



SAP-FL Newsletter



“The ILO has been at the forefront of the struggle against slavery and forced labour for nearly 100 years. Together let us give renewed impetus to the struggle.”

***Guy Ryder
ILO Director-General***



2012 Highlights

- *End Slavery Now Campaign*
- *ILO Global Estimate*
- *Update from the field*

2013 News

- *New projects*
- *Meeting of Experts in February 2013*
- *New training resources for law enforcement*

Looking ahead to 2013 ...

Dear Reader,

We publish this newsletter to share highlights of an eventful year which was marked by the election of a new [ILO Director General](#), Mr Guy Ryder, and the [visit](#) of Daw Aung Suu Kyi to the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference. 2012 also saw the publication of a [new global estimate](#) on forced labour, slavery and human trafficking and the launch of a [new campaign](#) to commemorate the international day on the abolition of slavery. The ILO also started new global initiatives to prevent forced labour and trafficking in the fishing industry and among domestic workers.

The elimination of forced labour is an outcome under [ILO's strategic policy framework](#) (2010-2015). Protecting workers from unacceptable forms of work, such as forced and child labour, will be a priority for the ILO under its new leadership. This will clearly help focus resources and efforts in countries that seek ILO's assistance. The benchmark of our success is to achieve measurable change at country level. While we still have a long way to go before we can measure a reduction of forced labour through reliable statistics, we monitor progress through the developments of laws, policies, law enforcement responses, and victim support measures. The comments of ILO's supervisory body on ratified Conventions are an important source of information.

The priorities of ILO's Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour over the next four years are summarized in a new [strategy paper](#). We will continue focusing on research and knowledge sharing and the strengthening of national capacities to prevent and prosecute forced labour but place more emphasis on the elimination of forced labour from global value chains.

ILO's strategy against forced labour is built on strong partnerships. In 2012, ILO signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the [International Trade Union Confederation](#) (ITUC) and reinforced its capacity to work with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE). The Government of Ireland continues providing crucial financial support to ILO's global forced labour programme, and more donor agreements have been signed in 2012 which are referred to in this newsletter. Our ultimate goal is to significantly reduce forced labour by 2015, and this will require relentless efforts. The 2012 global estimate provided a sobering picture of the global scope of the problem. But as this newsletter shows, there are also grounds for optimism as global awareness and support are increasing.

Beate Andrees

Head, ILO Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour

End Slavery Now !

ILO has launched a new ILO campaign "End slavery now!", supported by Hollywood artists, athletes and activists including Cher, Danny Glover, Mila Kunis, Ron Howard, Oliver Stone, Kellan Lutz, Sérgio Mendes and Jada Pinkett Smith, as well as anti-trafficking activist Somaly Mam.

The campaign is a call for action to enable workers around the world to enjoy decent, productive employment in conditions of freedom and dignity.

Taking action means you can:

- **Get informed:** find out about the [facts](#) and about the [conventions](#) ratified by your country
- **Spread the word:** Follow us on Twitter @ILONEWS & @ILO, and use the hashtag #End Slavery Now! ; Share the [End Slavery Now poster](#) with your friends, colleagues and family
- **Raise your voice:** Share news and information on our [Facebook](#) page
- **Join** the [campaign](#)

Every action counts!



Kamran Fannizadeh, Director of the ILO Programme to promote the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, Beate Andrees, Head of the Special Action Programme to combat forced labour and the SAP-FL team

To join the struggle, please visit:

English: <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/artworks/end-slavery-now/lang--en/index.htm>

French: <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/artworks/end-slavery-now/lang--fr/index.htm>

Spanish: <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/artworks/end-slavery-now/lang--es/index.htm>

“Convention 189 is too important for a country to pass up. It is an historic instrument. It offers us, as members of civilized nations, an opportunity to move forward and discard discrimination against the people who attend to our personal and family comforts – the domestic workers”

Philippines Undersecretary of the Department of Labour and Employment, Rebecca Chato, appealed to delegates to support the ratification of the new international standard.

Philippines was the second country to ratify Convention 189, after Uruguay, and followed by Mauritius and Italy.

How are domestic workers protected around the world?

A new ILO [report](#) published in January 2013 sheds light on the magnitude of domestic work and identifies significant gaps in protection under national legal provisions (working time provisions, minimum wage legislation, etc.).

This study demonstrates the relevance of the new Convention No. 189 on domestic work, adopted by the 100th International Labour Conference in 2011, which has been ratified by 4 countries so far.

Amongst various initiatives to promote C189, a [regional tripartite conference](#) was organized in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2012, bringing together 80 government, employers' and workers'

representatives, civil society groups and international organizations from 10 Arab States, to discuss and share knowledge and experience on the extension of labour legislation to domestic workers, the regulation of recruitment agencies and the strengthening of social dialogue.

A new global ILO project on migrant domestic workers(2013-2015), funded by the European Union, seeks to enhance decent work opportunities for migrant domestic workers by reducing their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse and mitigating the adverse impact of migration on the families left behind. Pilot activities will be conducted in countries along selected "migration corridors" in Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

“President Obama has pledged to combat all forms of modern slavery within our borders and join ‘with our partners around the world ... to end this injustice.’ One such important partner is the International Labor Organization (...).

The Department funded the ILO’s efforts to develop [survey guidelines to estimate forced labor of adults and children](#) (...).

When the tools of research are used to inform policies and programs, the effectiveness of our efforts to eradicate modern slavery will be long-lasting.

The Department commends those governments that contributed to the global estimate by opening their doors to data collection in order to better understand the complexities regarding modern slavery, and we encourage other governments to do so as well.”

Hilda L. Solis ,
US Secretary of Labor,
June 1, 2012

“ The Department of Labor commends the ILO for the transparency of its research process and for its commitment to improving survey methodologies to estimate hidden and vulnerable populations.”

20.9 million people in forced labour

At any given point in time, around three out of every 1,000 persons worldwide are suffering in forced labour: women, men and children who are trapped in jobs into which they were coerced or deceived and which they cannot leave.

These are the results of the new ILO global estimate of forced labour, released in June 2012.

To learn more, please have a look at:

- The [technical report](#), which contains the results of the global estimate and a detailed presentation of the methodology
- The [executive summary](#) of the report
- The [Q&A](#)
- A global [factsheet](#) giving an easy-to-use graphic presentation of the main results, including regional breakdowns

- “Hard to see, harder to count [Survey guidelines](#) to estimate forced labour of adults and children”. Detailed how-to guidance on implementing national surveys to gather quantitative data on forced labour and trafficking in persons



Launch of the ILO figures at the European Parliament in Brussels. July 2012

The ILO Global estimate was also launched in Washington DC, Geneva and Bangkok.

Meeting of experts on forced labour standards

A Tripartite Meeting of Experts will be organized by the ILO on **11-15 February 2013**, gathering experts nominated in consultation with Governments, Employers’ and Workers’ groups.

The purpose of the Meeting is to formulate recommendations to the Governing Body on the scope for possible standard setting to complement the ILO’s Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105).

The discussions will address the following issues:

- prevention of forced labour
- victim protection, including compensation
- human trafficking for labour exploitation.

The Office has prepared a [detailed analysis](#) of these topics for discussion at the Meeting.

The Council of Europe, IOM, OHCHR and UNODC, as well as Anti-Slavery International and GAATW are invited as observers.

On 4 January 2013, Maldives has become the 177th country to ratify ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour.

Joint strategy to eliminate forced labour in Myanmar

Last year, ILO's engagement with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took a new turn with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to eliminate all forms of forced labour by 2015.

Myanmar joined the ILO in 1948 and signed the ILO's Forced Labour Convention No. 29 in 1955. Despite these commitments, forced labour, including recruitment of children into armed forces, has been a serious and longstanding problem in Myanmar. The issue was examined by an ILO Commission of Inquiry in 1998, whereupon the

International Labour Conference adopted resolutions in 2000 and 2001 calling for the ILO to focus solely on the elimination of forced labour in the country. In 2007, the ILO established a Complaints Mechanism which allows residents of Myanmar who have been subject to forced labour to submit complaints to the ILO.

The new Memorandum of Understanding supplemented by an Action Plan, call for a continuation of the Complaints Mechanism, the elimination of forced labour through pilot employment promotion schemes in ceasefire areas and measures to reduce trafficking in persons and forced labour in the private sector.



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, during her speech to 101st Session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, 14 June 2012

"What I would like to see for our country is democracy-friendly development growth. I would like to call for aid that would strengthen the democratization process by prompting social and economic progress that is beneficial to political reform."

Reducing vulnerability to bonded labour in India

ILO's project, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), further consolidated and expanded its work in 2012. New states are coming on board in the

"convergence-based" approach to prevent bonded labour in brick kilns, include Uttar Pradesh (UP), Andhra Pradesh (AP), Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar.

Achievements included the establishment of a Central Cell on Migrant Workers at MoLE, and the signing, in June 2012, of the first ever Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Inter-State Coordination between Odisha (a sending state), Andhra Pradesh (a receiving state) and MoLE. The MoU is a catalyst for action by the state governments, spelling out what each commits to do to protect the many thousands of men, women and children migrating each season to work in Andhra Pradesh.

For example, nearly 500 brick kilns have been registered as Principal Employers under the Inter State Migrant Workmen Act in AP, giving their workers certain legal entitlements. A similar MoU is due to be signed between Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and MoLE in early 2013.

In several states, kiln workers are now being signed up under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board and other social protection schemes, enabling their family members to access a wide range of benefits, such as health insurance, education grants, marriage expenses, skills development, injury compensation and death and disability coverage.

So as to strengthen workers' own capacity to demand and defend their rights, two central Trade Unions are providing assistance to organize workers in UP and AP, with the support of the ILO.



Father and child at home in brick kiln unit in Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh, one of the project sites

What are the processes of human trafficking in the Middle East?

By mapping the different processes of trafficking, and understanding the nexus between labour migration and trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation, the ILO, in collaboration with Heartland Alliance, will help governments and service providers in the Middle East to better target their interventions.

The findings of ILO field research in Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, will be discussed at an ILO regional tripartite conference on human trafficking in 2013, and then published.

New ILO project on labour migration in the Middle East

A US\$2.5 million regional ILO project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) was launched in December 2012. This project, the first of its kind in the region, targets policy reform on labour migration, better service delivery to migrant workers, and improved capacity to respond to cases of forced labour and trafficking.

Over a two-year period, the ILO will engage governments, workers, employers, law enforcement officials, labour attaches and other stakeholders to secure better working conditions for foreign workers in the Middle East, through legal and policy reforms, improved data collection and enhanced partnerships.

The ILO will focus on the elimination of forced labour and trafficking in persons, as part of a broader strategy to promote labour migration governance. A Migration and Governance Network (MAGNET) will bring



In the region, many unskilled migrant workers dwell in labour camps. In some camps, living conditions can be extremely poor and degrading.

together leading Arab researchers and academic institutions to develop a research platform and database to inform policy formulation on working and living conditions of migrant labourers.

The ILO will also work with trade unions, civil society and the media on closer cooperation with Asian and African counterparts, advocacy for the right of migrant workers to unionize, and enhanced social dialogue and media coverage.

The ILO is currently recruiting a Chief Technical Advisor for this project ([Application deadline](#) 21 February)

Addressing Forced Labour in the fishing industry

Although research into forced labour in the fisheries sector is in its early stages, there is already sufficient evidence to affirm that labour exploitation in the sector is severe, including extreme instances of cruel and inhumane treatment, and that abuses can go undetected for years. The ILO will launch a report on forced labour in fishing in Spring 2013.

In September 2012, the ILO organized a consultation of experts from governments, employers' and workers' organizations, international organizations and NGOs, to discuss strategies to combat forced labour in the fishing industry.

A number of participants raised the problem of inadequate monitoring of fishing vessel activities and fishers' safety and working conditions. It is essential to raise states' awareness of their

responsibility to criminalize, prevent and combat forced labour and human trafficking on vessels flying their flag. Port States already have experience and tools that could be extended to cover the inspection of fishing vessels and would contribute to the identification of human trafficking and forced labour. It was also suggested that Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) could have a role in coordinating the monitoring of such operations.

Other issues raised were the lack of knowledge about vessel identity, ownership, and movements at sea. This lack of transparency combined with the remoteness of the workplace makes investigation and law enforcement of forced labour offences in the fisheries sector particularly challenging. The ILO [Work in Fishing Convention](#), 2007 (No. 188) provides the overall framework to prevent exploitation in the industry. Social partners in the EU have signed an agreement to promote its ratification.

Towards better identification of forced labour and trafficking cases

An e-learning tool has been developed by SAP-FL in collaboration with the ILO International Training Center in Turin. Comprised of several modules, it can be used in interactive and individual training. It will shortly be available on a USB key as well as through an online platform. The tool was tested in April 2012, as part of a new course introduced in ILO ITC Turin. The main objective of this course is to train participants to better identify and investigate cases of forced labour, including trafficking for labour exploitation. The course addresses the different stages of the process (inspecting workplaces, interviewing victims, gathering evidence), with a focus on the private sector (textile, agriculture, domestic work, etc.).

The course is targeted at law enforcement agents, primarily labour inspectors, police officers, prosecutors as well as any other actors who are likely to encounter forced labour in the course of their work: health and safety inspectors, trade union officials, NGOs, and others.

Trainees develop a better understanding of



what is forced labour, how to identify it in practice, how to inspect work places and how to investigate cases in order to successfully prosecute offenders. A [booklet](#) has been produced to provide law enforcement officers with operational indicators of forced labour.

Next session of this course will be on 15-19 April 2013.
For more information, please contact ils-clfft@itcilo.org
or visit <http://www.itcilo.org/calendar/17770>

New ILO projects to combat forced labour in Latin America

Funded by the US Department of Labor, a new \$5.35 million project will build upon Brazil's pioneering efforts to combat forced labor through a trilateral partnership with the United States, Brazil and Peru. In Brazil, the project will support national efforts to build capacity in selected states and sectors where forced labor persists. Victims and their households will be linked to social and livelihood programs. In Peru, the project will share good practices developed in Brazil to strengthen Peru's ongoing efforts to combat forced labor. The US Department of Labor also supports ILO activities on forced labour, including forced child labour, in Ecuador and Paraguay, within the framework of the Global Action Programme on Child Labour.

Another project, funded by the US Department of State, will address human trafficking in Guatemala, with a focus on criminal and labour justice.

ILO Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour

Programme to promote the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

E-Mail: forcedlabour@ilo.org Web Site: www.ilo.org/forcedlabour

Facebook: www.facebook.com/forcedlabour

Our vision is that no person, of any age, race, origin or religion, anywhere, spends a day of his or her life working under duress and suffering degrading or inhuman treatment.