



© Nicolas Marino/Novarc Images/mauritus images GmbH/Alamy An 11-year-old girl works with her family in a cotton field in The Sahel. Côte d'Ivoire. February 8, 2016.

Combating Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking



We provided over **2 million children and youth** with education and vocational training and more than 185,000 vulnerable families with livelihood support

OUR WORK supports global efforts to end child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, by promoting adherence to global labor standards, stronger enforcement of labor laws among trading partners, and increased racial and gender equity.



We've helped over **90 countries** build capacity to fight child labor by strengthening laws and enforcement

Since 1995, our leadership on the global stage has spurred critical action and contributed to the reduction of 86 million child laborers. Children who might otherwise be victims of hazardous work, trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, or illicit activities are instead able to attend school and reach their full potential.

Our capacity-building projects and engagement with governments have helped countries pass and enforce labor laws that protect children and adults from exploitation, including by safeguarding collective bargaining and strengthening worker voice.



We lead research that expands the knowledge base on child labor in approximately **150 countries**

Our research and reporting shine a light on these issues and incentivize governments to act quickly to address them, while our work with companies and trade associations helps to advance social compliance and supply chain transparency.

Our investments have supported the establishment of global estimates on child labor and forced labor, which serve as the worldwide standard for measuring progress on these issues.

INNOVATIVE GLOBAL RESEARCH

ILAB has invested significant resources to make our research and reporting on child labor and forced labor a valuable policy tool, a foundation for engaging governments on labor concerns, and a basis for evidence-based decision-making.

Our flagship reporting includes the annual [Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor](#), which evaluates 131 governments' efforts to combat exploitative child labor and provides concrete recommendations for improved policies. Our biennial [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#) contains 158 goods from 77 countries as well as 10 downstream goods that are produced with inputs that are produced with child labor or forced labor. In addition, ILAB produces a [List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor](#) to support Executive Order 13126, which prohibits the Federal acquisition of products produced with these exploitative practices. As of September 28, 2022, this List comprises 34 products from 26 countries. Our easy-to-use [Sweat & Toil](#) app puts all of these reports in the palm of your hand.

We also support innovative research to expand the global knowledge base on child labor and forced labor. With new supply chain tracing research and new tools to advance supply chain transparency, we are able to uncover abuses along complex global supply chains. This data helps hold employers accountable and encourage governments to adopt evidence-based policies to protect workers. Our new [Knowledge Management Portal](#) shares with the public information, tools, resources, and research developed through decades of ILAB-supported technical assistance programming aimed at eliminating child and forced labor around the world, along with key learnings from evaluations of more than 350 projects.

TARGETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We are a global leader in funding projects to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, including the worst forms. Our programs create a foundation for resilient communities and decent work for all.

Since 1995, we have funded more than 355 [projects](#) in 99 countries with over 90 organizations, to support education, training and livelihood services, enforcement of labor laws, and robust social protection systems. Our engagement has led to millions more children going to school and working-age youth learning market-relevant skills, and more vulnerable families improving their livelihoods. We have helped governments build their capacity to combat labor abuses by training labor inspectors and law enforcement, developing community-based monitoring systems, and drafting and implementing national action plans to protect children, families, and workers. Our projects also help workers raise their voices to advocate for decent and safe work for themselves and their families, avoiding exploitation and child labor.

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

We engage governments, businesses, unions and worker organizations, and civil society groups to support the implementation of sustainable models to combat exploitative labor practices.

Our [Comply Chain Tool](#), available in English, Spanish, French, and Malay, provides a practical, step-by-step guide on critical elements of social compliance for companies that do not have a social compliance system or those needing to strengthen their existing systems. Our [Better Trade Tool](#) helps users, from businesses to governments, advance efforts in supply chain transparency and strategic sourcing priorities. This tool integrates existing ILAB reporting with U.S. import trade data.

We also assist in developing and implementing U.S. government policy on international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. For example, we participate on the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA) Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force and collaborate with U.S. agencies to address the importation of goods likely made with forced labor, like polysilicon, cotton, and tomatoes from the Xinjiang region of China. Finally, we are active in and a founding member of the Global Coordinating Group of [Alliance 8.7](#), contributing to Target 8.7 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals to end child labor by 2025 and eradicate forced labor, modern slavery, and human trafficking by 2030.