



Preventing and Remediating Child Labour in the Garment Supply Chain Tuesday, 2 February, 11:30-12:30 CET

This note has been prepared by the ILO Child Labour Platform and the Centre for Child Rights and Business and does not necessarily reflect the views of the OECD.

Objectives of the session

- To promote more effective child labour due diligence in the industry
- To launch the ILO's Child Labour Supplier Guidance for the Garment Industry

Background

What is the context?

There are 152 million children in child labour around the world, half of whom are in hazardous work. Although the highest rates as well as absolute numbers of child labour are in Sub-Saharan Africa, there are 62 million in Asia and the Pacific, including in main apparel producing countries.

As indicated in the ILO/OECD data presented in the 2020 edition of the OECD Forum, child labour has declined by almost 100 million since 2000, however the pace has slowed recently, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Only by accelerating and scaling up efforts will the SDG 8.7, calling for the end of all forms of child labour by 2025, be reached.

The UN has declared 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, providing a key opportunity to raise awareness and accelerate progress. Governments, workers' and employers' organizations, businesses and civil society are making concrete pledges to contribute to this effort in 2021.

What are the various perspectives?

The world has united behind SDG Target 8.7: *Take 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.

The ILO has joined forces with other organizations to launch the Alliance 8.7, which aims at mobilizing efforts from governments, companies, regional and national organizations and individuals to take action to reach the above target by 2025.

What's more, ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour became the first ILO Convention to reach universal ratification in 2020. C182 reflects consensus among ILO's tripartite constituents on the need to act urgently to end the worst forms of child labour.

What progress has been made?

Child labour has dropped by some 38% since 2000. Countries in every region have ratified ILO child labour Conventions, transposed these into national law, and adopted National Action Plans against Child Labour. Businesses have increasingly adopted human rights policies prohibiting child labour, including in their supply chain.

What are remaining challenges/gaps?

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse a generation of progress. For business, this means that reinforced measures to conduct child labour due diligence are needed now more than ever. The garment and footwear industry faces new risk of child labour at all tiers of production, including cotton/natural fibers production.

The guidance tool launched today has been developed by the ILO Child Labour Platform and the Centre for Child Rights and Business in collaboration with industry partners. It aims at contributing to due diligence efforts to eradicate child labour in the sector. The ILO is interested in partnering with other organizations to pilot this tool in selected countries.

Discussion questions

- What is the purpose of the ILO Supplier Guidance launched today?
- Why do you think it can help businesses to prevent and eradicate child labour in the garment and footwear supply chain?
- How do you anticipate COVID-19 will affect child labour risk in the garment and footwear industry?
- What type of partnerships could effectively support the piloting of the tool on the ground?

For more information

- The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour IPEC+ <https://www.ilo.org/ipeclang--en/index.htm>
- Alliance 8.7 – Global partnership of 200+ organizations to end child labour, forced labour and modern slavery, <https://www.alliance87.org/>
- ILO-IOE Child Labour Guidance Tool, 2015,

https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_27555/lang--en/index.htm

- ILO, OECD, IOM and UNICEF: Ending Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in Global Supply Chains,
https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_716930/lang--en/index.htm

Partners

International Labour Organization -- Child Labour Platform

The Child Labour Platform-ILO's business network to eradicate child labour in supply chains

<http://childlabourplatform.org>

The Centre for Child Rights and Business

<https://childrights-business.org>