



## Child Labour Platform Bulletin

December 2016

### Child Labour Platform meeting

The Child Labour Platform (CLP) met on October 17-18 in Geneva. With the participation of some 20 businesses, multistakeholder initiatives and other organizations, it afforded an opportunity to explore in some depth challenges and emerging good practice in tackling child labour in agriculture, how to implement effective remediation, and the links between migration and child labour.

The CLP Secretariat provided an update on activities in Myanmar. Two meetings were held in Yangon in 2016 to discuss cross-sectoral collaboration among businesses to tackle child labour in urban areas, a problem affecting the food and beverage, telecommunications and garments industries, among others. A proposal for a CLP project, circulated prior to the meeting, was discussed and further consultations with CLP members on the potential project are ongoing.

Participants also discussed the strategic direction of the CLP, with a particular emphasis on country level activities, potential contribution of the CLP to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals related to ending child labour, and CLP involvement in the IV Global Conference on Child and Forced Labour, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 14-16, 2017. Participants also provided information on their own activities, particularly with regard to risk mitigation and supplier engagement.



A full report of the meeting will be distributed to members in early 2017.

### CLP welcomes Orange

Following its participation as an observer at the October 2016 meeting, the French telecommunication corporation Orange S.A. joined the Child Labour Platform. Orange S.A. is a French multinational and one of the main telecommunication operators in the world, with a 40 billion euro turnover in 2015 and 155,000 employees. Present in 28 countries, the Group serves approximately 252 million customers.

Orange is active in the "Telecom Industry Dialogue" (TID) that deals with freedom of expression and protection of privacy rights. Orange is a founding member of the Joint Audit Cooperation (JAC), a network of 13 operators, including CLP member Telenor, that do joint audits in the factories of their suppliers in 18 countries. Orange also takes part in the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI), an initiative gathering 35 actors of the ICT sector working on analysis tools concerning the environment, evaluations of suppliers and human rights. In addition, Orange has been a member of the ILO Global Disability Network since 2013.

Orange has already set up tools and processes against child labour and wants to go further. Orange is launching an action plan for compliance with the UK Modern Slavery Act, and works on the identification of child labour in the activities of its local supply chain particularly in Africa. Orange will bring to the Platform practical knowledge of prevention and remediation of child labour.

## ILO publishes Fair Recruitment Guidelines

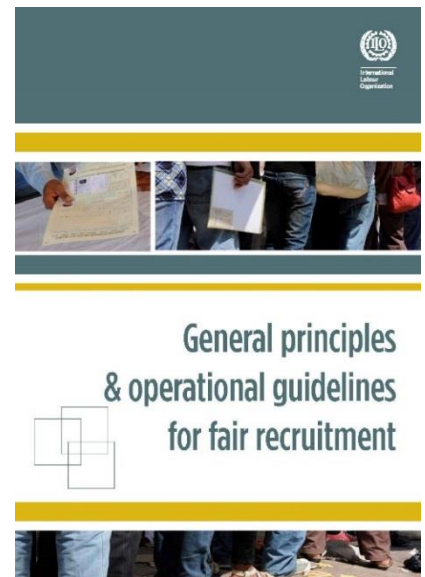
Supply chain due diligence also includes the "labour supply chain", and poorly regulated recruitment agencies can significantly heighten companies' child labour risks. During the October CLP meeting, members were informed of the development of Fair Recruitment Guidelines. These have now been published and can be accessed at:

[http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/WCMS\\_536755/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/WCMS_536755/lang-en/index.htm)

Derived from international labour standards, related ILO instruments and industry good practices, they include general principles and practical, operational guidelines directed at governments, employers, and labour recruiters.

For more information on the ILO's efforts to promote fair recruitment, please see:

[www.ilo.org/fairrecruitment](http://www.ilo.org/fairrecruitment)



## CLP research on child labour in sugarcane



New research is underway on fundamental principles and rights at work in the sugarcane supply chain. This research will provide an overview of the sugarcane industry and an analysis of its supply chain. The research will review labour force characteristics of work in sugar production, industrial relations in the sector, and assess the nature and scope of child labour in the main sugar producing countries. The research will also include an overview of fundamental rights at work in sugarcane production and an analysis of decent work deficits. The paper will provide information on the key

actors in sugar production, government-led as well as industry-led initiatives to tackle child labour, and recommendations for moving forward. Several CLP member companies are providing input into the research, a draft of which will be circulated in Q1 2017.

## Update on ILO action plan on supply chains

The work of the ILO's [Committee on Decent work in Global Supply Chains](#) has been highlighted by the CLP, with a [webinar](#) held in September and a high level briefing provided by the ILO's Deputy Director General for Policy, Deborah Greenfield, during the October CLP meeting.

At the International Labour Conference in June 2016, the Committee adopted a resolution and set of action-oriented conclusions. These give a strong mandate to the ILO to lead the global call for action to bridge governance gaps in supply chains and ensure that they effectively contribute to decent work and sustainable development, including the elimination of child labour.

The ILO Governing Body discussed the follow-up in November 2016 and adopted a programme of action for 2017-21, which includes:

- in 2017, a tripartite meeting of experts to identify possible action to promote decent work and protection of fundamental principles and rights at work for workers in export processing zones (EPZs);
- in 2018, a meeting on cross-border social dialogue to address decent work in global supply chain issues, including human rights due diligence;
- in 2019, a meeting following a midterm report by the Office pursuant to paragraph 25 of the resolution concerning decent work in global supply chains:

“There is concern that current ILO standards may not be fit for purpose to achieve decent work in global supply chains. Therefore, the ILO should review this issue and ... consider what guidance, programmes, measures, initiatives or standards are needed to promote decent work and/or facilitate reducing decent work deficits in global supply chains.”

## New push to eliminate child labour in vanilla production

Statistics on the poverty situation in Madagascar show that 72% of the population, 80% of whom live in rural areas, live below the poverty line. The results of the National Survey on Child Labour (ENTE) carried out in 2012 showed that 2,030,000 children between the ages of 5 and 17 are economically active, representing 28% of this age group. At the national level, 89% (1,726,000) of economically active children work in agriculture.

### Child labour in the “Factory of the World”

Eliminating child labour in supply chains means effective action against child labour in China, and reliable data is key to this. For the first time, statistics on child labour in China have been published. In May 2016, “Child Labor in China” was published by Renmin University of China and the Institute for the Study of Labor. Using data from the China Family Panel Study of 2010, the paper finds that nearly 8% of children aged between 10 to 15 years were engaged in child labor.

Research has long established the adverse effect of child labour on education, and in China, about 90% of child labourers combined work with school. Child labourers worked 6.75 hours per day on average, and spent 6.42 hours less per day on study than children who were not involved in child labour. The school dropout rate among child labourers was 11.57%, 9.6% higher than that for the children who were not working. A child living in rural areas is significantly more likely to work, as is a child with fewer adults in the house—and given the enormous population of “left behind” children, whose parents have migrated in search of work, this is a sobering statistic.

Child labour was more prevalent in Western and Central regions, which comes as no surprise as these are relatively poorer. As wages rise in coastal areas and manufacturing moves west, the risk of child labour occurring in global supply chains will increase.

While consulting firms and others state that China poses “extreme risk” of child labour for business, such assessments have not been based on statistically sound evidence. The new data can complement companies’ own risk analyses to improve strategies to prevent child labour in their supply chains.

Madagascar is one of the world's largest producers of vanilla, exporting 3,200 tons in 2013 and production is concentrated in the SAVA Region. Child labour in the vanilla sector in the SAVA Region mainly affects 15 to 17 year olds. It takes two forms: children working with their parents on family farms, and children who are paid workers on vanilla farms.



With funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, the ILO is launching a new project “Supporting Sustainable and Child Labour Free Vanilla Growing Communities in SAVA, in order to achieve the following goals:

- (i) Vanilla exporters in the SAVA Region have significantly reduced child labour in the vanilla sector in agricultural production and collection
- (ii) Law enforcement agencies effectively enforce child labour laws and policies in the vanilla producing areas of the SAVA Region, including the imposition and collection of penalties and the referral of victims of child labour to appropriate services
- (iii) Community members monitor child labour and refer victims of child labour to appropriate authorities and services
- (iv) Beneficiary households no longer use child labour to supplement their income.

In implementing the project, the ILO will partner with the Sustainable Vanilla Initiative (SVI), an industry membership forum for companies committed to work on sustainable production in the vanilla industry, with a focus on Madagascar.

With some cross-over membership with the SVI, and given its focus on supply chains, the Child Labour Platform could potentially play a role in eliminating child labour in vanilla production, as part of its emerging focus on country-level activities.

The ILO Country Office in Antananarivo is recruiting a Chief Technical Officer as project director, based in Sambava, Sava. If CLP members know of qualified candidates, they are encouraged to refer them to the job posting on the ILO website.

**Visit:** [www.ilo.org/clp](http://www.ilo.org/clp)  
**Contact:** [fundamentals@ilo.org](mailto:fundamentals@ilo.org)