

A group of young children, likely of South Asian descent, are smiling and waving their hands towards the camera. They are wearing light-colored school uniforms. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the children's faces and gestures.

**Working to eliminate the worst forms
of child labor, forced labor, and
human trafficking worldwide**

**Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
United States Department of Labor**



Our Mission

The mission of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) at the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) is to promote a fair global playing field for workers in the United States and around the world by enforcing trade commitments, strengthening labor standards, and combating international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.



© Rajesh Kumar Singh

Global Problem of Child Labor and Modern Slavery

Global estimates from the International Labor Organization (ILO) indicate that 152 million children between 5-17 years old were engaged in child labor in 2017, of which about 73 million were in hazardous labor.

Concerted efforts by governments, workers, employers, and civil society have resulted in a reduction of nearly 94 million children engaged in child labor since 2000. While this decline has been a significant achievement, there are still far too many children in exploitive work. Child laborers are found carrying heavy loads and wielding machetes on farms; scavenging in garbage dumps and being exposed to electronic waste; enduring physical, emotional, and verbal abuse as domestic servants; and fighting as child combatants in armed conflict. Many are also subject to trafficking for forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

The ILO also estimates that 25 million people are trapped in forced labor, including more than 4 million children. Children and adults are forced to climb into mineshafts in search of diamonds and gold; are coerced, deceived, and confined on fishing vessels by unscrupulous labor recruiters; and are trapped in bonded labor while toiling in the extreme heat of brick kilns.

Definitions

Child Labor is defined by ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. It includes employment below the minimum age as established in national legislation, hazardous unpaid household services, and the worst forms of child labor: all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale or trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, or forced or compulsory labor; the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic purposes; the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities; and work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children.

Forced Labor is defined by ILO Convention 29 as all work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.

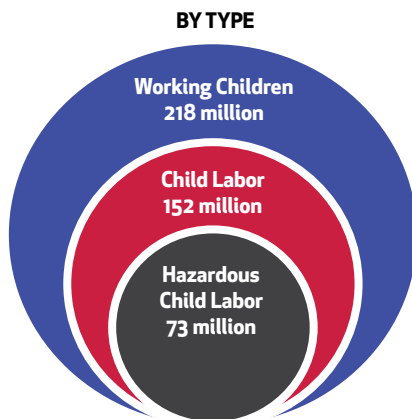
Human Trafficking is defined by the Palermo Protocol as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of an individual by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of exploitation.



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GLOBAL DATA ON CHILD LABOR, 5-17 YEARS

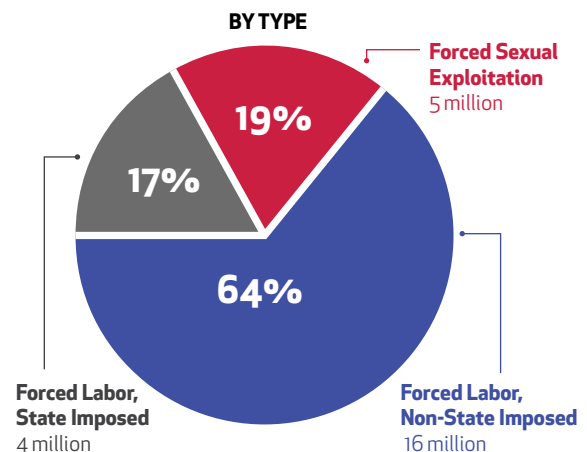
152 million children are engaged in child labor



Source: International Labor Organization and Walk Free Foundation (2017)

GLOBAL DATA ON FORCED LABOR

25 million people are engaged in forced labor



Our Impact

With over 25 years of experience, ILAB's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) is a world leader in the fight to eradicate these labor abuses. ILAB's toolbox includes international research, awareness, policy engagement, and technical cooperation.

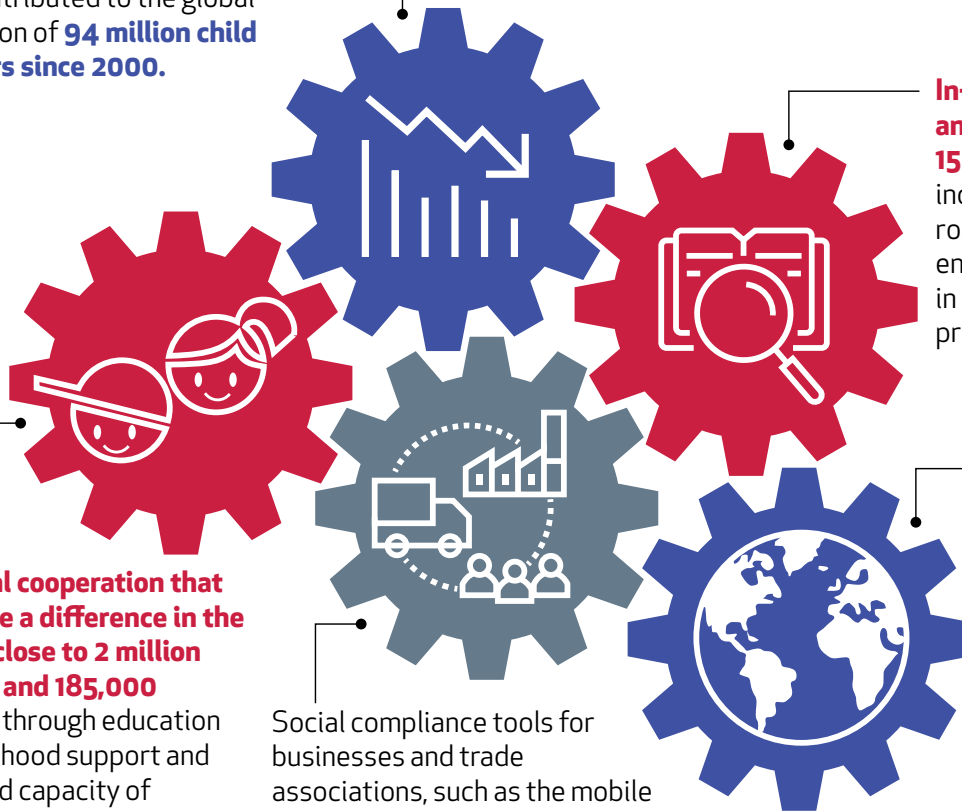
Demonstrated commitment and leadership in the worldwide movement to end child labor, which has contributed to the global reduction of **94 million child laborers since 2000.**

In-depth research on child labor and forced labor in more than 150 countries around the world, including individual country roadmaps to support the enforcement of labor provisions in trade agreements and preference programs.

Partnerships with 97 governments and 80 organizations to strengthen laws, enforcement, policies, and social programs to end child labor, and more than 60,000 labor inspectors and law enforcement officials trained.

Technical cooperation that has made a difference in the lives of close to 2 million children and 185,000 families through education and livelihood support and increased capacity of governments and other stakeholders to combat child labor and forced labor.

Social compliance tools for businesses and trade associations, such as the mobile application *Comply Chain*, to **raise awareness of risks and highlight remediation practices to ensure that child labor and forced labor are not in global supply chains.**



For more information or to contact us, please visit USDOL's website at <http://www.dol.gov/endchildlabor> or email GlobalKids@dol.gov.

IN FOCUS: Education to End Child Labor

The Espacios para Crecer Model



© Kathryn Chinnock/USDOL (Paraguay Okakuaa)

ILAB-funded *Espacios para Crecer* (“Spaces to Grow”) have reached children working in garbage dumps in the Dominican Republic, children displaced by violence in Colombia, and vulnerable indigenous children in Ecuador, Panama, and Paraguay. UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank have recognized the *Espacios* model as a Best Practice for Youth in Latin America for its impact, efficiency, and relevance.

The *Espacios* program hinges on the idea that getting children interested in learning and developing their self-confidence keeps them in school. This is particularly important because school absenteeism is associated with a higher risk of child labor. According to *Entrena*, the organization that developed the *Espacios* methodology and curriculum, 95 percent of *Espacios* participants remain in school the next school year following completion of the program.

Part of the key to *Espacios’* success has been that curriculum developers and project implementers have emphasized the involvement of the communities as a whole. Shared responsibility has become a central tenet of the program. Another key to the model’s success is the minimal overhead involved – all that is needed is an enthusiastic facilitator and a place for children to gather.

Moreover, the changes made to the *Espacios* model as it has moved from country to country are a clear testament to the program’s greatest strength: its adaptability. Project implementers have adapted the content for realities on the ground in different regions, accounting for different cultural traditions, accommodating varying educational levels, and translating materials into indigenous languages.

The spread of the *Espacios* model shows no sign of slowing. All told, over 1,000 *Espacios* have been established, serving more than 37,000 children in six countries throughout Latin America.

Research and Reporting on International Child Labor and Forced Labor

ILAB as a Knowledge Generator

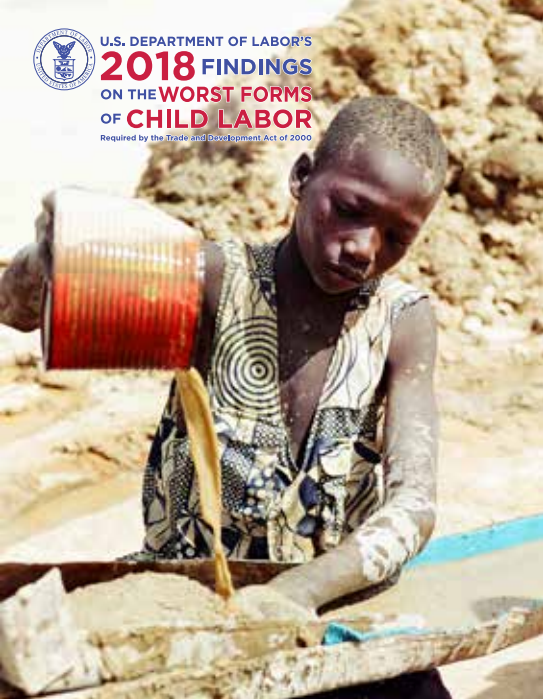
ILAB's research and reporting are carried out under Congressional mandates and Presidential directives. They provide specific, actionable information to various stakeholders about how to combat labor abuses in countries around the world.

- Foreign governments use the reports to strengthen laws, enforcement, policies, and programs for vulnerable children and families in or at-risk of child labor or forced labor.
- Companies rely on these reports to inform risk assessments, to conduct due diligence on their supply chains, and to develop strategies to address the problem.
- Consumers use our research to minimize the risk that their purchases inadvertently support exploitative labor practices around the world.
- Civil society organizations, including academic institutions, use the reports to inform advocacy efforts and strategies to assist victims.
- U.S. federal government agencies use the reports to safeguard federal procurement and guard against the importation of goods made with forced labor, including forced child labor.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S
2018 FINDINGS
 ON THE WORST FORMS
 OF **CHILD LABOR**
Required by the Trade and Development Act of 2000



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S
2018 LIST OF
GOODS PRODUCED
 BY **CHILD LABOR**
 OR **FORCED LABOR**
Required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005



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LEGISLATION & MANDATE

Trade and Development Act (TDA) of 2000

Produce the U.S. Department of Labor's annual **Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**.

LEGISLATION & MANDATE

Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005 & Subsequent Reauthorizations

Develop a list of goods from countries produced by **child labor** or **forced labor**, including, to the extent practicable, goods that are produced with inputs that are produced with forced labor or child labor.

LEGISLATION & MANDATE

Executive Order (EO) 13126 of 1999

Develop and maintain a list of products from countries produced by **forced** or **indentured child labor**.

CONTENT

Report on U.S. trade beneficiary countries and territories' efforts to implement their commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the areas of laws and regulations, institutional mechanisms for enforcement and coordination, and government policies and programs. The report also includes findings on the prevalence and sectoral distribution of the worst forms of child labor, and concrete suggested actions each government could take to advance efforts to combat this problem.

CONTENT

The TVPRA List includes goods that ILAB has reason to believe are produced by child labor or forced labor. ILAB publishes new editions every two years, most recently in September 2018.

CONTENT

ILAB has updated the EO 13126 List periodically since 2001. Under procurement regulations, federal contractors who supply products on the List must certify that they have made a good faith effort to determine whether forced or indentured child labor was used to produce the items supplied and that, on the basis of those efforts, the contractor is unaware of any such use of child labor. The most recent List was published in 2019.

For more information or to contact us, please visit USDOL's website at: [dol.gov/EndChildLabor](https://www.dol.gov/EndChildLabor) or email us at: GlobalKids@dol.gov

Deepening the Global Knowledge Base

Funding Innovative Research

ILAB funds research projects that develop and pilot new tools and methodologies that deepen our knowledge and understanding of child labor and forced labor, including their root causes. ILAB programming has supported:

- The collection and analysis of credible data on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through the implementation of over 90 national child labor surveys and 10 surveys focused on forced labor;
- The development of new survey methodologies, qualitative and quantitative studies, and statistical guidelines on child labor and forced labor; and
- The establishment of global estimates on child labor and forced labor, which serve as the standard for measuring worldwide progress on these issues.

From Research to Action

A Blueprint for Governments

ILAB has the ability to provide targeted support for willing countries to act upon information and specific suggested actions contained in ILAB's flagship reports on child labor and forced labor. These actions often include bringing local and national laws into compliance with international standards; improving the monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies related to child and forced labor; adopting and implementing national plans of action on child labor to improve awareness of this issue; and strengthening programs aimed at child labor and forced labor reduction and prevention. As a result of support from innovative projects such as the Measurement, Awareness-Raising and Policy Engagement Project to Accelerate Action Against Child Labor and Forced Labor (MAP16) and the Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (CLEAR) projects:

- Chile, Kosovo, Mexico, and Serbia are promoting sustainable methods of collecting information on child labor by integrating child labor into regular data collection programs;
- Serbia has implemented new prohibitions on hazardous work activities for children under 18 and has worked to develop a country-relevant Roadmap on Child Labor;
- Sri Lanka has utilized new child labor survey data to better target its child labor policies and update its hazardous work list for children;
- Bangladesh has adopted new standard operating procedures for labor inspections to better detect cases of child labor;
- Afghanistan has drafted a national action plan on child labor;
- Paraguay has reached more children and made more effective use of resources by improving coordination between the country's two largest anti-poverty programs; and
- Colombia has launched a Virtual Training Campus that provides standardized, accessible online training on core labor standards, including child labor, for the Colombian labor inspectorate.

IN FOCUS: Combating Child Labor in Cocoa Supply Chains

You shouldn't have to worry that the chocolate you eat might contain cocoa cultivated or harvested by a child. For almost 20 years, ILAB has been a driving force in bringing people together to coordinate efforts, share ideas, and foster new collaborations to alleviate child labor in cocoa growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, two countries which together produce nearly 60% of the world's cocoa.

ILAB's work helps facilitate dialogue and collaboration between governments, chocolate and cocoa companies, civil society, and international organizations, to root out abusive labor practices in cocoa supply chains.

Since 2010, ILAB has funded nearly \$30 million in projects focused on confronting the issue of child labor in cocoa growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, including:

- **Research:** ILAB-funded projects have conducted research on the prevalence and nature of child labor in cocoa growing areas. Recognizing the need for reliable and actionable data, ILAB has funded prevalence surveys to measure change over time in cocoa growing areas. ILAB-funded projects also support research to better understand what kinds of interventions or combination of interventions have the greatest impact, so that actors can better target their resources and efforts.
- **Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS):** ILAB-funded projects have supported the development of community-based systems for monitoring the occurrence of child labor in cocoa growing areas and linking children and families-in-need to remediation systems as a strategy for preventing and addressing child labor in cocoa supply chains.
- **Community Action Plans (CAPs):** ILAB-funded projects have also helped empower communities through the creation of Community Action Plans (CAPs) in cocoa growing communities. The CAP model supports community-based action by empowering local committees to take the lead in mapping out priority needs



within their own communities for preventing and reducing child labor. As part of this approach, ILAB set aside \$1 million of project funding to go specifically to support community grants in 90 communities to ensure that priorities of these committees would be met and that the committees would be empowered to work with local governments to secure further funding to achieve their goals.

Promoting transparency and accountability within cocoa supply chains represents a critical step toward ending child labor in this sector. Empowering local communities is also essential. As we look towards the future, ILAB remains committed to leveraging knowledge and resources in the fight against child labor in West African cocoa.

Policy Engagement

Achieving Meaningful and Sustained Action

Partnerships between Governments, Civil Society, and Businesses

ILAB brings governments, civil society, and businesses together to ensure that each plays a constructive and coordinated role in combating child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. Such partnerships are vital to achieving substantive and sustainable change.

Empowering Civil Society

ILAB helps empower civil society organizations to play a critical role in monitoring and responding to cases of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. The often hidden and unlawful nature of these abuses makes it difficult to obtain accurate and objective information on the nature and magnitude of the problem in a particular country or sector. In addition, when information does exist, there is frequently a lack of independent verification and ways to disseminate the information, hold violators accountable, and monitor follow-up actions for victims.

ILAB funding has made it possible for civil society organizations to:

- Carry out research on forced labor in high-risk industries, such as in electronics, to understand cases of labor

exploitation and help spur industry commitments to tackle the issue in their supply chain;

- Provide regular and ongoing monitoring and reporting of labor rights abuses, including child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking;
- Advocate for more effective action by governments and private sector actors to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking; and
- Assist victims of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking to access services.

Partnering with the Private Sector

ILAB's sustained, ongoing private sector engagement is helping companies confront persistent challenges in eliminating child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking in supply chains. Companies are increasingly looking to ILAB for assistance in pursuing risk-mitigation strategies. ILAB gives these firms the tools they need to understand relevant laws, regulations, and policies and to model effective strategies for monitoring and remediation. For example, *Comply Chain* provides companies eight steps for developing a robust social compliance system for monitoring global supply chains.



DOWNLOAD

ILAB'S COMPLY CHAIN AND Sweat&Toil APPS TODAY!



COMPLY CHAIN

8 steps to reduce child labor and forced labor in global supply chains.

NEW! Improved user friendliness to reduce loading times and storage size!

NEW! Bookmark the step you're on!

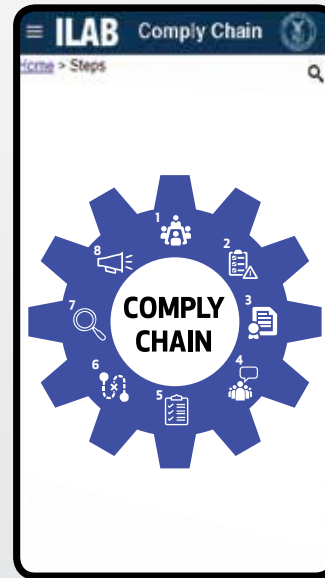
NEW! PDF conversions now available!

Explore the **key elements** of social compliance systems

Learn from **innovative company examples**

Discover **best practice** guidance

Assess **risks** and **impacts** in supply chains



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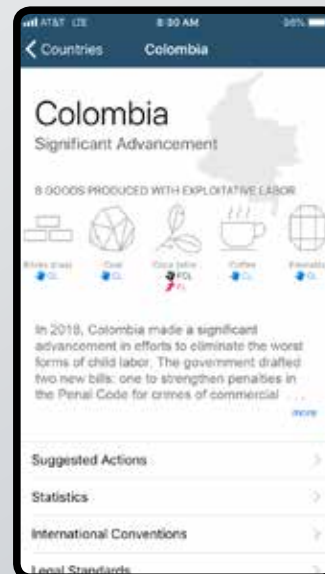
Check countries' **efforts** to eliminate child labor

Review **laws** and **ratifications**

Browse **goods** produced with child labor or forced labor

See what governments can do to **end child labor**

Find child labor **data**



IN FOCUS: Addressing Forced Labor in the Fishing Sector

A number of high-profile pieces of investigative journalism have raised public awareness of forced labor in the global fishing industry, particularly in Asia. ILAB has been working to address this issue for over twenty years.

- In 1999, ILAB awarded funding to address child labor in the fishing sector in Indonesia and the Philippines that included withdrawing or preventing children from hazardous work and developing monitoring teams with the government and the ILO.
- In 2009, ILAB added six seafood-related goods from eight countries to its initial *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor* pursuant to the TVPRA. As of 2018, the list contains seven seafood-related goods from eighteen countries.
- Today, ILAB programs build the capacity of the governments of Indonesia and the Philippines to combat forced labor and human trafficking on fishing vessels; work with small and medium sized seafood processing enterprises in Thailand to develop and document pilot

models of responsible recruitment; and conduct research, develop tools, and build capacity of global stakeholders to identify victims of forced labor in the fishing industry.

As a result of efforts by ILAB and many others, more governments are extending protections and ramping up inspections of vessels. Civil society groups and the private sector are creating tools to help the sector combat labor abuses, several of which incorporate the TVPRA and EO lists into their methodology or resource lists. The TVPRA report is used as a key source of data in several toolkits in the industry, including:

- ResponsibleSourcingTool.org, which provides guidance to companies on how to develop compliance plans to address and prevent human trafficking in their supply chains;
- The Seafood Slavery Risk Tool, which assesses the risk of forced labor, human trafficking, and hazardous child labor in the seafood industry; and
- The Labor Safe Screen, which helps clients trace seafood supply chains and focus resources on the riskiest fisheries.



Targeted Initiatives

Building Capacity to Assist Vulnerable Children and Families

ILAB projects adopt a holistic approach to promote sustainable efforts that address child labor and forced labor's underlying causes, including poverty and lack of access to education. Project strategies include linking vulnerable groups to existing government social programs, providing children with quality education or afterschool services, helping families improve their livelihoods to meet basic needs without relying on child labor, and raising awareness about risks of trafficking so that adults don't end up in situations of forced labor.

Building Governments' Capacity

ILAB works with governments to make them more effective in combating labor abuses, through efforts in areas such as data collection, monitoring, and enforcement. As a direct result of ILAB initiatives:

- More than 80 countries have strengthened their monitoring and enforcement of laws, regulations, policies, and programs to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking;
- More than 60,000 labor inspectors and law enforcement officials have been trained to more effectively enforce child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking laws and regulations; and
- Governments have adopted best practices to assist victims of child labor and forced labor. For example, ILAB worked in partnership with the Government of Paraguay to develop and pilot an electronic system that registers adolescent workers to ensure they are protected under the law and assist with enforcement of labor laws.

Focus on Modern Slavery

ILAB is a recognized global leader in combating the trafficking of children and adults for labor exploitation. For example:

- In 1995, ILAB became the first U.S. government agency to fund a project specifically aimed at tackling the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Thailand.

- Since then, ILAB programming to combat trafficking and forced labor has expanded to some of the most challenging environments and sectors in the world – from deep sea fishing in Indonesia and brick kilns in Nepal to cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.
- Today, ILAB is continuing to combat hereditary slavery in countries such as Mauritania and Niger.

ILAB at the Forefront of Rigorous Evaluation Research

ILAB continues to invest in impact evaluations of innovative interventions to broaden the global knowledge base on effective strategies for combating child labor and forced labor. ILAB's randomized controlled trials, the gold standard for impact evaluations, allow governments and policymakers to make evidence-informed decisions about programs that affect child laborers and their families. For example:

- Academics working with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) used results of their ILAB-funded impact evaluation to make important policy decisions about improvements to a DOLE livelihoods program to assist families of child laborers.
- Academics from the University of California Berkeley used ILAB funding to shed light on effective and ineffective strategies to build law enforcement officers' capacity and understanding of forced labor and human trafficking in Nepal.
- Based on the results of an ILAB-funded impact evaluation in Peru, IPA was able to provide evidence on reductions in school drop-out and child labor that led the Peruvian Ministry of Education to expand a telenovela-style information campaign to all secondary schools in Peru.
- UNICEF Research Innocenti is using evidence from its ILAB-funded impact evaluations to advocate for improvements in national cash transfer programs that serve millions of children in Sub-Saharan Africa.



IN FOCUS: From Forced Labor to Freedom

From Protocol to Practice: A Bridge to Global Action on Forced Labor (Bridge Project)

ILAB's Bridge project aims to assist countries with efforts to address forced labor, using the ILO's Protocol and Recommendation to Convention 29 on Forced Labor as a basis for concrete and sustained action. These instruments aim to advance forced labor prevention, protection, and compensation measures around the world. Through activities supported by the Bridge project, 36 countries have ratified the Protocol. The Bridge project is also supporting efforts to carry out research to collect reliable data and share knowledge across institutions at the global and national levels. In particular, it is engaging with several governments, including Malaysia, Nepal, Niger, and Peru, to carry out research, including nationally representative statistics on child labor and forced labor. The results of these studies will provide vital information for these countries to develop more targeted policies, programs, and enforcement efforts related to forced labor. In addition, the Bridge project has provided job skills and employment training to 600 former bonded laborers in Nepal and is expanding training opportunities for current and new participants.



Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labor

The Iqbal Masih award reflects the spirit of Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani child sold into bonded labor as a carpet weaver at age 4. He escaped his servitude at age 10 and became an outspoken advocate of children's rights, drawing international attention in his fight against child labor. Masih was killed in Pakistan at age 13 in 1995.

The United States Congress established the Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labor in 2008 to recognize exceptional efforts by an individual, company, organization or national government to end the worst forms of child labor.

For more information about the award and to submit nominations, please go to: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/issues/child-labor/iqbal>

WHAT CAN YOU



DO TO HELP ADDRESS CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR?

ASK QUESTIONS.

Could some of the goods I buy be made by child labor or forced labor?

Do workers have a voice to speak out against labor abuses?

What are companies doing to end child labor and forced labor in global supply chains?

What are governments doing to combat child labor and forced labor?

TAKE ACTION.

Empower yourself with knowledge and download USDOL's *Sweat & Toil* and *Comply Chain* apps.

Make your voice heard by spreading the word among friends, family, and the companies you buy from and invest in.

Show your support for organizations that are working to end these abuses.

DEMAND CHANGE.

Advocate for a world in which:

Workers everywhere can raise their voices against child labor, forced labor, and other abuses.

Companies make meaningful commitments to ensure that global supply chains are free of products made by child labor and forced labor, especially those on USDOL's *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*.

Your investments have a positive social impact by promoting responsible labor practices.

Governments work vigorously to adopt the country-specific suggested actions in USDOL's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

Learn more: dol.gov/EndChildLabor
To contact us, please email GlobalKids@dol.gov

