



Project On
Accelerating Action
For The Elimination Of Child Labour
In Supply Chains In Africa



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

PROJECT STRATEGY

The project builds on the ILO's extensive experience in implementing initiatives on the elimination of child labour. It also draws upon the experience and lessons learned from the ILO's work with the tripartite constituents at global, regional, national and local levels, the private sector as well as other actors along global supply chains.

The project seeks to promote improved national legislation and policies to address the basic needs and rights of children engaged in or at risk of child labour, while adopting an integrated area based approach (IABA), embedded in the value chain approach. It also envisages cooperation with local industry and international buyers to achieve better compliance with International Labour Standards and improved access to international markets for Malawi.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

With the Sustainable Development Agenda, in 2015 the world agreed to end child labour in all its forms by 2025. In particular, the SDG target 8.7 calls on all UN member States to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 to end child labour in all its forms. In line with this call the overarching goal of the project is to "accelerate the elimination of child labour in Africa" in selected supply chains in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda. In Malawi, the project focuses on eliminating child labour in the tea and coffee supply chains

IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- Outcome 1: Policy, legal and institutional frameworks are improved and enforced to address child labour in global supply chains
- Outcome 2: Innovative and evidence-based solutions that address the root causes of child labour in supply chains are institutionalized
- Outcome 3: Strengthening partnership and knowledge sharing among global supply chain actors working in Africa



CONTEXT IN MALAWI

Child labour continues to be a challenge in Malawi where 2.12 million children representing 38 per cent of all children aged 5-17 are engaged in child labour. Some 1.16 million children or 20.9 per cent are involved in hazardous work. Child labour is present in almost all sectors, including agriculture, fishing, manufacturing, mining, services and construction. Agriculture and related sub-sectors alone account for 66.2 per cent of children engaged in hazardous work. In Malawi, this project will focus on the elimination of child labour in the tea and coffee supply chains.

Tea sector in Malawi employs approximately 50,000 (permanent and seasonal) workers and serves as a source of the livelihood for over 17,000 smallholder growers. It is the country's second largest export after tobacco. In 2017, the tea sector earned US\$ 71 million in export, accounting for 8 per cent of the total export earnings for Malawi.



Traditionally, coffee has been an important commercial and smallholder crop in Malawi. In recent years, however, its contribution to the country's export earnings has declined. There are between 2,600 and 3,000 smallholder coffee growers in Malawi, organised into 6 production cooperatives, in addition to several larger-scale farms. The National Agricultural Investment Plan has identified coffee as the second most important cash crop in terms of potential for employment generation and the fourth important crop to reduce national poverty head count among.

Smallholders growing tea and coffee in Malawi face various challenges including limited supply of seedlings and access to finance, lack of bargaining power with suppliers and buyers and inadequate marketing channels. These challenges are exacerbated by the adverse effects of climate change on production areas. Child labour is common on small-scale farms and has also been reported on larger estates. The ILO has recently initiated a pilot programme aimed at addressing decent work challenges in tea plantations in Malawi's Thyolo district with support from the Government of Flanders. In addition to the specific geographic scope, this programme complements the work carried out in the context of the Malawi Tea 2020 initiative, and focuses on selected technical areas in line with the ILO's comparative advantage. The current project, which is implemented with support from the Government of the Netherlands, would allow to scale up and expand the ILO's work in Malawi's rural economy to the coffee sector, paying particular attention to the issue of child labour.

The government of Malawi is committed to the elimination of child labour. In terms of legislative framework, the main texts include the Malawi Constitution; the Employment Act (2000), which sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years of age; the Employment (prohibition of Hazardous work for Children) Order (2012); the Education Act (2013) reinforcing compulsory primary school education; and the Trafficking in Persons Act (2015) providing for the prevention and elimination of human trafficking. The National Code of Conduct on Child Labour was developed to provide guiding principles to the state, employers, organisations, parents and guardians, children and the community in their efforts to combat all forms of child labour. In addition, the National Action Plan (NAP) on the elimination of child labour 2019-2022 is being finalised and is in line with the Decent Work Country Programme (2018-2021).

PARTNERS

- * Government and primarily ministries responsible for labour, education, agriculture, trade and industry, gender and children's affairs, and other relevant government bodies at the national and district levels;
- * Employers' organizations, industry associations and their members;
- * Workers' organizations and their members;
- * Actors along the supply chains, including investors (finance sector), buyers, traders, cooperative organizations and SMEs;
- * Community, traditional and religious leaders;
- * Civil society organizations and research / academic institutions;
- * Relevant multi-stakeholder and sectoral initiatives
- * UN Organizations;
- * Media
- * Development partners.

DONOR AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

Government of the Netherlands

COVERED COUNTRIES

Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda

DURATION

Four years (48 months)

Start date: 59 November 645²

End date: 59 November 6466

BENEFICIARIES

- ◇ Children and their families working in tea and coffee production chains;
- ◇ Key ministries and other governmental agencies and national councils;
- ◇ Employers' and workers' organizations, and;
- ◇ Enterprises



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