

ILAB TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	From Protocol to Practice: A Bridge to Global Action on Forced Labor (The Bridge Project)
REGION/COUNTRY	Global/ Malaysia, Mauritania, Nepal, Peru
PROJECT DURATION	September 2015 – September 2019
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY 2015: \$9,800,000 FY 2016: \$3,595,138

PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED The ILO estimates that about 21 million men, women, and children are in forced labor – trafficked, held in debt bondage, or working under slave-like conditions. The vast majority of these forced laborers – almost 19 million – are exploited in the private economy, by individuals or enterprises. Another 2.2 million (10 percent) are in state-imposed forms of forced labor, including forced labor imposed by paramilitary forces.

Addressing the issue of forced labor is a growing international concern. In June 2014, governments, employers, and workers at the ILO International Labor Conference overwhelmingly supported the adoption of the new ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (henceforth the Protocol) and a Recommendation on supplementary measures for addressing forced labor (henceforth the Recommendation). If widely ratified and implemented by ILO member countries, the Protocol and Recommendation promise to act as a catalyst for achieving the vision of a world without forced labor.

This project aims to support global and national efforts aimed at combating forced labor under the 2014 ILO Protocol and Recommendation on Forced Labor.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE: To effectively eliminate traditional and state-imposed forced labor systems and to significantly reduce contemporary forms of forced labor, which are often linked to human trafficking. This will be done through the following intermediate objectives:

1. Increased knowledge, awareness, and implementation of the 2014 ILO Protocol and Recommendation;
2. Improved evidence-based and responsive national policies and action plans on forced labor with strong implementation, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms;
3. Enhanced efforts to collect reliable national statistics in order to carry out research and share knowledge across institutions at national, regional, and global levels;
4. Strengthened workers' and employers' organizations to

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- support the fight against forced labor in partnership with other interested parties; and
5. Strengthened awareness and livelihoods programs to prevent forced labor and to provide victims with access to remedies.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Awareness Raising on Forced Labor

- Support the “50forFreedom” campaign which aims to achieve at least 50 country ratifications of the Protocol by 2018. This includes the development of a Web platform, awareness-raising materials on the Protocol and Recommendation, and establishment of partnerships with media groups to increase public awareness of forced labor.

Capacity Building

- Develop a guidance tool for countries to implement and monitor national plans of action on forced labor, and work with national commissions on forced labor and human trafficking to develop, implement and monitor such national action plans, specifically taking into account gender and age dimensions of forced labor.
- Develop materials and train labor inspectors, and other law enforcement officials on forced labor.

Research

- Support the working group of the International Conference of Labor Statisticians to establish guidelines on statistical indicators and survey methods, and conduct statistical surveys in at least two priority countries on the prevalence of forced labor affecting adults and children to inform policy design at national levels.

Partnerships

- Work with employers’ organizations, business, and other stakeholders, including organizing a global supply chain forum.

Victim Remedies

- In the project priority countries of Malaysia, Mauritania, Nepal, and Peru, design, implement, and monitor community-based prevention and rehabilitation programs, and develop and train a network of lawyers and judicial officials to support strategic litigation of individual forced labor cases.

GRANTEE

International Labor Organization

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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