mauritania.

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\$13.4 million, is a major component of the ILO's 8.7 Accelerator Lab initiative. It addresses the critical issue of child labour, a key barrier to achieving SDG Target 8.7 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 \(GBNFL\)](#).

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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.

