



International
Labour
Organization

THE CHILD LABOUR PLATFORM (CLP) AND THE GLOBAL COMPACT

In 2012 it was estimated that, worldwide, as many as 168 million girls and boys between the ages of 5 and 17 were trapped in child labour. This major human rights challenge requires renewed focus and action by all actors, including businesses. Child labour, being such a complex issue, requires much more than a mere commitment to eliminate

and prevent this scourge. For example, sub-contracting practices and the prevalence of the informal economy are enormous obstacles in the way of fulfilling this objective. If any tangible and sustainable progress is to be made, there must be a greater understanding of the issue – as well as practical advice and tools.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:
Multiple

Beneficiary countries:
Multiple

Timeframe:
2010 – Present

Budget:
Total budget:
USD 334,000
Between USD 2,500
and USD 20,000 per
partner per annum

THE RESPONSE

The Child Labour Platform (CLP) is a thematic member-based workstream of the United Nations Global Compact's Labour Working Group, open to companies committed to contributing to the effective elimination of child labour. It is also open to UN agencies, trade unions, business associations and other relevant stakeholders. The CLP builds on a previous initiative undertaken by the Government of the Netherlands, the UN Global Compact and the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative to enlist broader business commitment to the roadmap on the elimination of child labour, adopted at the 2010 Global Child Labour Conference held in The Hague.

The primary objectives of the CLP are to:

- Maximize collective learning opportunities by fostering the exchange of business, government, workers' and employers' organizations and civil society experiences in addressing child labour. A particular focus is placed on child labour in supply chains. This takes place in the form of in-person conferences, a members-only online platform, webinars, and the ad hoc formation of sector specific working groups;
- Catalyse cooperative approaches to addressing child labour, for example by linking efforts undertaken by companies to existing and future country-level institutions and programmes;
- Identify specific obstacles that make it difficult for businesses to implement the ILO and Global Compact child labour

principles, and give advice on practical ways to overcome these obstacles. These might include, for example, training on child labour monitoring systems, age verification systems, and the avoidance of business practices that encourage child labour;

- Contribute to building the global knowledge base on child labour in supply chains through research and development of both general and sector-specific tools, and the documentation of good practices. Inputs will also be provided to strategies for the mainstreaming of good practices on child labour elimination.

The CLP welcomes new businesses and relevant organizations on an ongoing basis, with the aim of:

- Raising labour standards in the supply chain;
- Developing practical and feasible approaches to tackle child labour in the supply chain;
- Opening up the knowledge exchange to reduce child labour in supply chains.

A range of additional services can be provided to CLP members or working groups on an ad hoc basis. These may include: assessing companies' systems for due diligence and remediation to prevent and eliminate child labour in their operations and supply chains; ensuring alignment of company codes of labour practice with ILO codes on child labour;



"The research done by the Child Labour Platform on hazardous work is an excellent initiative."

A CLP evaluator

and linking companies with tripartite national structures and processes to eliminate child labour, thus helping to anchor industry efforts in nationally-owned policies and programmes and promoting sustainability;

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RESULTS

Between 2008 and 2012, the number of children engaged in child labour was estimated to have fallen from 215 to 168 million (a 13.6 per cent decline).

Outlined below are examples of the results of the CLP to date:

- The CLP has attracted 15 partners including the Coca-Cola Company, Mars, Inc., Nestlé, Primark Stores, Japan Tobacco, the Association of Cotton Merchants in Europe, Social Projects and Engineering, International Cocoa Initiative, the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation, UNICEF, UNICEF Canada, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Stop Child Labour Campaign, Telefonica Foundation, and the Global Compact Network Ecuador.
- The development of good practices, including providing policy support, tailored training for key workers, strategies for building relationship with suppliers, guidance on collaborative action with other companies and organizations, combining judicial and non-judicial channels to address child labour incidences, as well as remediation measures;
- The production of a booklet detailing business practices and lessons learned in approaches to addressing child labour in the supply chain;
- Access to various high profile events allowing members to present their strategies to combat child labour in supply chains on a global stage.



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BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

Access to cross-sectoral knowledge on child labour issues from other companies with experience in dealing with similar challenges;

20 years of experience in technical expertise, field work, and policy advice from the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), including a members-only website as a repository of publications, communities of practice, and an events board;

Regular updates on changes to child labour legislation, including lists of hazardous work drawn up at the country level;

Enhanced linkages with national tripartite structures and processes to eliminate child labour. As a result, efforts are better linked to nationally-owned policies and programmes; and as a corollary, the sustainability of such efforts is increased;

Access to annual high-profile CLP conferences, ad hoc training workshops, meetings and webinars.