

# Fact Sheet

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**U.S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of International Labor Affairs  
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*“Providing good and safe jobs for everyone is our goal at the United States Department of Labor. It is my hope that our goal is one that we can all strive for in this global community and in this integrated global economy. This is our challenge and I know that working together, we will meet this challenge.” Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis*

## **U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

### **Background**

- The U.S. Department of Labor works with the Department of State, the United States Trade Representative and other United States government agencies to implement the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).
- The Labor Department’s Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) leads the Department’s efforts to ensure that workers in participating AGOA countries are treated fairly and are able to share in the benefits of the global economy.
- ILAB’s mission is to help improve working conditions, raise living standards, protect workers’ ability to exercise their rights, and address the workplace exploitation of children and other vulnerable populations.

### **U.S. Department of Labor Efforts to Assist AGOA Eligible Countries**

- The Labor Department assists in the annual AGOA eligibility review process and funds technical assistance programs to protect and improve workers’ rights in AGOA countries.
- As part of the AGOA annual review, the U.S. Department of Labor examines each country’s efforts to implement and enforce internationally recognized workers’ rights. These rights include the right of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, prohibitions on forced and compulsory labor, a minimum age for the employment of children, and acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work and occupational safety and health. The Department also assesses each government’s efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

### **Contact Information**

Visit ILAB’s website at [www.dol.gov/ilab](http://www.dol.gov/ilab) for additional information.