



International
Labour
Organization

DECENT WORK: AN ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE

Public-private partnerships on standards and fundamental principles and rights at work

Everyone has the right to work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. This means that all women and men should be able to choose their employment freely, in a workplace that is exempt from child labour, forced labour and discrimination, where the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining is respected – and where they are covered by adequate social protection. The ILO's mandate seeks to ensure that member States apply the provisions of the international labour standards that they have ratified, and that all 186 member States respect the principles contained in the Organization's

eight core Conventions, which are enshrined in the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: the rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining; the elimination of forced labour; the abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in employment. Since 2008, 63 ILO public-private partnerships (PPPs) promoting standards and fundamental principles and rights at work have been signed, amounting to US\$ 19,319,600 (or 27 per cent of the total PPP funding). The vast majority of partnerships focus on the eradication of child labour in supply chains.

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

Adopted in 1998, the Declaration commits member States to respect and promote four categories of fundamental principles and rights, irrespective of whether or not they have ratified the Conventions containing these principles.

These categories are: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Source: www.ilo.org – ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

International labour standards in the textile industry

The textile industry in Pakistan is the largest manufacturing industry in the country, which is the 8th largest exporter of textile products in Asia. The Pakistan Textiles Exporters Association (PTEA) has partnered with the ILO to design, develop and enforce a self-inspection system. The ILO's technical support to PTEA will help it develop a labour standards monitoring mechanism through the implementation of workplace improvement programmes, which will contribute towards making the industry more sustainable and position Pakistan as an ethical sourcing destination. The ultimate goal is to ensure the industry-wide implementation of national labour laws and international labour standards in the country, with an impact on millions of women and men employed in the textile and garments sector. It is also foreseen that this intervention can be replicated in other industrial associations in Pakistan.

Forced labour and human trafficking

Forced labour and human trafficking are major challenges to human rights that affect every country – irrespective of whether they are countries of destination, transit or origin. The ILO estimates that approximately 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour today. Almost 68 per cent of these people

are victims of forced labour exploitation in agriculture, construction, domestic work or manufacturing.

A PPP with Arbeit und Leben Berlin e.V has contributed to strengthening an alliance against human trafficking for labour exploitation, which aims to eliminate discrimination against migrant workers. It also reinforces Federal state-specific structures that address the issue of trafficking for labour exploitation in Germany.

Child labour

The ILO has partnered with different companies in a variety of sectors, including cocoa, hazelnuts, tobacco and pulp and paper.

The intervention model promotes a mix of policies and actions that involve government at many levels, as well as workers' and employers' representatives, local communities and companies. The ILO supports the development of child labour monitoring systems (CLMS), helps vulnerable communities become economically empowered, promotes equal access to quality education for children in vulnerable communities, conducts research and advocacy, develops practical tools designed to address on-the-ground realities, and trains company staff on the importance of implementing child labour Conventions and Recommendations.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON CHILD LABOUR

The global number of children in child labour has declined by one third since 2000, from 246 million to 168 million. More than half of these children, 85 million, are in hazardous work (down from 171 million in 2000).

Agriculture remains by far the most important sector where child labourers can be found (98 million, or 59 per cent), but the problems are also not negligible in services (54 million) and industry (12 million) – mostly in the informal economy.

Child labour among girls fell by 40 per cent since 2000, compared to 25 per cent for boys.

Source: Marking progress against child labour - Global estimates and trends 2000-2012 (ILO-IPEC, Geneva, 2013).



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- **Cocoa and chocolate:** The ILO has worked with ADM, Barry Callebaut, Cargill, Ferrero, The Hershey Company, Kraft Foods, Mars, Inc. and Nestlé to combat child labour in cocoa-growing communities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. These programmes sought to boost the livelihoods of farmers so that young people might want to continue to grow cocoa instead of going to work in cities, thus ensuring sustainability and a long-term supply for the industry. Moreover, improved training of cocoa farmers results in better quality products and higher productivity. Mars has also joined forces with the ILO to introduce a CLMS in selected communities in the Soubré region of Côte d'Ivoire.

- **Hazelnut:** The ILO entered into a partnership with the Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries of Europe (CAOBISCO) in 2013, also working in collaboration with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project has made a significant contribution towards eliminating child labour in seasonal commercial agriculture in Turkey, in line with the Government's strategy for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2015, by establishing a sustainable child labour monitoring mechanism in seasonal agriculture.

- **Tobacco:** The ILO and Japan Tobacco International (JTI) have teamed up since 2011. This has resulted in two programmes: the Achieving Reduction of Child Labour in Support of Education (ARISE) programme; and the Agricultural Labour Practices (ALP) programme.

The ARISE programme covers 11 projects that provide access to education, create alternative economic opportunities for tobacco workers and advocate for policy change. Today, the ILO and JTI jointly conduct research on fundamental principles and rights at work and occupational safety and health and develop training materials. Another interesting partnership on tobacco is the long-standing collaboration between the ILO and the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation (ECLT).

The ILO and ECLT are developing global guidance on hazardous child labour and occupational safety and health in tobacco growing, and have agreed to support stronger social dialogue in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.

- **Pulp and paper:** In 2015 the ILO entered into a partnership with Stora Enso with a view to strengthening their global policy and eliminating child labour in their supply chain. The partnership aims to combat child labour and issues affecting the use of child labour in waste paper collection and straw gathering in the paper and board supply chains of Bulleh Shah Packaging (BSP), a joint venture between Stora Enso and its Pakistani business partner Packages Ltd.

- **Creating networks against child labour:** The Child Labour Platform (CLP) is a business-led, multi-stakeholder forum, the Secretariat of which comprises the ILO and the UN Global Compact. It is co-chaired by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The CLP provides a forum for member companies to exchange knowledge on what works in tackling child labour in supply chains. It also produces guidance tools and good practice notes, and conducts research into critical issues such as age verification and child labour vis-à-vis youth employment.

A partnership between Fundación Telefónica and the ILO has created a strategic regional alliance to combat child labour more efficiently in Latin America – the Latin American Network to Combat Child Labour. As a result of this strengthened coordination among different stakeholders in the fight against child labour, the partnership has produced multiplier effects that have benefited over 211,000 children in 13 countries. It has strengthened institutions and provided the required tools to disseminate good practices and knowledge.

- **Advocacy, awareness raising and knowledge:** The World Organization of the Scout Movement and the ILO joined forces in 2004, thereby connecting the 40 million-strong Scout Movement the world over with the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and its Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media Programme (SCREAM).

The Music against Child Labour initiative, part of SCREAM, is supported, among others, by the Pilar Jurado Foundation.