



Project **ACCEL Africa**

Accelerate action for the elimination of child labour in Africa

An international context that requires action...

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, universally adopted by all 193 UN Member States, calls for “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms” (Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Target 8.7). The elimination of child labour and forced labour is intrinsically linked to promoting “sustained economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all”, as established in SDG 8.

Around a persistent phenomenon...

According to the latest estimates (ILO, 2017), globally nearly 152 million children are engaged in child labour. Almost half of them are in a worst form of child labour, with 72.5 million performing hazardous work that places their health, safety or moral development at risk. Since the year 2000, the number of children in child labour has decreased from 246 million, which means a reduction of nearly 40 per cent or 100 million in absolute numbers. Global policy measures, awareness raising and national efforts are paying off, but progress has slowed down particularly over the last years, and the challenge is still immense, especially in Africa and in the agriculture sector.

Increasing in Africa...

Regional distribution of the prevalence of child labour deserves attention. With one in five children in child labour, for the first time, Africa is the region with the highest prevalence in both absolute numbers and in terms of percentage, followed by Asia and the Pacific. Sub-Saharan Africa witnessed a rise in child labour during the 2012 – 2016 period, in contrast to the other regions where child labour continued to decline.

Project at a Glance
Countries covered : Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda
Value chains: Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton, Gold, Tea
Duration : 4 years (Nov 2018 - Nov 2022)
Beneficiaries : Children working at selected global supply chains and their families, key ministries and competent officials, workers' and employers' organizations, enterprises and the media
Partners : Governments, employers and workers' organizations, civil society organizations, African Union, UN agencies, supply chain actors and research institutes
Amount : EUR 23 500 000

ACCEL Africa, accelerate the elimination of child labour

These figures embody the challenge that remains in order to reach Target 8.7, the annual rate of reduction of child labour must be accelerated especially in Africa and stronger efforts are required to achieve a significant reduction in forced labour. The scale of the challenge demands urgent and coordinated global action leveraging expertise across a wide range of stakeholders.

The project “Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa (ACCEL Africa)”, funded by the Netherland Government, has the overarching goal to accelerate the elimination of child labour in Africa, through targeted actions in selected supply chains in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda.