



International
Labour
Organization

8.7
Accelerator Lab

► The 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative

A snapshot of the Journey of the
8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative



Acknowledgements and contacts

This report is the result of a joint effort under the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative.

The report was prepared by Lucia Di Rosa (dirosa@ilo.org), with support from Alison Potter, and reviewed by Alix Nasri. External support: Amara Goel (drafting) and Pierluigi Rauco (design).

We would like to thank colleagues who contributed to the analysis including Laurence Dubois, Bobur Nazarmuhamedov, Katherine Torres, Charles Fanning, Kwame Mensah, Moise Akwetey, Resh Metha, Dhano Letchman, Nour Muhamad, Frida Yulia, Armel Odilon, Jean-Marie Vianney Zihahirwa, Maria Lourdes Xirinachs, Ahmad Syafiq Audi bin Ali, Angelica Marmolejo Munoz.

To know more about the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative, check our website www.ilo.org/87acceleratorlab and reach out to us for more information: 87acceleratorlab@ilo.org.

This report was produced thanks to support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD); the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development- Germany (BMZ); Global Affairs Canada ; the United States Department of Labour (USDOL); the European Commission (EC); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

“adapting the paradigm to accelerate results in the fight against child labour and forced labour”

► How to navigate this document

Why an 8.7 Accelerator Lab initiative?

1

its uniqueness and added value

In this chapter, you will learn about child labour and forced labour contexts and how the 8.7 Accelerator Lab builds on extensive ILO expertise and focuses on the acceleration of progress.

8.7 Accelerator Lab Vision:

2

what success will look like by 2030

In this chapter, you will learn what success looks like for the 8.7 Accelerator Lab. A human-centred approach is adopted by portraying the expected impact on current and future people vulnerable to child labour and forced labour, of actions of ILO's constituents and partners.

2021-2023 The Journey so far:

3

what we supported and stories of acceleration

In this chapter, you will get a grasp of the coverage, entry points and stories of accelerations supported by the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative since 2021.

Moving towards 2030:

4

learning lessons and ways forward towards 2030

In this chapter, you will see how the 8.7 Accelerator Lab learns and uses an adaptive approach to keep improving its work. This section includes a snapshot of the key 'ways forward'.

Note: Click on the four boxes to move to the relevant section.

► Foreword

Child labour and forced labour stand in contrast to social justice and sustainable development. The most recent global estimates served as an alarming signal that, despite advancements in certain regions, we are moving further away from achieving SDG Target 8.7.

Drawing on the experience accumulated by the ILO over the years, we established the 8.7 Accelerator Lab as a coordinating mechanism to help redirect our efforts onto the right path. Our pooled expertise was channeled into the strategy, and we commenced its implementation within targeted countries, as well as on regional and global scales.

I am thrilled to present the progress made, as showcased in this Integrated Report. Witnessing such coordination and collaboration among our development partners also brings me immense satisfaction.

During these complex times, marked by the compounding crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts, volatile fuel prices, food shortages, and climate change, it becomes paramount for the international community to unite in order to realign progress toward eradicating child labour and forced labour.

I trust that this report will inspire others to join this crucial initiative.

Philippe Vanhuynegem

Chief, Fundamental Principles
and Rights at Work Branch



► Why an 8.7 Accelerator Lab initiative?

its uniqueness and added value

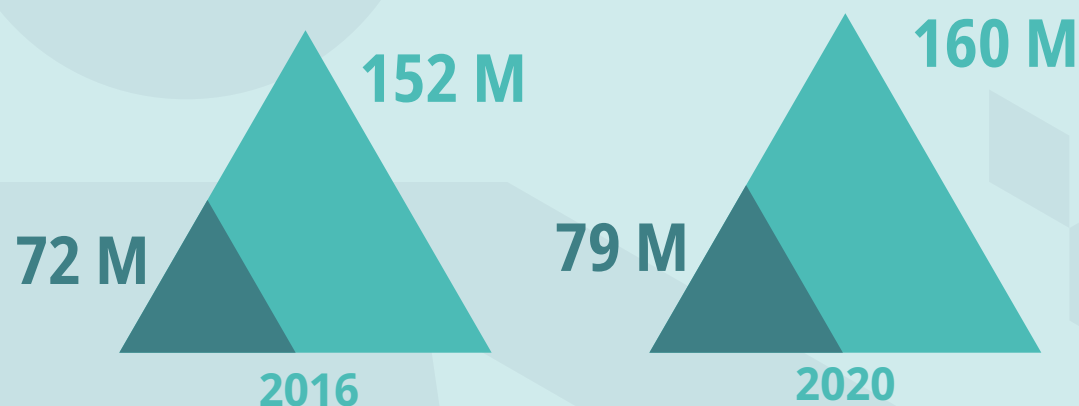
In this chapter, you will learn about child labour and forced labour contexts and how the 8.7 Accelerator Lab builds on extensive ILO expertise and focuses on accelerating progress.



► Why we needed an 8.7 Accelerator Lab initiative in ILO?

Context of Child Labour and Forced labour

160 million children in child labour in 2020. Global progress has stalled since 2016



CHILD LABOUR

CHILD LABOUR IN HAZARDOUS WORK

Number of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour and hazardous work in 2016 and 2020

28 million people in forced labour in 2020. Global situation has worsened since 2016



Number of people in forced labour in 2016 and 2021

What is needed¹

In 2015, the 2030 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** called for **eradication of child labour by 2025 and forced labour by 2030**. This is an enormous undertaking.

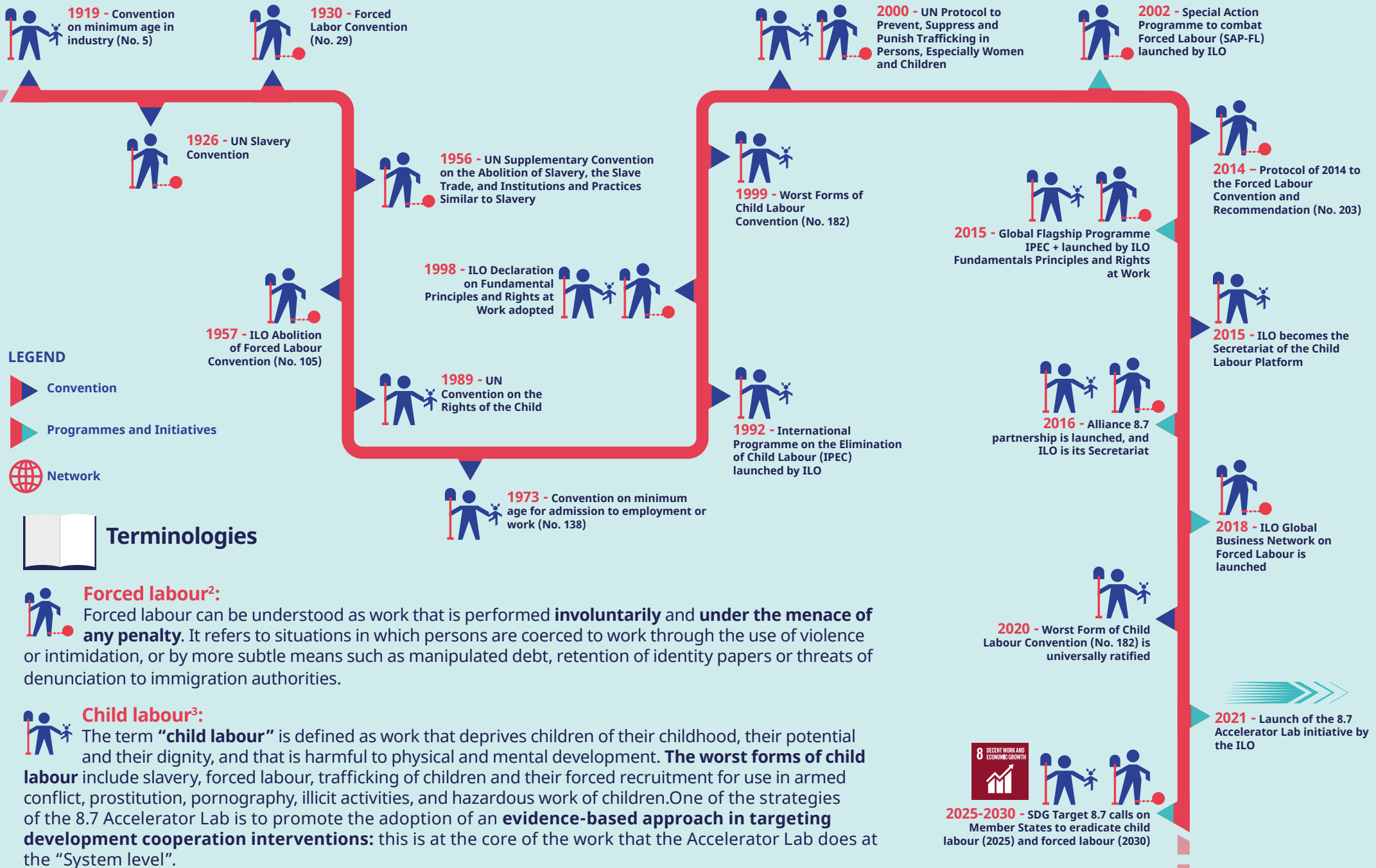
And recently, the problem has **worsened**. Among others causes, this is partly driven by armed conflict, climate change and the economic fallout of COVID-19, which disproportionately impacts those who are already vulnerable, like migrants, women and children.

If we want to achieve eradication of child labour by 2025 and forced labour by 2030, **we need to collaborate and accelerate action**. We need to ensure we are targeting our efforts where there is the greatest need and where we will have the most impact.

This is why the 8.7 Accelerator Lab was launched



¹ "Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward" and "Global Estimates of Modern Slavery Forced Labour and Forced Marriage 2022"



² Forced labour is defined in the ILO Forced Labour Convention No. 29 of 1930.

³ ILO conventions on the elimination of child labour include the Minimum Age Convention No. 138 of 1973 and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182 of 1999.

► Why we needed an 8.7 Accelerator Lab initiative in ILO

Working simultaneously at the system and intervention levels

ILO's work in the fight against child labour and forced labour

ILO has worked on child labour and forced labour issues since its creation. To support its mandate as the custodian of International Labour Standards on those issues, the **ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FUNDAMENTALS)** was established. The Branch supports governments, workers and employers' organizations to fulfil their obligations to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith, all fundamental principles and rights at work.

How does the 8.7 Accelerator Lab fit into this picture?

The 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative **does not intend to reinvent the wheel**. Rather, it builds on and leverages the extensive ILO experience in the fight against child labour and forced labour, with a focus on **accelerating** results.

The 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative is *unique* by focusing not only on WHAT projects we deliver, but HOW well we target and deliver them.



ILO supports tripartite constituents in 80 countries through its development cooperation projects on child labour and forced labour



ILO serves as the Secretariat of the Alliance 8.7, which is a global partnership working with currently more than **500 members**, including to support **35 countries that are part of the Pathfinder Country Initiative**



ILO engages businesses at the global level, including **22** private sector companies and 2 multi-stakeholder initiatives through the Child Labour Platform and **20** private sector companies and business networks through the Global Business Network on Forced Labour



SYSTEM LEVEL: shaping a new way of working in development cooperation (HOW)

The **innovative approach** which underpins the Accelerator Lab is reflected by its role in advocating for a 'system level' change across all ILO interventions aimed at eliminating child labour and forced labour. At the system-level, the Accelerator Lab focuses on three pillars to improve: **'targeting', 'exchanging', and 'accelerating'**. The Initiative identified tools to promote a more evidence-based targeting of development cooperation interventions, map successes, and increase efficiency and effectiveness by working across projects, finding synergies and opportunities for joint action.



INTERVENTION LEVEL: accelerating results using acceleration factors and strategic entry points (WHAT)

The Accelerator Lab supports tripartite actors in targeting and implementing interventions at the **national, regional and global levels**, leveraging the use of strategic **entry points**. Acceleration is achieved by embracing six **acceleration factors** that form the core of the 8.7 Accelerator Lab programming and adapting a rapidly changing reality.

Six Acceleration Factors



Foster and develop political commitment

Political commitment is central for eradicating forced labour and child labour, for creating buy-in to develop an evidence base to inform policy and legal reforms, for resourcing these activities and policies, for perpetuating ongoing monitoring and for supporting change.



Address root causes

Effective action on forced labour and child labour requires understanding and addressing the root causes. The sustainability of interventions is needed for lasting impact on root causes. This is ensured through social dialogue, the lack of which is a root cause in itself.



Create and share knowledge

Evidence and robust data are required to identify and target the greatest needs, establish a baseline and measure progress. Sharing this information is necessary to determine where and how the resources can be most effectively used.



Focus on vulnerable populations

Impact can be accelerated by harnessing attention and resources towards people most vulnerable to forced labour or child labour.



Support sustainable financing

Sustainable resources to ensure the sustainability of impact beyond project timelines – from Member State and private sector financing will allow for continued action on the root causes.



Leverage innovation

Acceleration on SDG 8.7 progress needs and feeds on new ideas and expanding the use of effective approaches in new contexts. It specifically requires the ILO and its social partners to leverage the use of new technologies to add extra value to existing approaches.



► 8.7 Accelerator Lab Vision

what success will look like by 2030

In this chapter, you will learn what success looks like for the 8.7 Accelerator Lab. A human-centred approach is adopted by portraying the expected impact on current and future people vulnerable to child labour and forced labour, of actions of ILO's constituents and partners.



► Change story 1: a fisher trapped in forced labour

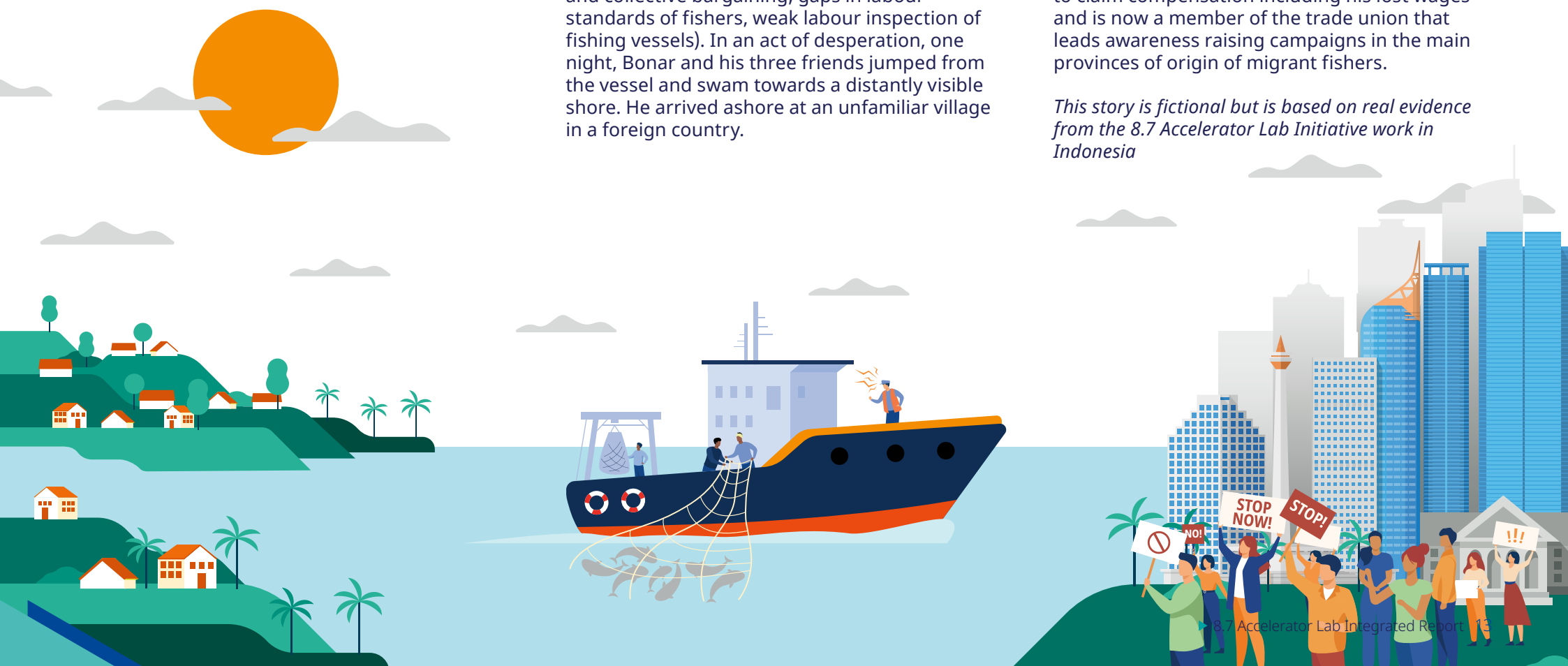


Bonar is a young man who left his village to seek a job as a migrant fisher. On his perilous journey across the Indian Ocean, he was exploited by an unscrupulous skipper and vessel owner. (8.7 **Acceleration Factor: Focus on Vulnerable Population**).

Bonar was captive on the fishing vessel for more than 24 months, during which time he endured up to 20 hours of work daily, received almost no pay, slept on the deck, received little food, lived in extreme isolation, and witnessed physical violence against those who spoke up about their treatment (**Acceleration Factor: Address root causes**, lack of right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, gaps in labour standards of fishers, weak labour inspection of fishing vessels). In an act of desperation, one night, Bonar and his three friends jumped from the vessel and swam towards a distantly visible shore. He arrived ashore at an unfamiliar village in a foreign country.

When he finally made it home, Bonar was introduced to a new trade union network that is supporting workers and victims of forced labour. With support from trade unions, Bonar decided to go to court and seek remedy, as per the national law prohibiting forced labour (**Acceleration Factor: Address Root Causes**). He became an empowered agent of change, able to claim compensation including his lost wages and is now a member of the trade union that leads awareness raising campaigns in the main provinces of origin of migrant fishers.

This story is fictional but is based on real evidence from the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative work in Indonesia



► Change story 2: a child working in a mine



Hursan is an 8-years old boy who wakes up before dawn every morning dreading his return to work in the cobalt mines. Enduring 12 hours of work a day in strenuous conditions, his body and muscles constantly hurt. Exposure to cobalt and breathing in its dust fumes can cause long term health problems. Like all the children working in the mine, Hursan wears no mask, gloves or shoes. Hursan earns the equivalent of under \$2 U.S. dollars a day, which he gives to his family for additional income. Sometimes he goes more than a day without eating, and if he makes repeated mistakes at work, or he doesn't work as fast as his employer wants, he is threatened to be removed from work. More dangerous are the perilous, manually dug tunnels at the mine that are at constant risk of collapsing. Due to Hursan's small frame, he often works inside the tunnels where adults cannot reach, putting his life in danger.

Last year, Hursan attempted to stop working at the mine with the help of a local development organization that removed children from mines by offering them education. However, the project ended because no more funds were available, and Hursan had no other alternatives but to return to work at the mines.

The government realized that re-entry into child labour was a trend from research conducted in the area to identify root causes of child labour. Research findings were used to advocate for interventions addressing social structures of the family and other root causes. **(Acceleration Factor: Create and Share Knowledge).**

One day, Hursan learned from a friend about a new mechanism that could remove them from labour, take them to safety, and connect them to multiple support organizations. This mechanism was owned by the national government and had a sustained source of funding **(Acceleration Factor: Support Sustainable Financing)**. The child labour monitoring and remediation system brought Hursan into a remediation process that connected him with counseling, training, and educational opportunities and monitored his progress **(Acceleration Factor Foster innovation: through the child labour monitoring system platform)**.

Hursan was given the opportunity to fill his gaps at school and is expected to complete his school programme and go to high school. He hopes that one day he can become a mining engineer.

This story is fictional but is based on real experience from the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



► More stories that the 8.7 Accelerator Lab wants to change: the stories that the 8.7 Accelerator Lab wants to change by 2030...

The Accelerator Lab promotes targeting interventions where there is political will and where there are the highest prevalence of child labour and forced labour victims as reported by the Global Estimates.⁴

Rafael, 12, sleeps in a shack in the woods. He does not have much to eat, mainly rice and black beans. He drinks from the water pit that he shares with the bulls on the farm where he has been working for five years, helping to pay off his father's debt.

When she was just 16, Bianca was taken from the village where she grew up. From there, she was trafficked and sold five times before arriving in a nearby country, where she was kept behind doors and forced into sexual exploitation. When she became pregnant, she managed to escape to a shelter where her baby, Anne-Marie, was born. After the birth, her time in the shelter was up and Bianca returned to the sex industry to support her child.

Ida's story starts less dramatically but ends just as sadly. After signing a contract with an unscrupulous private employment agency which asked her to pay high fees in her home country, she travelled abroad where she was promised a job as a domestic worker. When she arrived, her employer confiscated her passport. She was made to work very long days, had to sleep on a thin mattress in the kitchen and eat leftovers. For three years, she was kept a prisoner, not paid her wage, and only managed to escape by jumping out of a window. After weeks in a hospital, she was finally sent home, in debt and with severe psychological and physical harm.

⁴ These stories are fictional but based on real evidence from the ["Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward"](#) and the ["Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage 2022"](#)



► 2021-2023 The Journey so far:

what we supported and stories of acceleration

In this chapter, you will get a grasp of the coverage, entry points and stories of accelerations supported by the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative since 2021.



3

► System level:

Our journey in adapting the way we do things

The need for rapid progress towards SDG Target 8.7 called for a new approach.

The Accelerator Lab was launched to accelerate progress to eliminate child labour and forced labour. It is a unique experiment because it works simultaneously on two levels: the 'system' and 'intervention' levels. The focus on the 'system level' allows the Accelerator Lab to work **not only on WHAT projects and interventions to deliver, but also HOW those interventions are targeted and delivered.**

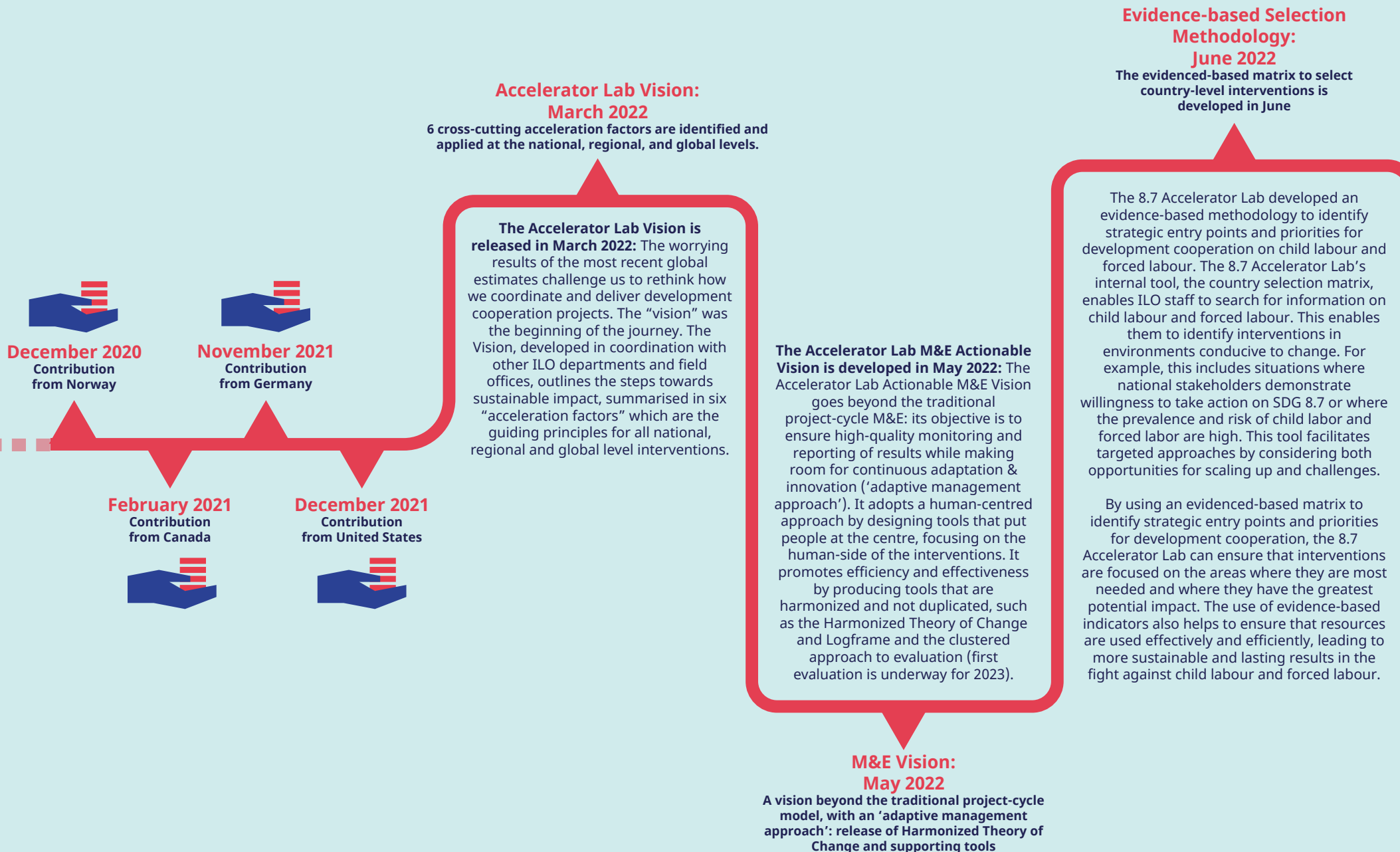
Looking at the '**system level**', since its creation, the Accelerator Lab made great progress including by identifying tools to promote a more **evidence-based targeting** of development cooperation interventions, and map successes. It also increased efficiency and effectiveness by working across projects, finding synergies and opportunities for joint action, and promoting the expansion of a flexible multi partner funding mechanism.

Starting out with a contribution from Norway in December 2020, other **funding** sources have steadily increased overtime to include contributions from Canada in February of 2021, Germany in November 2021 and the United States in December 2021. To deepen our commitment to accelerated action, the Accelerator Lab adopted a new strategic approach in March 2022, identifying, through an in-depth review of past project evaluations and consultations, 6 cross-cutting **Acceleration Factors** that serve as pillars for programing and leveraging opportunities at the national, regional, and global levels. A new **harmonized** and highly **adaptive Monitoring and Evaluation** approach with a **human-centered focus** was adopted. In November 2022, the Accelerator Lab led the process of **mapping** interventions within FUNDAMENTALS to **improve targeting**. This allows us to nurture knowledge and exchange within the Alliance 8.7 partnership and other child labour and forced labour networks with a vision for scaling up. December 2022 marked our first **Strategic Advisory Committee Meeting** with funding partners. As we continue to expand, throughout 2022 we conducted negotiations with partners to align their contributions with the strategy. These efforts culminated in the new contribution from the European Union, and the Government of Netherlands in 2023. With forward-looking momentum, we anticipate an expansion of donors and partnerships, as well as new interventions on the horizon to broaden the reach of the ILO portfolio and deepen our impact.

The Accelerator Lab invested in improving internal coordination

Coordination has been boosted across projects contributing to advancement towards the UN SDG Target 8.7. This was achieved through the development of tools providing a clear map of ILO's development cooperation portfolio addressing child labour and forced labour worldwide. By creating a shared understanding of potential areas of overlap and complementarity, it allowed effective communication among project teams and funding partners, and increased coherence on overall programme management towards the achievement of SDG Target 8.7. Harmonized dialogue with donors has also helped to ensure projects are complementary and avoid duplication.

► System level: Milestones



Accelerator Lab Programming Expansion: July 2022

The Accelerator Lab extended its efforts to determine areas where the ILO can attain optimal impact and maximal opportunities for replicability. This strategic expansion is executed by integrating the insights of the mapping of ILO interventions on Target 8.7 with country selection methodologies. Subsequent consultations with development partners are now centred around these findings.

The Mapping of interventions against acceleration factors is produced in November 2022:

In 2022, 55 projects, part of IPEC+ gathered information on global and country interventions related to sectors (and/or supply chains) of focus; forms of forced labour and child labour being addressed; intervention modalities; key results achieved; and interventions against the six 'acceleration factors'. This information will be transposed into a dynamic e-map with a two-fold objective: 1) better understand where and how the ILO programmes deliver Development Cooperation interventions and 2) contribute to global efforts to improve coordination on interventions to achieve SDG Target 8.7, with evidence at hand on ILO's own portfolio.

Mapping of development cooperation interventions: November 2022.

The mapping against accelerating factors helps better understand gaps and models of interventions will be launched online by December 2023



February 2023
Contribution from the European Union and the Government of the Netherlands starting in 2023

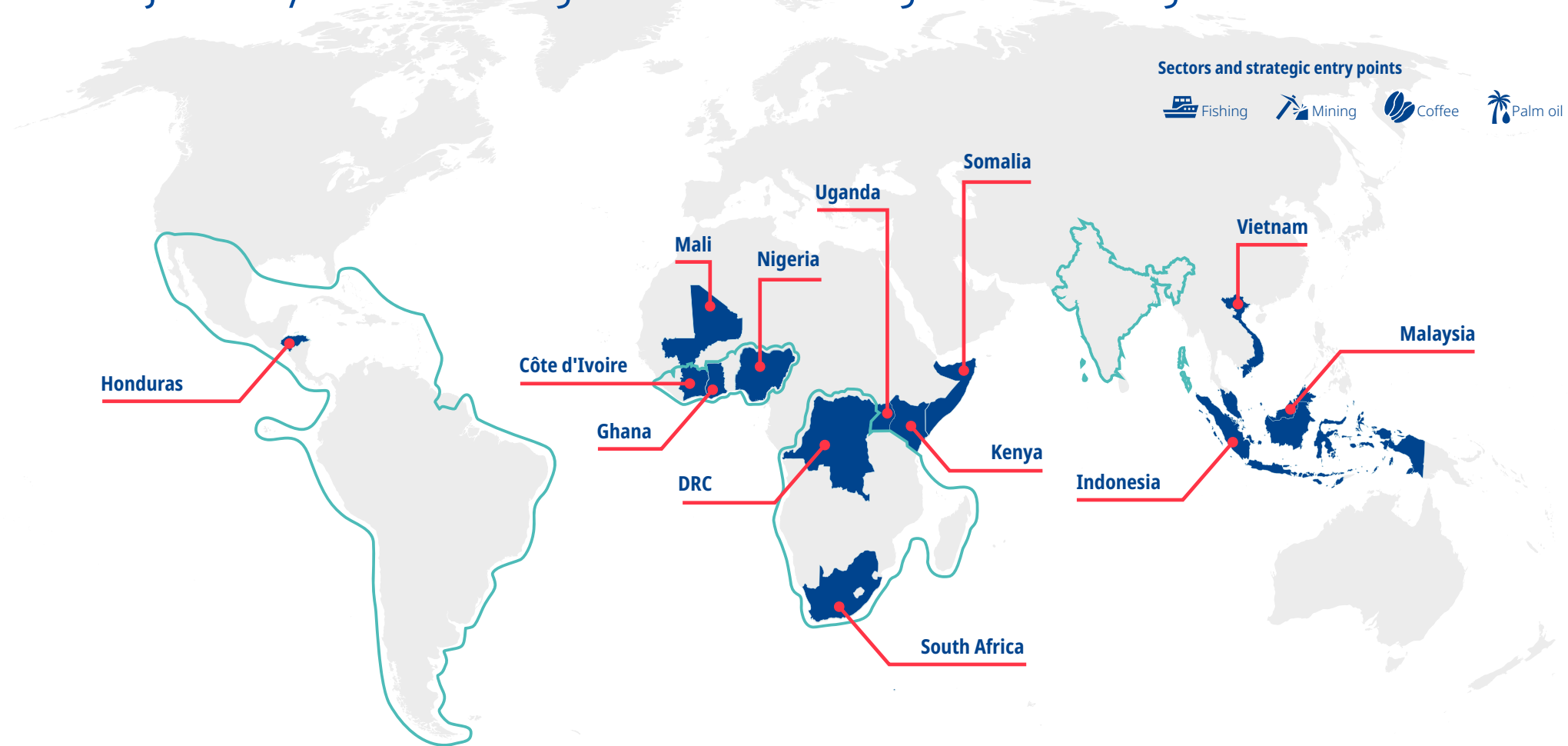
First formal Advisory Committee Meeting with funding partners: December 2022

The expansion of funding partners and partnerships and further alignment of new DC interventions within the ILO portfolio

Coming up:

► Intervention level:

Our journey in balancing and maximising our coverage



 Countries of implementation of the 8.7 Accelerator Lab's supported projects in fishing, mining and agriculture sector

 Regional reach of the Accelerator Lab Initiative

The 8.7 Accelerator Lab promotes interventions not only beyond the national level. Accelerating progress at regional and global level is key. Several regional and global fora and platforms are supported by the 8.7 Accelerator Lab including: Regional Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea; Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean; Child Labour Platform; ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour; Working Group on Labour Standards of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna; Southern African Development Community's Technical Fisheries Committee

► Intervention level:

Our journey in targeting the right strategic entry points

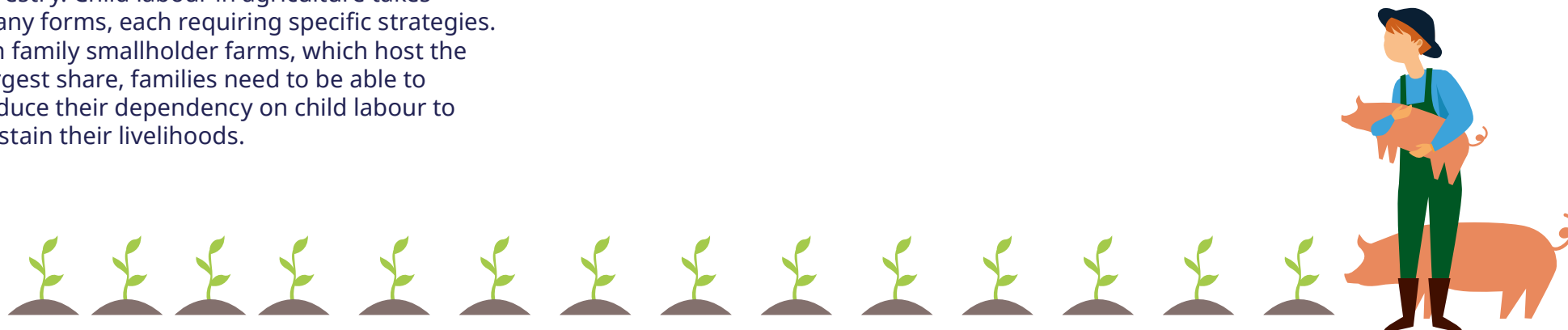
Strategic entry points at the intervention level for national, regional and global projects can help accelerate results. They reflect the opportunities for partnership with stakeholders, including the social partners, align ILO efforts with other forms of leverage and target significant deficits not currently addressed by ILO programming. Among others, strategic entry points for the Accelerator Lab can include sectors and supply chains with challenges in eradicating forced labour and eliminating child labour and where there are opportunities for scaling up sector-based interventions for a national and/or area-based approach.

Agriculture & plantations

Most child labour – for boys and girls alike – occurs in agriculture (70% corresponding to 112 million children in total), including in coffee, cocoa and palm oil plantations. **Child labour takes place in family subsistence and smallholder farming**, commercial plantations and other forms of commercial farming, agro-industrial complexes, capture fisheries, aquaculture, postharvest fish processing and forestry. Child labour in agriculture takes many forms, each requiring specific strategies. On family smallholder farms, which host the largest share, families need to be able to reduce their dependency on child labour to sustain their livelihoods.

Such farms must secure a fair price for what they produce and be able to enhance productivity by investing in labour-saving technologies or hiring adult workers instead of relying on children. Small producer associations and well-functioning cooperatives can boost market and bargaining power in agricultural value chains and uphold price stability.

On larger commercial agricultural entities, children can often be found working alongside their parents. Piecework payment schemes, where income depends on kilos of crops picked or number of rows weeded, for example, can incentivize the use of children. Adequate and nearby day care and school facilities can provide parents with a safe and worthwhile alternative.



Mining

Child labour in mining sector **is one of the 'worst forms of child labour'**. Artisanal and small-scale mining can force children to work in deep underground shafts, haul heavy loads of rock and use toxic chemicals to separate minerals or precious metals from ore. **More than one million children are engaged in child labour in mines and quarries.**⁵ It is a brake on the economic and social development of affected countries, as it limits productivity of workforces for entire generations. It is also a business challenge, because much of the minerals mined by children end up in global supply chains, including those of automobiles, banking, construction, cosmetics, electronics, and jewellery. Child labour is also found in cobalt and coltan mines, minerals used in portable electronic devices and rechargeable batteries, including the batteries of electric cars.



This a serious violation of children's rights that puts children's health and safety at risk and **deprives them of an education**. Small producer associations and well-functioning cooperatives can also boost market and bargaining power in the mining sector. Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems, including training and decent work for young adults, social protection schemes and much more offer solutions.

Fishing

128,000 fishers are trapped in forced labour aboard fishing vessels, often at deep sea, a workplace characterised by **extreme isolation, hazardousness**, and gaps in regulatory oversight. However, because measuring forced labour aboard fishing vessels poses several unique challenges, **this figure likely significantly understates the full extent of the problem**. Their working



hours can be long, their pay very low, and their work hazardous and arduous. On board vessels in remote locations of the sea for months or even years at a time, they are extremely vulnerable to labour abuses.

Poor connectivity at sea can make it all but impossible to raise complaints. Fishers themselves describe illness, physical injury, and psychological and sexual abuse as among the extreme violations they face. **Migrant fishers** in particular are vulnerable to being deceived and coerced by unscrupulous labour recruiters and forced to work on board vessels under the threat or by means of debt bondage. **Jurisdictional issues** stem in important part from the highly transnational nature of work in fishing. Pre-migration training reduces vulnerability so fishers know what to avoid and who to call if needs be. Port authorities, fisheries, safety and labour inspectors can work together to put fishers first. The Accelerator Lab has already made crucial progress on these fronts.

.... And more areas will be covered in the future – check out Chapter 4

⁵ The above mentioned topics of interventions are not an exhaustive list of the interventions targeted by the 8.7 Accelerator Lab. Data is extracted from the [“Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward”](#) and [“Global Estimates of Modern Slavery Forced Labour and Forced Marriage 2022”](#) and [“Ending child labour and human trafficking in global supply chains”](#) (2019).

► Intervention level: 2021-2023 stories of acceleration

At the system-level, the 8.7 Accelerator Lab focuses on how we can better target, exchange, and accelerate interventions implemented through development cooperation programmes. To move from theory to action, the Accelerator Lab has identified ongoing interventions that embody the six acceleration factors.

To know more about the six acceleration factors, check out some stories of achievements by clicking the icons below'



Foster and develop
political commitment



Address root causes



Create and share knowledge



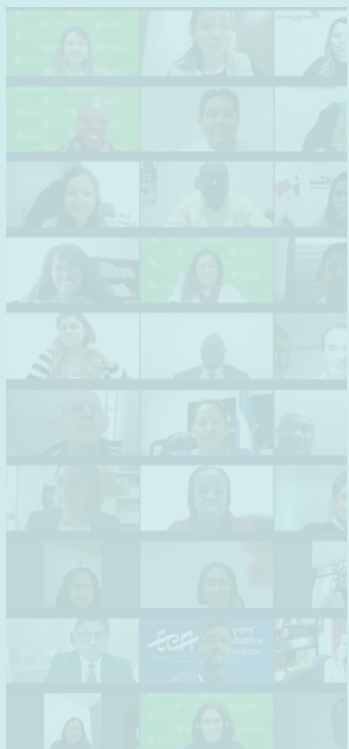
Focus on vulnerable
populations

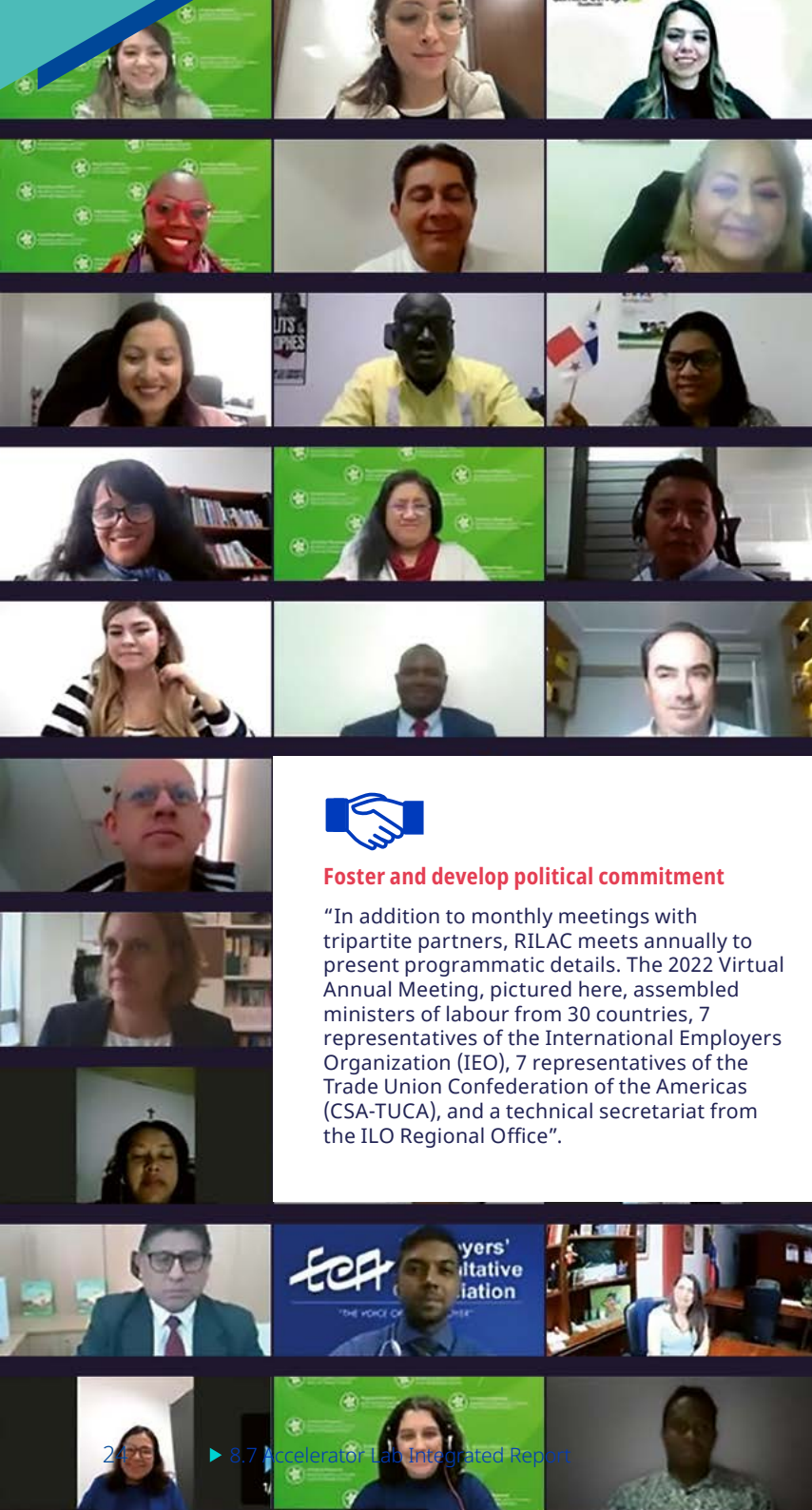


Support sustainable
financing



Leverage innovation





► Intervention level:

Acceleration Factor 1 - Foster and Develop Political Commitment

RILAC and the Road to Eliminating Child Labour in Latin America and the Caribbean

The elimination of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean is within reach. Despite the overall increase in child labour globally, child labour declined in Latin America and the Caribbean and said decline extended to all age groups and to both boys and girls. Mobilizing national constituents towards this goal is the core mission for Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean (RILAC). As a platform for intergovernmental, tripartite action to eliminate child labour regionally by 2025, its aim is to make Latin America and the Caribbean the first developing region free of child labour.

The initiative's strategy cultivates dialogue between Ministers of Labour from 30 countries, 7 employer's organizations, 7 workers' organizations, and a technical secretariat that sits with the ILO Regional Office, which is supported by the Accelerator Lab. With special focus on inter-institutional coordination from all levels, participants have equal footing to establish priorities and make decisions in monthly meetings – creating a remarkable interorganizational culture of open dialogue, knowledge sharing and mutual support.

Recognising that child labour perpetuates poverty, RILAC supports interventions that advance equitable and inclusive societies, leaving no one behind. This means strategically focusing on decent work in rural and environmentally fragile areas, targeting high risk sectors, and recognizing the most vulnerable populations, including indigenous and Afro-descendant groups and migrants.

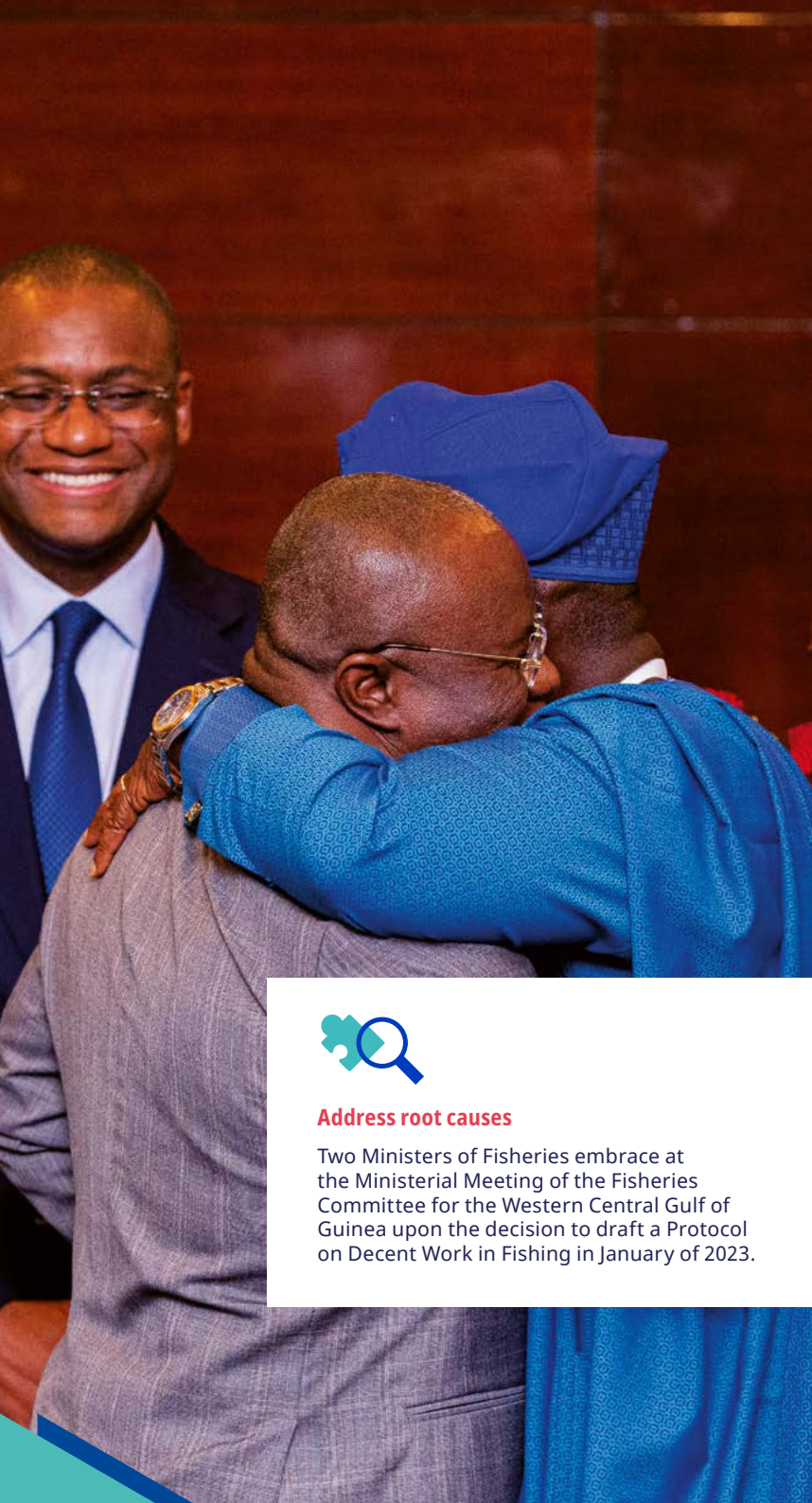
The region has experienced considerable progress towards the elimination of child labour, seeing a reduction of 5.9 million between 2008 and 2020. Despite this progress, there has been recent stagnation and over 326,000 children are expected to have entered child labour as an impact of COVID (ILO-ECLAC, 2020). Now more than ever, it is crucial to come together through initiatives such as this to reinvigorate efforts and get back on track towards a Latin America Free from Child Labour.

The work of RILAC represents regional co-ownership of this issue in a sustainable way, strengthening Triangular and South-South Cooperation towards the elimination of child labour, and offering a model that could be scaled up and replicated with the support of the Accelerator Lab.



Foster and develop political commitment

"In addition to monthly meetings with tripartite partners, RILAC meets annually to present programmatic details. The 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting, pictured here, assembled ministers of labour from 30 countries, 7 representatives of the International Employers Organization (IEO), 7 representatives of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA-TUCA), and a technical secretariat from the ILO Regional Office".



Address root causes

Two Ministers of Fisheries embrace at the Ministerial Meeting of the Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea upon the decision to draft a Protocol on Decent Work in Fishing in January of 2023.

► Intervention level:

Acceleration Factor 2 - Address Root Causes

Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining leads to concrete improvements to working conditions in Ghana's fishing sector

In 2022, The Accelerator Lab laid critical groundwork in Ghana with strong cooperation with trade union confederations and their sectoral affiliates. **Targeting the right to decent work at the root, our work created pathways to improve freedom of association and collective bargaining.**

Working jointly with the Trade Union Congress of Ghana (TUC), the Accelerator Lab is supporting the development of a new trade union policy to tackle SDG Target 8.7, starting with the fishing sector. The policy development team, commissioned in July of 2022, is tasked to identify decent work deficits and collectively support reforms.

The Accelerator Lab supported the Maritime and Dock Worker's Union, and the National Union for Seaman Ports and Allied Workers, both affiliates of the TUC, to advocate for tangible reforms through Ghana's Tripartite Committee on Working Conditions in the Fishing Sector. Launched in September 2022, Ghana's first Tripartite Committee on decent work in fishing identified priority provisions of the Work in Fishing Convention No. 188 (2007) to implement in Ghana's industrial trawl sector.

Both unions worked with the Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA), which has led to **momentum towards ratifying the Work in Fishing Convention and the issuance of a shipping notice to all industrial trawl vessels to meet basic provisions of the Convention and thus reduce the risk of forced labour. In less than a year, interventions supported by the Accelerator Lab in Ghana produced significant, measurable impact. Basic wages in the industrial trawl sector increased almost 400%, improvements were made to sleeping quarters, individual employment contracts and social security registrations were secured**, medical supplies and Protective Personal Equipment were also provided on board all Ghanaian flagged trawler vessels before they could sail for the next season. **These tangible improvements have also led to an increase in union membership, further elevating fishers' voices and ensuring sustainable scaling up to other sub sectors in the fishing industry.** At the same time, the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), whose member states are Ghana, Benin, Côte D'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the ILO to ensure a regional approach to tackling decent work deficits in the industry. The Accelerator Lab is currently working with the FCWC to replicate the work with social partners in Ghana in other FCWC countries.

► Intervention level:

Acceleration Factor 3 - Focus on Vulnerable Populations

Empowering Vulnerable Migrant Fishers in South Africa

To maximize progress towards SDG Target 8.7, it is essential to harness attention and direct resources towards vulnerable groups who experience the greatest decent work deficits. According to our latest global estimates, migrant fishers are more at risk of forced labour than their local peers.

the Department of Employment and Labour to conduct joint labour inspections, increase inspectors' understanding of the indicators of forced labour and use digital technology to narrow the search and identify high risk vessels to target for inspection.

Within two weeks of a capacity building workshop conducted by the Lab in 2022, SAMSA officials detained a vessel in Durban for labour rights violations including unpaid wages and serious neglect of an injured fisher who required urgent medical attention to save his life.

Support to civil society organisations providing welfare assistance to seafarers and fishers such as Stella Maris has also been an essential part of our work in South Africa. They are trusted by fishers and are often the ones who call on the authorities to conduct inspections. The Accelerator Lab is supporting Stella Maris to reopen the Fishers Centre in Cape Town and SAMSA is negotiating a welfare levy for all vessels to ensure such centres receive sustainable funding.

Our work in South Africa reveals first-hand, the particular vulnerability of migrant fishers. They are often away from home for years with very limited contact with their families, unsure if they are even getting paid. Calling into port to offload catch and for repairs is the only opportunity fishers have to seek assistance. Even then, paralyzed by language barriers and many times with their identity documents seized by unscrupulous skippers or vessels owners, they are unable to raise the alarm when wages are being withheld, or they experience abusive working conditions.

South African ports are frequented by many foreign flagged vessels operating on the high seas where the two great oceans meet. Cape Town, where the Accelerator Lab set up a project office, welcomes over 300 foreign flagged fishing vessels a year. South Africa was one of the first countries to ratify the Work in Fishing Convention No. 188 (2007) which allows for port state control and inspections of foreign flagged vessels. In order to ensure thorough inspections and protection for migrant fishers, the Accelerator Lab set out to work with the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) and



Focus on vulnerable populations

Inadequate sleeping quarters aboard a fishing vessel. Image captured in Cape Town, where an Accelerator Lab workshop deployed a screening tool to identify indicators of forced labour. Inspection exercises aboard vessels found several irregularities, resulting in the detention of a foreign vessel

► Intervention level:

Acceleration Factor 4 - Create and Share knowledge

The Child Labour Platform: a Forum for Sharing Knowledge and Tackling Root Causes

Generating and sharing knowledge is essential for focusing resources and strategically directing action. Fostering these collaborative efforts provides an evidence base to inform effective policymaking and encourage partnerships and tripartite engagement that advance efforts to eliminate child labour and progress towards SDG Target 8.7.

The **Child Labour Platform (CLP)** is the leading business initiative dedicated to tackling child labour in supply chains. The CLP recognizes the unique role the private sector has in identifying, remediating and preventing child labour. Co-chaired by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), this multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral Platform creates opportunities to share knowledge among its member companies and thrives on honest, rigorous exchange. Priority sectors for the CLP include energy, construction materials, agro-industry, luxury, home goods and electronics. With a **cross-sectoral approach**, the platform provides support to companies through a **comprehensive process of due diligence, fosters exchanges** on key dilemmas faced by businesses, and **generates action** on the ground through member-driven research and country working groups.

On December of 2022, the CLP, convened its 13th Annual Meeting, with the support from the 8.7 Accelerator Lab, which engaged 42 multinational companies, as well as civil society partners, researchers, policymakers, and workers' organizations. The gathering facilitated policy exchange, discussions of good practices, and strategic deliberations on how to drive country-level action to **address the root causes of child labour, including by promoting decent work, adequate living wages for adults, youth employment and gender equality**. The 8.7 Accelerator Lab also supports the platform's country working groups, which convened at the annual meeting to advance cross-sectoral initiatives to address child labour in the Democratic Republic of Congo, cocoa, palm oil and rubber in Côte D'Ivoire, and agriculture in India. This meeting demonstrated an important **paradigm shift in the private sector's approach** to child labour by putting the promotion of decent work at the center of deliberations. The CLP's working groups are following up on these exchanges in 2023 by supporting field-level research on combatting child labour in India's migratory farm workforce, identifying synergies for public-private action on child labour across sectors in Côte D'Ivoire, and supporting the implementation of a child labour monitoring and remediation system in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Create and share knowledge

Group photo of participants of the CLP 13th Annual Meeting



► Intervention level:

Acceleration Factor 5 - Support Sustainable Financing

Pushing the discourse on mobilizing resources at the 5th Global Conference

In May of 2022, the **5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Durban** included **for the first time, a high-level panel to discuss mobilizing resources and sustainable funding to tackle child labour and its root causes**. This panel offered a space for discourse from different perspectives on innovation in domestic resource mobilization strategies, pushing to raise child labour elimination higher on the agenda of stakeholders and advocating for renewed commitment from all development partners to play a catalytic role in leveraging finance.

The panel offered rich discussions on domestic resource mobilization, exploring a **less traditional role for Official Development Assistance (ODA)**, shifting from assistance to financing. ODA must be catalytic and draw in other types of funding from national budgets, other development banks and the private sector to ensure the sustainability of investments and projects. Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing, which is used to screen investments based on corporate policies and

to encourage companies to act responsibly, was also discussed as a promising example of this paradigm shift fostering collaboration between ODA Partners and the private sector.

These ground-setting discussions, supported by the 8.7 Accelerator Lab, informed the development and adoption of the **Durban Call to Action, which captures the commitments of ILO Constituents and Alliance 8.7 Partners, including a dimension to increase sustainable financing and international cooperation**. The Accelerator Lab, in line with the call to action, aims to ensure sustainability of impact beyond project timelines by mainstreaming sustainable financing in its programmatic work.



Support sustainable financing

The “Raise Your Hand For Kids” campaign is the initiative that promoted the 5th Global Conference. During the conference, the issue of sustainable financing was discussed as a pivotal element in addressing the long-term causes of child labour.

► Intervention level:

Acceleration Factor 6 - Leverage Innovation

Scaling up Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation in Democratic Republic of the Congo



Leverage innovation

A miner at ASM Kamilombe site carries bag of cobalt mineral to be stored outside of the pits before going to the depot for sale.

Leveraging the use of new technologies adds value to existing approaches, allowing projects organizational sustainability. It ensures that knowledge already attained is not lost, and new knowledge can be applied to meet evolving understandings and demands in addressing child labour.

Embodying this approach, the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) was developed together with the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with support from the ILO project “Combattre le Travail des Enfants dans les Chaine d’approvisionnement de Cobalt” (COTECCO), to help transition from a paper-based system of child labour data management to a digital platform. By storing data in a centralized database, it can be accessible to constituents and stakeholders nation-wide.

The system is community-based in its approach to monitoring and data collection, using smartphone data collection tools. While centralized, the system also supports a network of diverse actors to identify children in child labour and assess the socio-economic situation of their families, addressing each child’s context. Steering committees have been established to harmonize and monitor cases and refer them to service providers for remediation.

The 8.7 Accelerator Lab is in the inception stage of aligning itself with the CLMRS to scale up operations to 4 pilots covering 12 mining sites. This model will then be replicated in a further 8 mining sites reaching 10 communities. Plans to replicate and expand the system seek to maximize the impact of good practices, allowing more children and youths to be unbound from labour and placed in safety.

Once brought to safety, children often lack access to the services that prevent them from re-entering child labour. Recognizing this gap between identification and remediation, the CLMRS activities aim to establish structures to generate economic opportunities for youths and families. This network includes vocational training, entrepreneurship prospects, and engaging the private sector for viable employment and market opportunities. Cultivating this ecosystem of opportunities can help protect children from relapsing into child labour out of economic need.

► Moving towards 2030:

Learning lessons and accelerating results towards 2030

In this chapter, you will see how the 8.7 Accelerator Lab learns and uses an adaptive approach to keep improving its work. This section includes a snapshot of the key 'ways forward'.



► Lesson learned:

What we learned so far, how we adapted and what we will focus on next

The ability to adapt requires an environment that promotes intentional learning.

One of the core values of the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative is to prioritize learning and adaptive management. In the first 2 years of the initiative, we learned, adapted and reviewed our approach in a flexible manner.

1. Improving targeting of development cooperation interventions is possible with the use of various sources of data. Better targeting is only one way in which the Accelerator Lab can improve HOW ILO supports its constituents through development cooperation. Another area that requires attention is becoming more rigorous and evidence-based when decisions for scaling up are made.
2. Addressing root causes in sectors with higher risks of child labour and forced labour, according to global estimates, provided key opportunities for learning and improving laws and policies, their enforcement as well as supporting social partners more effectively. This is achieved through simultaneous interventions and knowledge sharing between countries.
3. Accelerating progress towards sustainable financing is challenging and is mainly led by global efforts. In 2021 and 2022, the expansion of the Accelerator Lab Initiative to new funding partners was successful but more efforts are needed to not only promote the pool-funding mechanism of the Accelerator Lab, but also to mobilize domestic in-country resources.

► Ways forward:

In 2023, the Accelerator Lab will focus more on:

- ◆ Additional focus on the six Acceleration Factors including on exchanging lessons and creating dialogues across countries and constituents, at the national, regional and global levels such that our interventions are complementary, mutually reinforcing and increasingly sustainable, including through supporting the Alliance 8.7.
- ◆ Further advancement of the harmonized and highly adaptable monitoring system for the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative. For instance, the M&E system will produce a harmonized methodology to measure strategic key performance indicators (KPIs) against the six Acceleration Factors in child labour and forced labour.
- ◆ Additional focus on creating opportunities to scale up promising innovative practices. Given its exposure across projects, the 8.7 Accelerator Lab is in the optimal position to help countries and constituents identify opportunities for scale up. The Accelerator Lab wants to move from an ad-hoc to a systematic scale up approach: this can be done by producing an evidence-based methodology to be used to rigorously understand “what works and how to replicate it”.
- ◆ Crafting idea proposals for further expansion of the 8.7 Accelerator Lab, building on the evidenced-based methodology for development cooperation interventions and online mapping of current interventions, shared priorities with funding partners and opportunities to scale up ongoing actions or to address identified gaps.
- ◆ Deepening understanding of 8.7 interventions to facilitate global cooperation by showcasing ILO’s expertise through a dynamic online map resulting from a thorough analysis of ILO’s Development Cooperation interventions portfolio, while contributing to the Durban Call to Action commitment on developing a comprehensive information platform for monitoring SDG target 8.7 progress.

► Join us

- ♦ **Why should you join** - If we want to achieve the elimination of child labour by 2025 and forced labour by 2030, we need to collaborate and accelerate action. The 8.7 Accelerator Lab builds on and leverages the ILO's extensive experience in child labour and forced labour, with a focus on accelerating results.
- ♦ **How can you join** - You can support our mission and join our collective action in a variety of ways, ranging from a financial contribution (we have developed a thorough methodology to programme interventions where they can have the highest impact) to in-kind support (such as sharing of expertise, data and practical tools).
- ♦ **Who can provide financial support** - Contributions to the 8.7 Accelerator Lab are open to governments of ILO Member States, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, and from private sources including companies and foundations.





► Wall of supporters

The success of the 8.7 Accelerator Lab has been made possible through the support and contribution of the following current and past funding partners.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



The 8.7 Accelerator Lab is partially funded by the United States Department of Labour under the cooperation agreement No. IL-37950-21-75-K / IL-37950-F12



International
Labour
Organization

8.7 
Accelerator Lab

**Fundamental Principles
and Rights at Work Branch
(FUNDAMENTALS)**

**Governance and Tripartism Department
(GOVERNANCE)**

International Labour Office

4 route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva 22 – Switzerland
T: +41 (0) 22 799 61 11
e-mail: 87acceleratorLab@ilo.org

