



International
Labour
Organization



WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

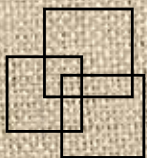
12 june 2016

END CHILD LABOUR IN

SUPPLY CHAINS



IT'S EVERYONE'S BUSINESS!



World Day Against Child Labour 2016 focuses on supply chains.¹ Increasingly complex, they span sectors, countries and regions. And all supply chains – including in agriculture and fishing, manufacturing and mining, services and construction, and whether global or national – may involve some of the 168 million children still in child labour. Eliminating child labour in supply chains is everyone's business, and requires the commitment of governments, workers' and employers' organizations and enterprises themselves.

The ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (the MNE Declaration) makes clear that all enterprises have the responsibility to obey national law and to contribute to the realization of all fundamental principles and rights at work

– including the elimination of child labour as defined in ILO Conventions No. 138 on Minimum Age and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Child labour occurs in many occupations, in particular in the rural and informal economies, and in areas where labour market governance, trade unions and employers' organizations are often weak or absent and in areas that labour inspectors lack the capacity to reach. In supply chains, child labour may be performed in small workshops or homes, making it difficult to identify and remedy. While many children may be engaged in child labour in the production of internationally traded goods or services, a much larger number work in producing items destined for national consumption.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED NOW

Child labour denies girls and boys their rights – to be safe from harm, to quality education and vocational training, and to play and rest. Freedom from child labour is a fundamental human right and, alongside the other fundamental principles and rights at work, in particular freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, it is indispensable for the achievement of decent work for all.

The specific target (8.7) of the new Sustainable Development Goal No. 8 on decent work and economic growth calls for immediate measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery

and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

To reach this target, collective action must accelerate progress and make better use of existing knowledge and resources. Enterprises should pursue responsible business practices that respect human and other labour rights in the countries and communities in which they operate. Dialogue between enterprise management and trade unions should support – and be an example of – such practices.

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS MEANS NO CHILD LABOUR

The ILO MNE Declaration provides guidance to companies about contributing to social and economic development and respecting fundamental labour rights. It sets out principles which governments, employers' and workers' organizations and enterprises are recommended to observe including on child labour:

"Multinational enterprises, as well as national enterprises, should respect the minimum age for admission to employment or work in order to secure

the effective abolition of child labour and should take immediate and effective measures within their own competence to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency."

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, endorsed by the Human Rights Council in 2011, also refer to internationally recognised human and labour rights, including those enshrined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The

¹ Supply chains are the sequence of activities/processes involved in the production and distribution of a product.

UN Guiding Principles rest on three pillars: states' duty to protect against human rights violations by third parties, corporate responsibility to respect

human rights, and victims' rights to greater access to effective remedy.

TAKING ACTION

Child labour can be difficult to see. Multinational enterprises may be linked to it in international supply chains directly – through their own facilities, suppliers or subcontractors – or simply by having operations in areas where child labour is common. Child labour is driven in many cases by family and community poverty, caused by a lack of decent work for adults and youth of legal working age – by inadequate wages, income security and social protection – often linked to insufficient sourcing prices paid to supplier companies; and by a lack of access to health care, free quality education and vocational training. It prevails in circumstances where labour relations are weak and freedom of association is lacking and in informal family enterprises that are unable to hire adult workers to replace the unpaid work of their children.

Effective governance and social dialogue are keystones of the fight against child labour. Primary responsibility for eliminating child labour rests with governments, but effective action requires collaboration between government agencies, including labour inspectorates, national social partners, and management and workers' representatives in enterprises. The ILO assists their efforts to eradicate child labour by supporting mechanisms for increased compliance with national legislation and respect for internationally recognised human and labour rights and by supporting the development of labour relations systems. Every enterprise linked to a supply chain can contribute positively – and dialogue between management and trade union representatives is crucial to building confidence and to finding sustainable solutions.

The ILO provides specific support to business in a number of ways.

The ILO- and UN Global Compact-led **Child Labour Platform (CLP)** is a global forum connecting companies from different sectors and regions of the world to share experience of what works – and what doesn't – in combating

child labour in supply chains. Co-chaired by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), and engaging regularly also with the relevant global union federations, the CLP enhances linkages of global enterprises with national tripartite structures and processes to eliminate child labour in the countries concerned.

Benefitting from the technical expertise, field experience and policy advice of the ILO, the CLP provides training on how to identify and address child labour risks, leads research projects and develops new global manuals and guidelines. The CLP also facilitates collaboration between member companies on child labour remediation activities covering different sectors in the same location.

In addition to the facilitation of peer-to-peer sharing of best practice and knowledge through the CLP, through **public-private partnerships** the ILO supports enterprises directly to address child labour in their supply chains and provides practical support and advice to address on-the-ground realities. It supports the development of child labour monitoring systems, helps vulnerable communities to become economically empowered, supports the capacity of workers' and small producers' organizations, promotes equal access to quality education for children in vulnerable communities and conducts research.

The **ILO Helpdesk for Business** provides free and confidential assistance on a wide range of labour issues – in particular for managers and workers' organizations. This includes advice about applying in business operations and supply chains the principles contained in the ILO Conventions on child labour. The Helpdesk website comprises all ILO knowledge resources that enterprises can use freely to apply the principles of ILO standards in policy and practice. Queries can be submitted by email to assistance@ilo.org or telephone +41 22 799 6264.

BUILDING COMMITMENT

Tackling child labour in supply chains requires concerted efforts on all fronts. States need to consider whether national law and policy really protect against business involvement in child labour and, if not, how their content or enforcement could be strengthened.

Social dialogue has been and continues to be crucial to sustainable progress. Employers' organizations are increasingly engaged in efforts to end child labour in supply chains by providing advice and guidance to their members on how to address child labour. Trade unions are playing a central role in fighting child labour by training to prevent child labour, by promoting safe and healthy working conditions and by mainstreaming child labour concerns in

collective bargaining agreements – including in global agreements – with enterprises.

For companies, compliance with law and respect for internationally recognised human and labour rights is paramount: they should follow the guidance of the ILO MNE Declaration and the findings of the ILO's supervisory bodies to take action to avoid infringing the right of children to be free from child labour. The recently published *ILO-IOE Child Labour Guidance Tool for Business* helps businesses learn how to address child labour in a holistic and effective way. And the 2016 publication *Trade Unions and Child Labour: A Tool for Action* is a manual developed to support effective trade union action aimed at the eradication of child labour.

JOIN US ON THE WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR 2016!

The World Day is an opportunity to raise your voice against child labour, to join in the call to end child labour in supply chains and to call on those countries that have not yet ratified the ILO Conventions on child labour to do so.

We invite you and your organization to be part of World Day. Every action counts. Together we can make a difference.

For more information visit www.ilo.org/ChildLabourWorldDay
or contact ipecc@ilo.org



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