



Fact Sheet

Girls attend education classes adjoining a center where their mothers learn to weave. The program is supported by GoodWeave.
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ILAB Programming to Combat Child Labor Internationally

The Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) is a leader in the global campaign to end child labor. Since 1995, ILAB has funded more than 300 projects to combat child labor in over 90 countries and worked with more than 75 organizations. Our projects provide direct services to children and their families and help build national and local capacity to address child labor. We support the collection of reliable data, promotion of effective policies and legislation, enhanced monitoring and enforcement, and the development of national plans of action. We also help link child labor elimination efforts with other national efforts to promote basic education, social protection, and poverty reduction.

As a result of these efforts, close to **2 million children** have been provided with education and vocational training services, and vulnerable families have received livelihood support to reduce their reliance on child labor. ILAB's **efforts remain deeply rooted in promoting lasting and visible change** at the community-level and in the daily lives of children and families-in-need.

Addressing Root Causes

ILAB projects adopt a holistic approach to promote sustainable efforts that **address child labor's underlying causes, including poverty and lack of access to education.**

- In Peru, the ILAB-funded *Semilla* (Seed) project helped child laborers and children at risk of entering child labor to stay in school, catch up on their appropriate grade level, finish

MEET ONE OF ILAB'S PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

Habimana Andrew started working when he was ten, harvesting tea and working quarries in his native Rwanda. He had to combine work and school to feed his family. Then he left school completely when his mother died of cancer, leaving only him and his older sister to take care of



a seven-month-old baby. "There was nothing to do apart from dropping out of school," Habimana said. "My older sister also dropped out of school, and she was the one to provide meals. I was also the one to take care of the baby, and we had to forget about school. But now, thanks to the REACH-T project, I am happy, because I am back to where I should be: at school."

The project has also allowed Habimana's three younger siblings to stay in school. His older sister is now a tailor and continues to watch the baby. As of March 2015, the ILAB-funded Rwanda Education Alternatives for Children in Tea-Growing Areas (REACH-T) project has provided education services to 2,486 children engaged in or at risk of entering child labor and 1,250 households have received livelihood services.

their basic education, and acquire marketable job skills. The Peruvian government is currently working with *Semilla* to replicate and scale up its pioneering models.

- In Ethiopia, our projects are expanding and enhancing opportunities for formal schooling and alternative learning, including vocational education, apprenticeship training, and literacy programs for children in rural areas.

Around the world, ILAB projects are having a **demonstrable impact in reducing child labor across countries and in specific sectors.**

For example:

- In the Philippines, the Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy, and Protection (LEAP) Against Child Labor in Sugarcane project provided educational services to over 54,000 children engaged in or at high risk of the worst forms of child labor in sugarcane growing areas. More than 30,000 members of their families received sustainable livelihood services, and institutions improved their policies, programs, and the delivery of social protection services.
- In Ecuador, ILAB has supported programming since 1998 that has built national capacity by training labor inspectors and developing a national action plan. These efforts laid the foundation for a groundbreaking initiative by the Government of Ecuador that today has virtually eliminated scavenging by children in the country's garbage dumps.

Expanding the Knowledge Base

Our projects pilot new tools and methodologies and deepen our knowledge and understanding of child labor, including its root causes. ILAB funding has made possible:

- The development of new survey methodologies, qualitative and quantitative studies, statistical resolutions, and global estimates on child labor and forced labor.
- Over 90 national child labor surveys that have assessed the nature and prevalence of child labor in those countries.
- The ILO's publication of four global estimates on working children since 1995, and global estimates on forced labor released in 2005 and 2012.

Our funding has allowed the ILO to be at the forefront of collecting statistics on hard-to-research populations and has elevated the cause of worker rights through statistics. These efforts have **built national capacities to collect and analyze child labor data and, in turn, helped countries develop strategies to address the problem.**

Building Capacity

Our projects have helped over 80 countries build their capacity at the national, district, and community levels. ILAB projects **train labor inspectors and law enforcement officials on child labor law enforcement and develop community-based child labor monitoring systems. They also support monitoring and enforcement efforts in the supply chains of key national sectors.** As a result, governments have **developed and implemented specific policies, plans, and programs to combat child labor and forced labor.** For example:

- The Moving Towards a Child Labor-Free Jordan project has helped the Government of Jordan implement its National Plan to Combat Child Labor, helping strengthen its child labor enforcement units at the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, forming local coordination mechanisms to ensure that services and legal protections now reach children throughout Jordan, and tailoring services and protections to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children in Jordan, including Syrian refugee children.
- In Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, ILAB projects support national efforts to launch child labor monitoring systems to address child labor in cocoa growing communities and link children and their families to the education and social protection services they need.

Technical Assistance Oversight

ILAB continues to **focus on achieving results and assessing performance while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.** We require all of our grantees to submit technical progress reports and quarterly financial reports, and we monitor that they are meeting their objectives and that resources are being used appropriately. Audits and attestation engagement help ensure fiscal accountability of ILAB grants. We also place a major emphasis on learning through evaluation through the use of **independent, external implementation and impact evaluations to assess performance, identify good practices, and, when needed, implement corrective action.**

- Impact evaluations help us gather empirical evidence on what approaches work best to address child labor in order to improve project design and resource allocation.
- We also work with technical experts and projects to develop detailed monitoring and evaluation frameworks and systems to measure progress and results, and to serve as a management tool.