



International
Labour
Organization



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Kalmanovitz Initiative
for Labor and the Working Poor



Achieving SDG Target 8.7

► Research to action on child labour and forced labour

28 February 2024



Washington DC, USA

► Achieving SDG Target 8.7: Research to action on child labour and forced labour Workshop

Capitol Applied Learning Lab, 500 1st Street NW, Washington, D.C.

28 February 2024

Background

According to the latest Global Estimates, 160 million children around the world were engaged in child labour in 2020. For the first time since 2000, global progress against child labour stalled and the percentage of children in child labour remained unchanged since 2017. Similarly, the Global Estimates regarding modern slavery show a challenging scenario. In 2021, an estimated 49.6 million people were victims of modern slavery on any given day: 27.6 million out of them in forced labour and 22 million in forced marriage.

Our ability to track global progress in the fight against child labour, forced labour and human trafficking has improved thanks to the efforts by Member States to collect data and support the research needed to understand the scope of the issue. Research has also shined a light on the root causes of child labour, forced labour and human trafficking and, to some extent, the promising practices and policies needed to reverse the above trends in time to achieve SDG target 8.7. However, there are still significant gaps in knowledge about these issues, especially for the most vulnerable populations facing the worst forms of exploitation.

The Fundamentals branch of the ILO supports efforts towards achieving this target by building and applying the critical knowledge needed to inform the policy choices to combat child labour and forced labour. The Projects [“Measurement, awareness-raising and policy engagement to accelerate action to address child labour and forced labour” \(MAP16\)](#) and [“From Research to Action” \(RTA\)](#) are particularly relevant in this regard.

Objective

The ILO and the Georgetown University's Kalmanovitz Initiative are organising a one-day workshop to present recent research on child labour and forced labour, building on critical knowledge and experience produced by the MAP16 and RTA projects.

The workshop will also aim at bridging the gap between research and action, identifying knowledge gaps that hamper a strategic response to these phenomena and best practices that help ensuring the design and implementation of evidence-based interventions.

Overview

The proposed event will present recent research on child labour and forced labour. In doing so, it will build, among others, on the tools and knowledge generated by the MAP16 and RTA projects and will focus on innovative approaches to making research accessible to policymakers. The event

will also feature experiences from Argentina and Kosovo in strengthening the national capacity to tackle child labour and forced labour also thanks through research support.

Presentations' sessions, round tables and keynote speeches will engage participants (researchers, practitioners, policy-makers/donors) and allow to take stock of state-of-the art research, identify gaps and the discuss the way forward building on the R&E Unit Strategy "Building knowledge for informed action towards fundamental principles and rights at work".

Topics that will be addressed during the workshop will include:

- Measuring child labour and forced labour and assessing their characteristics: methodologies and challenges.
- Determinants, vulnerabilities and protective factors related to child labour and forced labour.
- The macroeconomic impact of child labour and forced labour.
- Child labour and forced labour in supply chains.
- How research is informing the development of programs and policies to address child labour and forced labour.

The workshop will be livestreamed.

Registration

Attendance in-person: [register here](#)

Attendance via Zoom: [register here](#)

Funding for this workshop is partially provided by the United States Department of Labor under cooperative agreement number IL-30147-16-75-K-11 (MAP16 project). 100 per cent of the total costs of the MAP Project is financed with Federal funds, for a total of US\$23,945,000.

The proceedings do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.

Agenda

28 February 2024	
9.00 – 9.10	► Welcoming Joseph A. McCartin – Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor, Georgetown University
9.10 – 9.40	► Opening remarks Mark Mittelhauser – International Labor Affairs Philippe Vanhuynegem – ILO FUNDAMENTALS
9.40 – 10.35	► Session I – Advancing towards accurate data on child labour and forced labour: tools, progress and the way forward Introduction: Bridging the gap: research tools for effective policy solutions Michaëlle De Cock – ILO FUNDAMENTALS Hard to see, harder to count Scott Lyon – ILO FUNDAMENTALS Research ethics and safeguarding in forced and child labour studies Cathy Zimmerman – London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Tell me about your work: unveiling measurement challenges in child labour through surveys and interviews comparison Cécile Fanton d'Andon – CPC Learning Network
10.35 – 10.55	Panel discussion
10.55 – 11.20	Coffee break

11.20 – 12.45	► Session II – Informing policy responses to child labour and forced labour Introduction: Vulnerability factors to child labour and forced labour Scott Lyon – ILO FUNDAMENTALS The decision to employ a child Eric Edmonds – Dartmouth College Administrative data-powered impact research on forced labour in Brazil Jessie Brunner – Stanford University Forced labour in the forestry sector in Argentina Matías Crespo Pazos – ILO FUNDAMENTALS Meta-analysis of the effects of interventions on child labour Ana Dammert – Carleton University Research for policy: a guidance tool Lorenzo Guarcello – ILO FUNDAMENTALS
12.45 – 13.05	Panel discussion
13.05 – 14.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.30 – 16.00	► Round Table: Research to action and interventions to address child labour and forced labour Philippe Vanhuynegem – ILO FUNDAMENTALS Marcia Eugenio – USDOL Natasha Greenberg – USDOS Debbie Berkowitz – Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor, Georgetown University
16.00 – 16.30	Panel discussion
16.30 – 16.45	Concluding remarks

