



Fact Sheet

Collecting firewood, Dominican Republic. © Valérie Baeriswyl

The Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs' (ILAB) Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) was established in 1993. OCFT works to reduce the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking worldwide through policy engagement, research, and technical assistance projects. OCFT's work helps to raise labor standards and improve the welfare of vulnerable children, their families, and their communities. By encouraging countries to invest in their children through education and train their youth, OCFT helps break the cycle of poverty and contribute to the growth of national economies. In turn, OCFT's efforts contribute to the creation of a more educated and skilled global workforce and promote a more level playing field for workers in the U.S. and around the world.

Our Accomplishments

- Since 1995, ILAB has funded more than 300 projects to combat child labor in over 90 countries and worked with more than 75 organizations. ILAB projects provide direct services to children and their families and help build national and local capacity to address child labor. As a result of these efforts, close to **2 million children have been provided education and vocational training services** and **vulnerable families have received livelihood support** to reduce their reliance on child labor.
- ILAB projects have also played a major role in building capacity in over 80 countries at the national, district, and community level, including by **training labor inspectors and law enforcement officials on child labor law enforcement; developing community-based, child labor monitoring systems;** and working with

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 168 million children are engaged in child labor, of which about 85 million participate in hazardous labor that by its nature can have adverse effects on their safety, health, and moral development.

The ILO places the number of people trapped in forced labor at 21 million, including 6 million children in forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

The worst forms of child labor include slavery or practices similar to slavery; the trafficking of children; the use of children in armed conflict; prostitution and pornography; the use of children for illicit activities, particularly drug production and trafficking; and hazardous work.

DID YOU KNOW?

- governments to **develop and implement specific policies and plans to combat child labor and forced labor.**
- OCFT has **increased the knowledge base on child labor and forced labor** through its research and publication of over 100 major reports. These range from country-specific reports on child labor laws and regulations to thematic reports on topics such as children in armed conflict and the impact of consumer labeling on child labor. OCFT has also funded extramural research on child

labor and forced labor through academic and independent research organizations. OCFT reports are available on DOL's Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/>.

Research and Reporting

- OCFT's reports are carried out under Congressional mandate and Presidential directives. These include the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-200), Executive Order 13126, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-164), and the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) ("Farm Bill").
- OCFT reports inform policymakers, consumers, and business, labor, and advocacy groups on the prevalence and nature of child and forced labor and efforts underway to address these problems.
- OCFT identifies goods that may have been produced by child or forced labor to raise public awareness and encourage actions to improve the conditions under which the goods we consume are produced.
- In 2012, OCFT released *Reducing Child Labor and Forced Labor: A Toolkit for Responsible Businesses*, a free, comprehensive

labor, and human trafficking issues. OCFT also engages strategically with foreign governments, businesses, labor and civil society groups to support implementation of sustainable models to reduce exploitative labor practices.

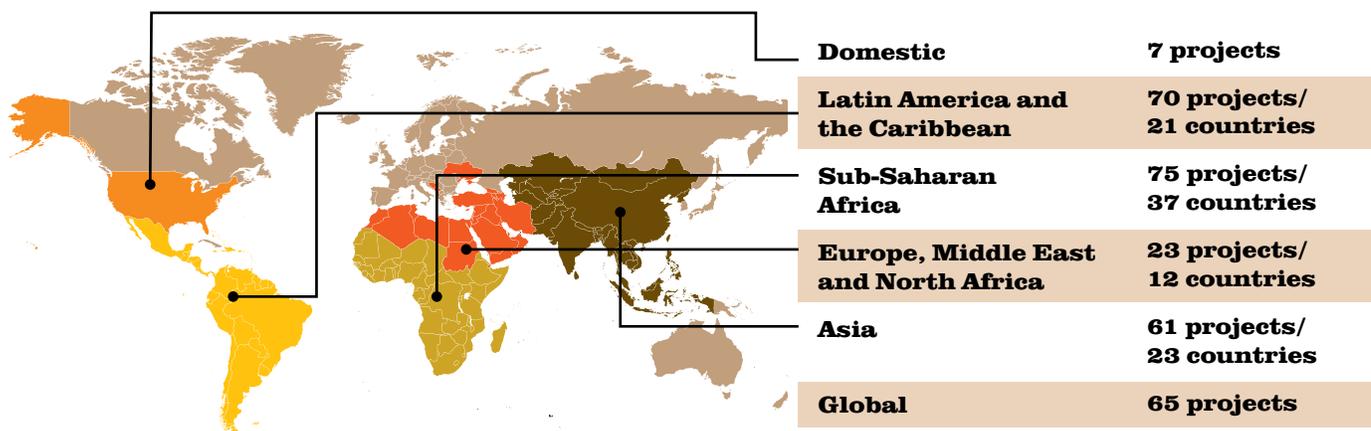
- OCFT supports social protection programs that aim to alleviate and mitigate the economic vulnerabilities in nations and communities that can leave families trapped in poverty and children at risk of engaging in exploitative labor.

Technical Assistance

- OCFT funds projects that use an integrated approach to address child and forced labor, including efforts to increase children's access to education and support for adults to help families overcome dependence on their children's labor to meet basic needs.
- OCFT projects focus on geographic areas and sectors with a high prevalence of child labor, such as commercial agriculture, mining, and small-scale manufacturing, as well as categorical worst forms of child labor such as forced labor, trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation.
- OCFT projects train labor inspectors and law enforcement officials on child labor law enforcement, and help develop community-based, child labor monitoring systems. They also

AT A GLANCE

21 Years of USDOL-Funded Child Labor Technical Assistance Projects



online resource specifically targeted to assist companies in combating these labor abuses in their supply chains. The Toolkit can be accessed at: <http://www.dol.gov/childlaborbusiness toolkit>.

- Through research grants and contracts on a wide variety of topics, OCFT supports an expanding global knowledge base on child labor and forced labor. This research is helping to fill a longstanding lack of reliable information on the prevalence of child labor and forced labor worldwide.

Policy and Strategic Engagement

- OCFT assists in the development and implementation of U.S. government policy on international child labor, forced

support child labor monitoring and enforcement efforts in the supply chains of key national sectors, oftentimes working with businesses and employers.

- OCFT projects work to strengthen the enforcement of workers' rights, including acceptable conditions of work and occupational safety and health.
- OCFT projects work with governments to develop and implement specific policies and plans to combat child labor and forced labor, such as national plans of action on child labor and policies to protect children working in specific sectors. OCFT projects also integrate child labor issues into broader social protection programs.