FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION: USING KNOWLEDGE TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR (R2A)

AND

EVIDENCE TO ACTION: INCREASING THE IMPACT OF RESEARCH TO MOBILIZE EFFORTS AGAINST FORCED LABOR IN MADAGASCAR AND ARGENTINA (E2A)

July 2024

Grantee: International Labour Organization

From Research to Action
Project Duration: August 2018 - August 2023
Funding and Year: FY 2018 : USD 2,800,000; FY 2021 : USD 560,000

Evidence to Action
Project Duration: December 2019 - June 2024
Funding and Year: FY 2020: USD 3,000,000; FY 2023: USD 725,000

Evaluation Fieldwork Dates: January 29, 2023 – April 12, 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCEL Africa	Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AMA	Argentina Fashion and Public Image Workers Union
CERALAC	Corporate Responsibility Conduct in Latin America and Caribbean
CGT	General Confederation of Labor
CIAI	Argentina Industrial Chamber of Clothing
DEI&A	Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility
E2A	Evidence to Action Project
FOA	Funding Opportunity Announcement
FUNDAMENTALS	ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch
GEFP	Association for Free Zone Exporting Companies
IAB	International Advisory Board
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
IGG	Institute Gino Germani
ILAB	Bureau of International Labor Affairs
ILO	International Labour Organization
INDEC	National Institute of Statistics and Census
INTI	National Institute of Industrial Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPA	Innovations for Poverty Action
IPSOS	Global Market Research and Public Opinion Specialist
ITC-ILO	ILO's International Training Centre
MAP 16	Measurement, Awareness-Raising, and Policy Engagement on Child Labor and Forced Labor
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOOC	Massive Open Online Courses

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORC	National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago
NSO	National Statistics Office
PROTEX	Attorney General's Office of Human Trafficking and Exploitation
R2A	Research to Action Project
RDS	Respondent Driven Sampling
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
STEySS	Secretary of Labor, Employment, and Social Security
UIA	Argentine Industrial Union
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTREF	University Tres de Febrero
UNU	United Nations University
UNU-CPR	United Nations University Centre for Policy Research
USDOL	United States Department of Labor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

There is a lack of rigorous research on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking that, along with fragmentation in research efforts, suggests a need to bring researchers and policy actors together around a common research agenda that creates inter-disciplinary consensus building. To be sustainable, this process needs to work across disciplinary, country, and generational gaps to generate research-to-practice products that are based on high-quality, context-specific research.[1]

To address the need to produce high-quality data that can be used by researchers, policy actors, and decision-makers, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) provided grant funding to the International Labour Organization (ILO) to implement two projects. On August 3, 2018, USDOL awarded a cooperative agreement grant to the ILO for USD 2.8 million to implement the *Research to Action (R2A)* project at the global level. In April 2021, the project was modified to increase the funding amount to USD 3.36 million while extending the end date from August 2, 2022 to August 2, 2023. On December 12, 2019, USDOL awarded another grant to the ILO for USD 3 million to implement the *Evidence to Action (E2A)* project, which operated in Argentina and Madagascar.[2] The E2A project was also modified to increase the total budget amount to USD 3.725 million and extend the end date from December 14, 2023 to June 14, 2024.[3]

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS

The R2A and E2A projects had similar overall objectives. The R2A project aimed to "accelerate the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support of efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor around the world" while the E2A project aimed to "increase the use of forced labor research in policy and programmatic decision-making to eliminate forced labor around the world". The R2A project focused on developing research products at the global level, with research agendas in Chile, Malawi, Nepal, Paraguay, and Uganda; E2A was implemented in Argentina and Madagascar.

KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Relevance

Based on interviews with a range of respondents including ILO staff and country stakeholders, the evaluation team concluded that the R2A project design was relevant and effectively responded to the needs of its key stakeholders. While the R2A project was not specifically designed to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility

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[1] Research to Action and Evidence to Action project documents.

[2] The original two implementation countries for the E2A project were Argentina and Mauritius. Since the government of Mauritius did not approve the project, Madagascar was selected as the second implementation country.

[3] During the finalization of the evaluation report, USDOL reported that it had approved a two-month no-cost extension of the E2A project that will extend the end date from June 14, 2024 to August 14, 2024.

(DEI&A) principles, it ultimately addressed them to a certain extent during implementation through the framing of country research agenda questions and selection criteria for research grant recipients.

The evaluation team concluded that the E2A project design was also relevant and effectively responded to the needs and priorities of its stakeholders in Argentina; however, the E2A project had less success in these areas in Madagascar. Stakeholders from a variety of organizations including E2A project staff, ILO, partners, and academic institutions, noted that the E2A project design for Madagascar may not have been the most appropriate overall, as the research on forced labor caused concerns among some government and garment sector stakeholders that research findings could harm garment exports.

Evaluation findings indicated that the E2A project design, specifically its qualitative and quantitative research and engagement strategies, can be replicated in other countries if adjusted for certain factors including:

- Interest and willingness of a country to understand and address forced labor
- Institutional capacity and country-tailored strategy
- Capacity of local research organizations
- Resource requirements

The E2A project document referred to DEI&A principles directly and incorporated these principles into research methodologies, data collection activities, and data analysis.

Both projects were well designed in the sense that the outcomes and their outputs were interconnected and created effective synergies. The designs were also flexible, which allowed the projects to adjust and adapt to meet the research needs and priorities of their key stakeholders.

Coherence

The R2A project collaborated effectively with organizations at both the global level and with the research agenda countries. Overall, the E2A project was effective at collaborating with key stakeholders in Argentina, especially government and academic institutions. While the project collaborated with the garment sector, project stakeholders noted that collaboration could have been deepened. Likewise, respondents in Argentina suggested that collaboration with trade unions could also have been strengthened. The project's collaboration was less effective in Madagascar where the project was unable to engage and enter into dialogue with government, garment sector, and worker organizations at the time of this evaluation.

Impact

The evaluation team was not able to find evidence that the knowledge generated by the R2A and E2A projects informed stakeholders' child labor and forced labor policies, programs, and other strategies and activities. Changes in policies and programs take time, and it is too early to say whether the knowledge generated by the R2A and E2A projects led to or will lead to changes in this area. However, there appears to be a strong interest among R2A stakeholders globally, and E2A stakeholders in Argentina, to explore ways to apply this knowledge. In Madagascar, given the sensitivity of forced labor, there appears to be less interest in using the knowledge generated by the E2A project.

Efficiency

Both the R2A and E2A projects operated in an efficient manner in that they produced outputs with the planned amount of human and financial resources. Both projects achieved efficiency through lean and efficient staff structures. The R2A research products and tools were also efficient and would be worth considering in future projects. The qualitative research conducted by the E2A project was cost effective. While prevalence surveys are more expensive than qualitative studies, the E2A project conducted them in a cost-effective manner by using the project team coupled with competent local researchers, especially in Argentina.

The COVID-19 pandemic was the most important factor affecting efficiency for both the R2A and E2A projects. The pandemic caused the projects to postpone and reschedule some activities and to shift training and policy dialogue activities to virtual formats, which caused some delays. The decision of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations University (UNU) to not sign a United Nations agreement with the ILO to formally cooperate with the project also caused delays and created inefficiencies for R2A. The decision to replace Mauritius with Madagascar and general elections in Argentina were major factors that created inefficiencies for E2A.

Effectiveness and Sustainability

Table 1 summarizes the effectiveness (i.e. achievement of project outcomes) and their sustainability for the R2A project. The table also provides a rating for both achievement and sustainability: low, moderate, above moderate, and high. The guidance and criteria used to assign ratings are explained in the Terms of Reference (Annex C).

Table 1: R2A Project Performance Summary

Performance Summary	Rating
Outcome 1: Increased policymaker and practitioner interaction with rigorous research, data collection and analysis tools, and other relevant data needed to address child labor and forced labor internationally	

Performance Summary	Rating
ACHIEVEMENT. The project did not collect adequate information to allow an assessment of the achievement of Outcome 1. While the project contributed important data inputs and attracted a significant number of users to the Delta 8.7 platform[4], we do not know much about the quality of the interaction and how the information was used. UNU decided to take the platform down in December 2023 due to a lack of funding to maintain the platform, which further complicates the process of assessing the effectiveness of the platform. Key output achievements under this outcome include the child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking bibliography linked to the evidence gap maps, research for policy guidance tool, and the R2A platform that houses the bibliography, gap maps, and policy guidance tool.[5]	Achievement: Moderate
SUSTAINABILITY. The bibliography has been incorporated into the ILO Library system and thus has been institutionalized. The challenge, however, is to find the resources to update the bibliography at least once per year. The R2A platform hosts key R2A research tools and resources. The plan is to institutionalize the platform by eventually folding it into the ILO system. Like the bibliography, the R2A platform should be kept up-to-date. The policy guidance tool exists and is available on the R2A platform. It should be sustainable in the short to medium term but longer-term sustainability will depend on resources to update the tool so it remains relevant.	Sustainability: Above Moderate
Outcome 2: Increased understanding by researchers of the questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to inform policy and program efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor	
ACHIEVEMENT. The project achieved three of its four indicator targets. However, it would have been useful to have a specific indicator to measure whether researchers increased their understanding of the knowledge gaps. The project also achieved its outputs and sub-outputs, including the global and country research agendas, situational briefs, the meta-analysis/literature reviews, and the gap maps, which helped increase the understanding by researchers of existing child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking knowledge gaps that need to be addressed by research.	Achievement: High

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[4] The United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) created Delta 8.7 to be the "Alliance 8.7 global knowledge platform" in support of the global efforts to achieve SDG Target 8.7 of ending forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labour: https://unu.edu/cpr/project/delta-87

[5] The research for policy guidance tool is referred to as the policy guidance tool in project documents.

Performance Summary	Rating
SUSTAINABILITY. The key outputs/products noted above exist and are available on the R2A platform. They should be sustainable in the short to medium term but longer-term sustainability will require resources to keep them up-to-date. The more challenging aspect is the engagement with researchers around these products that requires resources to be successful. It is not clear where those resources will come from now that the project has ended.	Sustainability: Above Moderate
Outcome 3: Improved capacity of researchers to study child labor and forced labor issues	
ACHIEVEMENT. Outcome 3 did not include an indicator to actually measure improved capacity of researchers as stated in the outcome statement. While the project exceeded its indicator target for the number of researchers it trained, and produced training materials that are available online, the evaluation team could not objectively assess to what extent the capacity of researchers actually increased. However, based on interviews with national statistics officers who participated in the training, their perception is that the training improved their capacity to analyze child labor and forced labor survey data, but more training is necessary.	Achievement: Moderate
SUSTAINABILITY. The main focus of Outcome 3 was the online training course on child labor and forced labor data analysis that the project developed and piloted with representatives from six national statistics offices in Africa. The R2A project, through the ILO's International Training Centre (ITC-ILO), has made the course (modules) available online free-of-charge to researchers and other key stakeholders. Thus, the course appears to show strong signs of sustainability. The sustainability of the broader outcome, to increase capacity of the researchers, will depend to what extent researchers take advantage of the online course.	Sustainability: High
Outcome 4: Increased engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues	
ACHIEVEMENT. The evaluation team considers that Outcome 4, engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues, was achieved. The 16 research seed grants and fellowships, the research they generated, and the dissemination of this research through the global conference made important contributions to addressing gaps in research on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.	Achievement: High

Performance Summary	Rating
SUSTAINABILITY. The research under Outcome 4 was completed and presented at an international conference and is available on the R2A platform. The research appears to provide valuable and important input to policy decisions related to child labor and forced labor. However, the lack of a strategy to get the research in front of policymakers and practitioners could limit overall impact and sustainability. Also, research grant programming is not sustainable because future research will likely require funding from multilateral or bilateral donors or foundations.	Sustainability: Low

Table 2 summarizes the achievement of outcomes and sustainability for the E2A project. The table also provides a rating for both achievement and sustainability: low, moderate, above moderate, and high. The guidance and criteria used to assign ratings are explained in the Terms of Reference (Annex C).

Table 2: E2A Project Performance Summary

Performance Summary	Rating
Outcome 1: Increased knowledge of the extent, nature, and characteristics of forced labor where scarce research exist	
ACHIEVEMENT. The evaluation team could not assess achievement of the Outcome 1 indicator target because the project had not yet conducted the training and pre- and post-tests to assess changes in stakeholder perceptions at the time of the evaluation. In Argentina, the project achieved three of five outputs at the time of this evaluation. These include the rapid sector appraisal, value chain analysis, and prevalence survey. The home-based worker case study was in the process of being completed at the time of the evaluation. However, due to sensitivities about forced labor, the project has decided to wait until the end of activities before disseminating and publishing the results of the research. In Madagascar, the project is behind schedule. It achieved one of four outputs at the time of this evaluation, including the rapid sector appraisal. The prevalence survey was in the process of being conducted at the time of this evaluation. The project intends to wait until activities have been completed before disseminating and publishing the research results. According to interviews, key government and private sector stakeholders are concerned that research showing the presence of forced labor in the garment sector could harm export markets.	Achievement: Argentina Above Moderate Madagascar Moderate

Performance Summary	Rating
SUSTAINABILITY. In both Argentina and Madagascar, the research reports and related knowledge products exist and will be available to policymakers and practitioners. Their sustainable impact, however, will be determined by if and how they are used by these key stakeholders. In Argentina, there appears to be strong interest in using the knowledge generated by the project to inform public policy and forced labor programs. In Madagascar, on the other hand, there does not appear to be as strong interest in using the knowledge. One explanation of this discrepancy is that government and private sector stakeholders are concerned that if forced labor is found to be present in the garment sector, this information could negatively impact its garment export markets.	Sustainability: Argentina Moderate Madagascar Low
Outcome 2: Increased dialogue and engagement of decision-makers in the private sector, government, and civil society to act against forced labor	
ACHIEVEMENT. Like Outcome 1, the evaluation team could not assess the achievement of Outcome 2 indicator targets because the project intends to wait until the end of activities to measure changes in perceptions about the usefulness of the research and their intention to use the information. In Argentina, the project achieved two of its three outputs, including a mapping of stakeholders for forced labor data and a stakeholder engagement strategy. At the time of the evaluation, the project was in the process of developing recommendations to strengthen stakeholder capacity as well as completing a set of due diligence tools. In Madagascar, the project completed one of three outputs at the time of this evaluation. The project completed the mapping of stakeholders and their information needs but was still in the process of developing the stakeholder engagement strategy and completing the set of due diligence tools at the time of this evaluation. However, the project has not been able to engage with Malagasy stakeholders in a meaningful manner. The project also has two global outputs focused on the dissemination of policy knowledge products and the organization of a global webinar conference to disseminate and discuss E2A research activities. These outputs were not achieved at the time of the evaluation.	Achievement: Argentina Above Moderate Madagascar Low

Performance Summary	Rating
SUSTAINABILITY. The evaluation team found it difficult to assess the sustainability of this outcome since the project decided to wait to implement some of the key activities until the main research products under Outcome 1 are officially published and disseminated to stakeholders. In Argentina, there appears to be interest in dialogue and engagement around the research findings based largely on a relatively high degree of public awareness about poor labor conditions in the informal garment sector. While the public has an appetite to understand the labor problems in the sector, it is not clear what approach the newly elected government will take to address them. Nevertheless, the government and tripartite[6] stakeholders will likely rely on the ILO to lead the dialogue. In Madagascar, while the research results could provide valuable information to government and garment sector decision-makers to help them identify forced labor risks and target the appropriate interventions, it is not clear whether the political willingness exists to address forced labor in the sector that, in turn, will determine to what extent dialogue and engagement can be sustained.	Sustainability: Argentina Moderate Madagascar Low

LESSONS LEARNED

R2A

1. It is critical to determine the mandates and limitations of potential partners (i.e. IOM and UNU) during the project design phase in order to proactively address possible sub-award issues and other problems related to contracting that could otherwise arise during the implementation phase.

2. Projects like R2A, that aim to accelerate the use of research to improve policy and programs, require specific strategies and ample time to get research and research tools in front of policymakers and practitioners.

3. Projects that aim to achieve knowledge and behavior changes, such as using knowledge to improve policies and programs, require M&E systems with indicators to measure changes in knowledge and behaviors.

4. Projects that produce research agendas need a strategy and resources to support their effective implementation.

5. Ambitious projects like R2A would benefit from additional staffing at the global and country levels, which would allow for increased support for project participants, thereby ensuring that the planned outputs and outcomes are achieved.

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[6] The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the only tripartite UN agency with government, employer and worker representatives: https://www.ilo.org/about-ilo/structure#:~:text=The%20International%20Labour%20Organization%20(ILO,government%2C%20employer%20and%20worker%20representatives.

E2A

1. National coordinators, based in the countries targeted by the project, are highly important to ensure that activities and outputs advance as planned, especially outreach and engagement with key stakeholders.

2. Involve private sector partners early in the project so that they can help set the agenda and can ensure their needs are being met by the project, which would also help to increase the partners' commitment to the project and sense of ownership.

3. Anticipate and understand the stakeholders' economic concerns of forced labor research and use this information to develop proactive strategies to raise awareness about the risks that forced labor poses to export markets and what countries can do to mitigate the risk.

4. Some project activities do not necessarily have to be implemented in a linear sequence as planned but can and should be implemented in parallel.

5. The involvement of community-based organizations and other civil society organizations is important to help researchers gain access to the study population.

PROMISING PRACTICES

R2A AND E2A

1. Both the R2A and E2A projects applied flexible project approaches that allowed for constant adaptations and adjustments to political situations and changes requested by stakeholders and project partners at both the global and country levels.

R2A

1. International advisory boards consisting of academic institutions, international research specialists, and representatives of international organizations, serve as an important platform for research cooperation and dialogue on child labor and forced labor issues.

2. The ILO and IOM staff loan arrangement provided a key IOM researcher to the R2A project to provide input and guidance on migration issues as well as institutional linkages.

3. The selection of Pathfinder Countries to develop the country research agendas allowed R2A to leverage the countries' commitments to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through improved research and knowledge.

4. Building project interventions and products into existing ILO systems and procedures created efficiency and contributed to the sustainability of these interventions and products.

E2A

1. The active participation of key national stakeholders in the development of methodologies, data collection instruments, and due diligence tools not only

provided valuable suggestions to improve these tools but helped create stakeholder commitment.

2. Conducting qualitative studies prior to designing and implementing the forced labor prevalence surveys allowed E2A to ascertain and integrate critical sector-specific information.

3. Discussing and adjusting research findings with key stakeholders before making the research reports public helped increase the understanding of the findings and ensure their acceptability.

4. Breaking large research products into several smaller products facilitated targeting audiences with useful information that they can digest and act upon.

5. Building on existing institutions and structures rather than creating new ones increased efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for ILO AND USDOL

1. Develop and use a mix of effect-level indicators that measure how research findings are used to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

2. Design forced labor research projects, including their main strategies, based on the context of the implementation country.

3. Hire national project coordinators to lead the engagement and dialogue around research findings (knowledge) as well as facilitate research activities.

4. Ensure adequate staffing to ensure effective implementation of activities and technical support to project partners.

5. Include a strong research communication/advocacy strategy to help ensure the research findings/knowledge is used by policymakers and practitioners.

Recommendations for USDOL

1. Provide specific and detailed instruction in the Funding Opportunity Announcements on the expectation that USDOL funded projects incorporate diversity, equity, inclusiveness, and accessibility principles into the project designs/strategies.

Recommendations for ILO

1. Vet potential subcontractors to determine if they are able and willing to adhere to US government contracting rules and regulations. This should be done during the project design phase.

2. When feasible, configure project teams with qualified researchers to take the lead on research activities, supported by local researchers, instead of hiring expensive research firms.

1. PROJECT CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION

1.1. PROJECT CONTEXT

According to the report *Child Labour: Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward*, approximately 160 million children around the world are engaged in child labor including 63 million girls and 97 million boys. Slightly less than half, 79 million, are performing hazardous work that places their health, safety or moral development at risk.[7] From 2000 to 2016, the number of children in child labor had decreased by nearly 40 percent or 100 million due largely to awareness raising and national efforts. However, since 2016, global progress against child labor has stalled for the first time since the International Labour Organization (ILO) began producing global estimates two decades ago.[8]

The 2022 report on *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage* found that nearly 50 million people were living in modern slavery in 2021. These include 28 million people working under forced labor conditions and 22 million people involved in forced marriage situations. The number of people in modern slavery increased from 40 million in 2016 to nearly 50 million in 2021.[9]

Efforts to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking are hampered by weaknesses in research data collection, fragmentation of relevant research and evaluations across organizational silos, languages, disciplines and contexts, and an absence of sustainable research-to-practice strategies. In particular, high-quality research on forced labor has been hindered by significant practical and methodological challenges. For example, since forced labor and human trafficking are criminal activities, victims are often unable or unwilling to admit they are victims. In addition, victims often constitute a hidden and vulnerable population that requires special sampling techniques and ethical protocols.[10,11]

There has been a rapid increase in research conducted on child labor, forced labor, and modern slavery in recent years that has helped provide information about sectors and geographic areas with high child labor and forced labor prevalence. This research has also helped to identify key drivers of progress including access to education, credit and other financial resources; social protection programs; improved rule of law, and; fair access to

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[7] International Labour Office and United Nations Children's Fund, Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward,

ILO and UNICEF, New York, 2021. License: CC BY 4.0. Available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-–ed_norm/-–ipec/documents/publication/wcms_797515.pdf

[8] Ibid.

[9] *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*
International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and International Organization for
Migration (IOM), Geneva, 2022. Available at https://www.ilo.org/publications/major-publications/global-estimates-modern-slavery-forced-labour-and-forced-marriage

[10] Brunner, Jessie (2015). Inaccurate Numbers, Inadequate Policy.

[11] Zhang, Sheldon (2014). Estimating Labor Trafficking among Unauthorized Migrant Workers in San Diego.

labor markets.[12,13]   While this research has helped to build the knowledge base, it has also made it clear that knowledge gaps exist regarding the prevalence of child labor and forced labor among certain sub-populations. This includes vulnerable and marginalized populations, the interaction of child labor and forced labor risk factors including the economic drivers, the costs of interventions, and the impact on victims and communities

Fragmentation of research and evaluation affects how knowledge and evidence can be used to strengthen child labor and forced labor policies.[14] Research studies and impact evaluation reports are often not easily available to researchers and policy makers. Furthermore, the research and evaluation studies are usually not conducted using common terminology, methodologies, and analytic frameworks and do not describe the causal pathways between the interventions.[15] To address the fragmentation in data collection and analysis, the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) adopted the *Guidelines Concerning the Measurement of Forced Labour.* These guidelines call on countries to generate quantitative and qualitative data on the characteristics of forced labor and to focus data collection on any sector of the economy or any population groups particularly at risk of forced labor that would assist in the development of effective measures in targeted sectors or population groups.[16]

Another key factor that causes fragmentation is weak linkages between researchers in different countries and between the researchers and policy makers and practitioners. For example, expert researchers who attended a 2016 workshop organized by the US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine concluded that research is "siloed" and lacks a platform for data sharing and interaction that hampers sustainable research to practice efforts.[17]

The weakness of research data collection and fragmentation in research effort suggests a need to bring researchers and policy actors together around a common research agenda that creates inter-disciplinary consensus building. To be sustainable, this process needs

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[12] World report on child labour: Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labour /International Labour Office. Geneva: ILO, 2013 ILO; *World report on child labour 2015: Paving the way to decent work for young people /* International Labour Office. Geneva: ILO, 2015; and *Ending child labour by 2025: A review of policies and programmes,* International Labour Office (ILO), Geneva, 2017.

[13] A review of policies relating to forced labor is provided in ILO, *Global Policy Report on Forced Labor* (working title), in print, Geneva.

[14] "The Global Child Labor Problem: What Do We Know and What Can We Do?", *World Bank Economic Review*, vol. 17, no. 2 (2003): 147-173; Eric V. Edmonds and Nina Pavcnik, "Child Labor in the Global Economy", *J. Econ. Perspectives*, vol. 19(1), Winter 2005: 199-200; International Labour Office (ILO). *Ending child labour by 2025: A review of policies and programmes* (Geneva, 2017); International Labour Office, *Towards the urgent elimination of hazardous child labour* (Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (Geneva: ILO, 2018); James Cockayne, *Unshackling Development: Why we need a global partnership to end modern slavery* (UNU, New York 2015).

[15] *Promising Practices: What Works? A Review of Interventions to Combat Modern Slavery* (The Minderoo Foundation, (2018); and see R. Weitzer, "Human Trafficking and Contemporary Slavery", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 41 (2015): 223-42.

[16] ILO (2018). Guidelines Concerning the Measurement of Forced Labour. 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva 10-19 October 2018. ICLS/20/2018/Guidelines.

[17] See National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2016. Exploring the development of a U.S. Department of Labor research strategy on child labor and forced labor in international settings: Proceedings of a workshop—in brief. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/24639. https://www.nap.edu/read/24639/chapter/1, esp. at p. 7.

to work across, disciplinary, country and generational gaps, to generate research-to-practice products that are based on high quality context specific research.

Both the *From Research to Action: Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labor and Forced Labor* (R2A) and *Evidence to Action: Increasing the Impact of Research to Mobilize Efforts against Forced Labour in Madagascar and Argentina* (E2A) projects addressed the need to produce high quality data and research that can be used by policy actors and programmers. The R2A project focused primarily at the global level to improve the access to and use of relevant and reliable child labor and forced labor data and research by key policy actors, researchers, and practitioners. On the other hand, the E2A project focused on increasing the use of high-quality research on forced labor in policy and in program decision-making in Argentina and Madagascar.

1.2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS

On August 3, 2018, United States Department of Labor (USDOL) awarded a cooperative agreement grant to the International Labour Organization (ILO) for USD 2.8 million to implement the R2A project at the global level. On December 12, 2019, USDOL awarded another grant to the ILO for USD 3 million to implement the E2A project that worked in Argentina and Madagascar.[18]

Modifications

Both the R2A and E2A projects were modified to add and adjust financial resources and make changes to personnel. Through a series of project modifications to the R2A project, the funding amount increased from USD 2.8 million to USD 3.36 million while the period of performance end date was extended August 2, 2023. Table 3 shows the project modification number, the date it was signed, and a brief description of the modification.

Table 3: R2A Project Modifications

No.	Date	Details
1	10-08-2019	Made realignments to various budget line items and incorporated updated versions of financial documents, project document, budget, budget narrative, and work plan into the award file.
2	04-13-2021	Added USD 560,000 to the budget that increased the total amount of funding USD 3,360,000 and revised the period of performance end date to August 2, 2022. It also appointed a new USDOL Grant Officer's Representative (GOR).

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[18] The original two implementation countries for the E2A project were Argentina and Mauritius. Since the government of Mauritius did not approve the project, Madagascar was selected as the second implementation country.

No.	Date	Details
3	06-15-2022	Changed the period of performance end date from August 2, 2022 to March 2, 2023 and realigned the budget to reallocate $161,000 within the current budget to cover staff costs and new activities.
4	01-20-2023	Revised the period of performance end date from August 3, 2022 to August 2, 2023 to allow additional time to complete project activities. It also reallocated USD 96,027 to cover staff costs and budget realignment and changed the Grant Officer's Representative.

The E2A project modifications increased the total funding amount from USD 3 million to USD 3.725 million and extended the period of performance from December 14, 2022 to December 14, 2023. Table 4 shows the project modification number, the date it was signed, and a brief description of the modification.

Table 4: E2A Project Modifications

No.	Date	Details
1	02-20-2020	Appointed Luis Mario Fujiwara as the project director.
2	07-07-2020	Released the funding restriction on the Mauritius portion of the research based on discussions with ILO and the revised research plan submitted by ILO.
3	09-09-2022	Period of performance end date extended from December 14, 2022 to December 14, 2023 and changed the target country from Mauritius to Madagascar. It also reallocated the resources within the budget and revised the project's logical framework to reflect the change in target country. USDOL also changed the GOR.
4	05-09-2023	Added USD 725,000 that increased the total budget amount to USD 3.725 million and extended the period of performance end date from December 14, 2023 to June 14, 2024. It also realigned the budget and made several minor changes to the logical framework. The modifications were intended to strengthen the engagement component as recommended by the midterm evaluation.

1.2.1. OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS

The R2A project design consisted of the project objective, four main outcomes, ten outputs, and five sub-outputs. The project objective, outcomes, outputs, and sub-outputs are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: R2A Project Objective, Outcomes, and Outputs

Project Objective: To accelerate the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support of efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor around the world

Outcome 1: Increased policymaker and practitioner interaction with rigorous research, data collection and analysis tools, and other relevant data needed to address child labor and forced labor internationally

- Output 1.1: Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools mapped and categorized

- Output 1.2: Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools are adapted for policymakers and practitioners

- Output 1.3: Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools are made accessible for policy makers and practitioners on the knowledge platform

Outcome 2: Increased understanding by researchers of the questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to inform policy and program efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor

- Output 2.1: Country-level research agendas and/or plans based on systematic needs assessments developed, to be elaborated in direct collaboration with government counterparts and social partners in a subset of priority countries

- Output.2.2: Global-level research agendas on child labor and forced labor and human trafficking are developed and integrated into the knowledge platform

  - Output 2.2.a: Meta-analysis/literature reviews on child labor and forced labor and human trafficking are developed and integrated into the knowledge platform

  - Output 2.2.b: Gap maps on child labor and forced labor and human trafficking are developed and integrated into the Knowledge Platform:

  - Output 2.2.c: Enhancing evidence base for rapid policy action

- Output 2.3: Inclusive outreach and engagement of researchers on refinement of research agendas, gap maps, and meta-analysis/literature reviews

Outcome 3: Improved capacity of researchers to study child labor and forced labor issues

- Output 3.1: Course modules on forced labor and child labor research, data collection, and communication with policymakers suitable for a variety of training contexts are developed

  - Output 3.1.a: Contacts established with university programs to discuss integration of course modules into ongoing programs

  - Output 3.1.b: Delivery mechanism for on-line training course on child labor and forced labor research developed

Outcome 4: Increased engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues

- Output 4.1: New mechanisms and support for researchers for accessing research awards on child labor and forced labor implemented

> **Project Objective:** To accelerate the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support of efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor around the world
>
> - Output 4.2: Researchers complete research funded by small seed grants and fellowship that address priority knowledge gaps
> - Output 4.3: Research findings to relevant policymakers disseminated

The outcomes, outputs, and causal relationships are shown in the project's results framework in Annex E.

The E2A project design consisted of the project objective, two outcomes and 17 outputs. The project was implemented in Argentina and Madagascar. While the project objective and outcomes are the same for both countries, the number of outputs for each country varies. The project objective, outcomes, outputs, and sub-outputs are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: E2A Project Objective and Outcomes

> **Project Objective:** Increase the use of forced labor research in policy and programmatic decision-making to eliminate forced labour around the world
>
> **Outcome 1:** Increased knowledge of the extent, nature, and characteristics of forced labor where scarce research exist
>
> - Output 1.1. Madagascar: Rapid Sector Appraisal of the garment sector is completed
> - Output 1.2. Madagascar: Quantitative research conducted and discussed with national partners
> - Output 1.3. Madagascar: Qualitative research conducted and discussed with national partners
> - Output 1.4. Madagascar: Policy-oriented research on FL in the garment sector is publicly available
> - Output.1.5. Argentina: Rapid Sector Appraisal of the garment sector is completed
> - Output 1.6. Argentina: Qualitative research (value chain analysis) conducted and discussed with national partners
> - Output 1.7. Argentina: Quantitative research conducted and discussed with national partners
> - Output 1.8. Argentina: Policy-oriented research on FL in the garment sector in Argentina is publicly available
> - Output 1.9. Argentina: Home-based Workers voice and empowerment research is publicly available with gender perspective
>
> **Outcome 2:** Increased dialogue and engagement of decision-makers in the private sector, government, and civil society to act against forced labor
>
> - Output 2.1. Madagascar: Stakeholders' needs on forced labor data are assessed
> - Output 2.2. Madagascar: Stakeholder engagement mechanisms are established
> - Output 2.3. Madagascar: Stakeholders advised on forced labor prevention, monitoring, and remediation
> - Output 2.4. Argentina: Stakeholders' informational needs on forced labor are assessed

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Project Objective: Increase the use of forced labor research in policy and programmatic decision-making to eliminate forced labour around the world

- Output 2.5. Argentina: Stakeholder engagement mechanisms are established
- Output 2.6. Argentina: Stakeholders advised on forced labor prevention, monitoring, and remediation
- Output 2.7. Global: Policy oriented knowledge products are disseminated
- Output 2.8. Global: Global stakeholders outreached

The outcomes, outputs, and their causal relationships are shown in the project's results framework in Annex E.

1.2.2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Both the R2A and E2A projects were implemented by the ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FUNDAMENTALS) and were situated under FUNDAMENTALS' Research and Evaluation unit. Other ILO branches and departments provided periodic support to the project. These include the Gender, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Branch, Evaluation Office, ILO Library, Global Business Network on Forced Labour, International Labour Standards Department, International Training Centre of the ILO, Department of Communication and Public Information, Bureau of Workers Activities, and Bureau of Employers Activities. The R2A project received support from the ILO country offices of Uganda, Malawi, Nepal and Chile.[19] The E2A project received support from Responsible Corporate Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERALAC) in Argentina, and from Better Work in Madagascar. Both countries also received support from ILO country offices.

The R2A project intended to provide sub-grants to two key United Nations organizations. The first was the United Nations University (UNU), a global think tank and postgraduate teaching organization headquartered in Japan. UNU was intended to serve in an advisory role and collaborate with the project through its Delta 8.7 platform. The second is the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration. IOM was intended to provide guidance on migration issues and help link the project to IOM country offices. However, due to US government contracting requirements, both UNU and IOM ultimately decided that they could not accept the sub-contracts.

The R2A project was managed by the project director who also served as the principal investigator. The project director was classified as key personnel and allocated 70 percent of his time to the project. He also was responsible for overall administration of the project, including implementation of activities and key deliverables. The second key personnel position was the data science officer who allocated 50 percent of her time to the project. She was responsible for building interactive, digital knowledge tools to organize, consolidate, and present data and findings on child labor and forced labor in an easily accessible format for policy actors and practitioners.

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[19] The ILO office in Chile provided support to research agenda activities in Paraguay.

Once the IOM decided it would not accept the sub-contract, the IOM and ILO discussed creative ways to maintain collaboration and coordination. As a result, the ILO agreed to "loan" one of its researchers to the IOM Protection Division (formerly, the Migration Protection Division) under the R2A project. The staff-on-loan was designed to help ensure that issues related to trafficking for forced labor, child trafficking, child labor and forced labor in crisis-affected populations and among migrants were reflected in the project. The loan arrangement also intended to help the R2A project create linkages and coordinate with both IOM headquarters offices as well as IOM country offices.

The E2A project was managed by the project director/researcher who was classified as key personnel and allocated 90 percent of his time to the project. The project director was responsible for overall technical and administrative aspects of the project including implementation of activities and key deliverables. In addition to the project director, E2A key personnel included the principal investigator provided by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago (NORC). Other part-time staff included an ILO senior investigator, a M&E specialist, and a finance and administrative assistant. In June 2023, the project added a M&E and engagement officer who provided overall monitoring and evaluation support to the project and helped accelerate the engagement activities with stakeholders in Argentina. The project tried to hire a national project coordinator in Madagascar but could not find a candidate with the required qualifications.

The E2A project had two sub-grantees that included NORC and Verité. NORC was mainly responsible for implementing the forced labor prevalence surveys in Argentina and Madagascar, which entailed carrying out scoping research, developing survey instruments; conducting analytic research; statistical sampling; data preparation, data collection, data cleaning and data management.

Verité was primarily responsible for implementing the rapid sector appraisal in Argentina and Madagascar and developing and promoting a set of due diligence tools for the garment sector in both countries.[20,21] Verité also conducted research on home-based workers in Argentina and produced a range of short videos highlighting these workers' perceptions and understanding about their life and work in their own words.

2. EVALUATION PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this final evaluation includes:

- Assessing if the R2A and E2A projects achieved their objectives, outcomes, and outputs and identifying the challenges encountered in doing so including an analysis of the driving factors for these challenges.

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[20] Textile and garment sector refers to the entire supply chain; downstream and upstream. However, the E2A project focused on the garment (upstream) value chain because it is labor intensive and involves most of the forced labor situations. Thus, the rest of the report refers to the garment sector in Argentina and Madagascar.

[21] Due diligence enables companies to assess and address risk, prevent potential forced labor impacts and remediate actual impacts in their own operations, their supply chain and other business relationships. https://www.responsiblelabor.org/forced-labor-due-diligence/

- Assessing the intended and unintended effects of both projects.

- Identifying lessons learned and emerging practices from both projects (e.g., strategies and models of intervention) and experiences in implementation that can be applied in current or future projects in the implementation countries and in projects designed under similar conditions or target sectors.

- Assessing which R2A and E2A outcomes or outputs can be deemed sustainable.

In addition, this evaluation aimed to:

- Objectively rate the level of achievement of each of the major outcomes for the R2A and E2A projects on a four-point scale (low, moderate, above-moderate, and high).

The final evaluation focused on the global level for the R2A project and on Argentina and Madagascar for the E2A project.[22] A more detailed description of the evaluation and purpose and objectives is described in the Terms of Reference (TOR) in Annex C

2.2 METHODOLOGY

The evaluation team used a mixed-methods evaluation design for both projects, consisting of document reviews, key informant interviews, and online perception surveys. As such, this evaluation relied primarily on qualitative data. The team conducted the fieldwork virtually at the global level for R2A and at the country level for E2A in Argentina and Madagascar. The evaluators conducted interviews with project staff, implementing partners, ILO and USDOL representatives, and a variety of other stakeholders as outlined in Annex B. The evaluation team conducted the interviews using video conferencing apps like Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

DATA COLLECTION

The evaluation team interviewed 60 total persons between the two projects including 32 females and 28 males. These stakeholders included project staff, ILO and IOM representatives, researchers, academics, national statistics officers, and representatives of employers' organizations, trade unions, civil society organizations, and academic institutions. Tables 7 and 8 provide further details on the key informant interviews for the R2A and E2A projects, respectively.

Table 7: R2A Project Key Informant Interviewees

Stakeholder Group	Female	Male	Total
R2A Staff	2	1	3

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[22] The evaluation team interviewed stakeholders who participated in the country research agendas and who participated in the child labor and forced labor data analysis pilot training course at the ITC-ILO in Turin, Italy.

ILO Staff	3	1	4
IOM Staff	1	0	1
R2A Stakeholders	8	6	14
USDOL Reps.	2	3	5
Total	*16*	*11*	*27*

Table 8: E2A Project Key Informant Interviewees

Stakeholder Group	Female	Male	Total
E2A Staff	0	3	3
ETA Project Team (NORC/Verité)	2	3	5
USDOL Representatives	0	1	1
ILO Representatives Argentina/Elsewhere	5	1	6
E2A Stakeholders (tripartite) Argentina	5	5	10
Local Researchers Argentina	1	3	4
ILO Representatives Madagascar/Elsewhere	1	2	3
Local Researchers Madagascar	2	0	2
Total	16	18	34

In addition to document reviews and key informant interviews, the evaluation team used the results of online perception surveys to complement document reviews and interviews. The evaluation team conducted three online perception surveys with R2A stakeholders including the International Advisory Board members, national statistical office representatives, and recipients of the seed grant research component. Rather than conduct an online survey for E2A stakeholders, the evaluation team used the results of an online perception survey that the project conducted.

DATA ANALYSIS

Qualitative data collected through interviews and document reviews were analyzed using a matrix analysis to categorize, triangulate, synthesize, and summarize the raw data captured from interview and desk research notes. Using an Excel-based tool, the evaluation team created a matrix for organizing data for each of the 10 key evaluation questions. Immediately after each interview, data was populated in the Excel-based tool, organized by evaluation question, country, and stakeholder/organization.

Quantitative data collected from Technical Progress Reports (TPRs), summarized in Annex A (M&E outcome and output indicator targets and achievements), were analyzed by comparing end-of-project indicator and activity targets to actual achievements and calculating variances. The results of the quantitative data analysis are presented in the evaluation report in tabular form by each outcome and output.

The results of the qualitative and quantitative data analysis provided tangible blocks of information, which the lead evaluator used to answer the key evaluation questions and, thus, write the evaluation report. The wealth and variety of information collected allowed for high-level reinforcement and synthesis across sources to obtain a more cross-cutting and comprehensive analysis of the evaluation questions.

LIMITATIONS

The primary limitation for this combined evaluation was that the evaluation team was not able to interview any representatives from the government and garment sector in Madagascar because the E2A project was not able to develop relationships and engage with these stakeholders. The primary limitation of the online perception surveys was that none of the stakeholders from Madagascar responded to the E2A online perception survey, meaning only the views of Argentina stakeholders were reflected in the E2A survey findings.

An expanded description of the evaluation methodology, including the evaluation questions, the evaluation team, evaluation approach, schedule, data collection and analysis methods, and limitations are presented in Annex D. Additionally, the full list of documents reviewed for this evaluation appear in Annex A. The complete results of the online perception survey are presented in Annex G.

3. EVALUATION RESULTS

3.1 RELEVANCE

Table 9: R2A and E2A Relevance Questions

Relevance Questions
Do the R2A and E2A project designs (outcomes, outputs, and activities) respond to the needs and priorities of the stakeholders at the global and country levels?
To what extent can the E2A project's approach to research and the dissemination of research findings be replicated in other countries?

> Were the R2A and E2A projects designed to adequately incorporate DEI&A principles that respond to the needs of vulnerable populations?

3.1.1. RESPONSE TO NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS

The evaluation team concluded that the R2A project design responded effectively to stakeholder needs and opportunities while the E2A project responded effectively to the needs and priorities of stakeholders in Argentina, but was less successful in these areas in Madagascar.

R2A

Table 10: R2A Outcomes

R2A Outcomes
Outcome 1: Increased policymaker and practitioner interaction with rigorous research, data collection and analysis tools, and other relevant data needed to address child labor and forced labor internationally
Outcome 2: Increased understanding by researchers of the questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to inform policy and program efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor
Outcome 3: Improved capacity of researchers to study child labor and forced labor issues
Outcome 4: Increased engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues

The R2A project, according to stakeholders, was innovative and responded to the needs of researchers and policymakers. Project staff noted that the project design was flexible and allowed the project to adapt to a variety of research needs and priorities. An important aspect of the project's design was the interconnectedness of activities. For example, under Outcome 1, the development of the bibliography facilitated the development of the evidence gap maps, which was based on needs and priorities of key stakeholders who were consulted as part of the mapping exercise. The mapping process also identified existing gaps in research that informed the development of the research agendas under Outcome 2.

However, stakeholders who were interviewed also noted ways in which the project design could be improved. For example, the R2A project did not have a strategy to provide support to countries to implement the research agendas. One project staff member noted:

> *"We did not have time to help them implement…we missed an opportunity to foster collaboration between researchers and policymakers…we needed more interaction and consultation with the policy tool users, which should have been built into the design."*

One idea to increase the level of interaction between researchers and policymakers that surfaced during the interviews is to have a paid project representative in each of the target countries who would have been responsible for "marketing" the research to potential users of the research. ILO country offices could play an important role in this process.

Under Outcome 3, the project collaborated with the ILO International Training Centre (ITC-ILO), the *Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa* (ACCEL Africa), and the *Measurement, Awareness-raising, and Policy Engagement Project to Accelerate Action against Child Labor and Forced Labor* (MAP 16) to pilot an online training course to build capacity in child labor and forced labor data analysis and research development. The participants were representatives from national statistical offices in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria. Overall, the training course participants commented that the training was effective and met their needs. In particular it was timely and highly relevant because one country was in the process of analyzing data from a recent child labor survey and other countries were in the process of planning child labor and/or forced labor surveys.

To improve the design of the training course to better respond to the needs of the participants, the length of the training should have been increased from one week to two weeks. Participants opined that one week was not sufficient time to cover all of the topics. In addition, some participants explained that the training course design should have included individual sessions with each national statistics office representative to review and discuss country specific data that would have made the training course even more relevant.

Under Outcome 4, the project provided research seed grants to 12 individual researchers and four fellowships to institutions that supported researchers. The list of these research grants can be found in Annex H of the report. Interview respondents told the evaluation team that the design of the research grant component included useful training on how to develop research proposals as well as technical support during the research.

According to interviews with research grant recipients, R2A's training support was also highly valuable and helped to facilitate research in critical areas. For example, one researcher explained that his research on the relationship between child labor in cocoa plantations and school attendance concluded that policymakers and practitioners should assume that children will continue to work in the plantations and that education interventions must be tailored to meet this reality. Additionally, several research grant recipients noted that peer reviews conducted by International Advisory Board members were valuable and contributed to producing high quality research.

One concern that the recipients of research grants expressed is that they do not know whether their research will have any effect on child labor and forced labor policies and programs. In this context, the design of the research grant component would have benefited from having a specific strategy to ensure that research reaches policymakers and practitioners. One researcher said that the grants produced valuable research but should have focused more on taking the *research to action.* Likewise, a representative of a university noted that the grants facilitated research that would not have otherwise taken place, which is very positive. However, respondents also expressed that one-off grants do not have as much impact on policy as regularly funded research activities with longer timeframes and more direct links to long-term policy objectives.

E2A

Table 11: E2A Outcomes

E2A Outcomes
Outcome 1: Increased knowledge of the extent, nature, and characteristics of forced labour where scarce research exist
Outcome 2: Increased dialogue and engagement of decision-makers in the private sector, government, and civil society to act against forced labor

Overall, the E2A project design was appropriate and responded well to the needs of key institutions and stakeholders in Argentina but was less successful in these areas in Madagascar. Several key stakeholders commented that while having two different countries that allowed for a comparative perspective is an effective project design concept, Madagascar and Argentina were not the best choices to make comparisons. These stakeholders identified three primary factors that resulted in different levels of suitability between the two countries:1) levels of socio-economic development; 2) levels of awareness about forced labor in the sector, and; 3) stakeholder readiness to take steps to address forced labor issues.

Notably, Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world.[23] As one stakeholder noted, even if the project produced convincing evidence through research, using it effectively to influence forced labor policies and programs would be highly challenging given the country's level of poverty, weak institutions, and less research-driven policymaking environment. Another challenge in Madagascar is the low level of awareness about forced labor. Many companies are either unaware of forced labor situations or are reluctant to admit that they exist. One explanation of this reluctance is that the government and the garment sector are concerned that if research finds forced labor in the sector, the US could potentially put Madagascar on its list of countries that produce goods (garments) by child labor or forced labor, which could ultimately lead to removal from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

For these reasons, some project stakeholders told the evaluation team that their experiences indicated that research in Madagascar required a different approach tailored to the country's context. These stakeholders also noted that the project might have been more successful if researchers had spent more time listening to the concerns of government and private sector stakeholders and had used this input to design an approach that complements the country's decent work agenda. For example, E2A could have conducted research on forced labor that could have been used by other ILO projects working in the textile and garment sector to inform their decent work interventions. The project could have also changed its narrative from forced labor to a broader human rights approach and demonstrated how human rights and due diligence can mitigate risk and actually strengthen international markets by showing that the country is taking any form of labor exploitation seriously.

On the other hand, the project design for Argentina appears to have been appropriate for several reasons. Argentina is a relatively developed country with relatively strong

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23 The United Nations Human Develop Index Rankings ranks Madagascar as 173 out of 191 countries: https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights#/ranks

institutions and a culture of using research/information to inform policies and programs.[24] In addition, there is a high degree of public awareness about forced labor in the country's informal garment sector due to fires in 2006 and 2015 that killed seven Bolivian children. [25] The fires generated investigations and public debate about working conditions in garment manufacturing workshops that contributed to Argentina being placed on the US list of countries that produce goods (garments) by child labor or forced labor.

During interviews, the evaluation team noted the willingness of the public and private sector in Argentina to discuss forced labor and, in general, poor working conditions in the informal garment manufacturing sector. Members of the Executive Committee for the Fight Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims (Executive Committee) told the evaluation team that even though they have not seen the final results of the research, they believe it will help the government and non-government actors to identify where forced labor situations exist. A representative from the Attorney General's Office of Human Trafficking and Exploitation (PROTEX) explained that the research will provide concrete evidence of where forced labor exists, which will allow his office to take appropriate legal measures to address it. Additionally, representatives from the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA), the leading industrial employer federation and advocacy group in Argentina, noted that the formal garment sector is interested in how it can identify and address forced labor risk factors in supply chains.

However, some members of the project team noted that the overall project design for both Argentina and Madagascar was appropriate because one of the overall objectives of the E2A project was to test the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) Guidelines for Measuring Forced Labour.[26] Thus, from a pure comparative research point of view, having two different countries in different regions with different levels of social and economic development helped test the guidelines and identify important lessons in comparing the two countries. Nevertheless, since Outcome 2 aims to engage key stakeholders in dialogue about the research findings, the project design for Madagascar may not have been the most appropriate.

3.1.2. POTENTIAL TO REPLICATE E2A PROJECT APPROACH IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The overwhelming opinion of stakeholders who were interviewed was that the E2A project's approach to research and engagement can be replicated in other countries. However, the approach needs to be adjusted to the specific country context. Following are several factors that the ILO and USDOL might consider before deciding to replicate the E2A approach in other countries.

Interest and Willingness to Address Forced Labor

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[24] The United Nations Human Development Index Rankings ranks Argentina as No. 47 out of 191 countries: https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights#/ranks

[25] https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2015/5/19/no-action-as-argentinas-illegal-sweatshops-flourish

[26] 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, 10-19 October 2018. Guidelines concerning the measurement of forced labor: https://ilostat.ilo.org/about/standards/icls/icls-documents/

It is important to understand to what extent key government and non-government actors are interested in forced labor research, understand the implications, and are open to use the knowledge to address forced labor. An important issue to understand and address is the concern that if the research finds forced labor in a particular sector, those products could be banned from international markets, which would affect revenue generated from exports.

For example, after nearly one year of negotiating for the approval of the E2A project with the Mauritius government, the Prime Minister's Cabinet did not approve the project. According to some key stakeholders, the Mauritian government was concerned that if the E2A project's research found forced labor in the garment sector supply chain, the country could lose its trade benefits under AGOA.[27]

On the other hand, in Argentina, there is a relatively high level of awareness about poor labor conditions in the informal garment manufacturing sector and interest and political willingness on the part of stakeholders to address it. This awareness and political willingness facilitated stakeholder participation in the research design process that contributed to the quality of the research as well as stakeholder buy-in to the research findings.

Institutional Capacity and Choice of Strategies

It is important to consider the level of institutional capacity of the country in order to determine the form of project strategy that is likely to be most effective. In more developed countries with relatively strong institutional capacity, a sector research project could focus on generating evidence and knowledge about forced labor with the goal of providing advice to policymakers regarding the most effective ways to address it. In contrast, in less developed countries with weaker institutional capacity, the project could instead focus more on strengthening institutions in order to increase understanding and awareness of forced labor and its dimensions, and the related risks, with the goal of using the evidence and knowledge generated to lower future risks.

In Argentina, which has a relatively high level of institutional capacity, the project involved key stakeholders in a participatory process to design research methodologies that helped create commitment to use the research findings to address forced labor. This positioned the project and, eventually the ILO, to provide advice to these institutions and stakeholders to address forced labor.

In Madagascar, there are weaker institutions and relatively lower levels of understanding about forced labor and the risks it poses for both workers and export markets. In this context, some stakeholders noted that a more appropriate strategy would have started with building the capacity of stakeholders to better understand forced labor and its risks. For example, the project could have provided concrete examples of how labor exploitation poses risks to garment exports then shown how research and knowledge can help

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[27] It should be noted that the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training approved the project in March 2020 by providing a Letter of Agreement. However, to begin field activities the project needed approval from the Prime Minister's Cabinet, which was not granted after extensive negotiations.

stakeholders to understand these risks and take steps to address them, which would also strengthen export markets.

In the cases of both Mauritius and Madagascar it would have been valuable to explain the specific criteria for the US list of countries that produce goods by child labor or forced labor and to clarify that being placed on that list does not necessarily have direct trade implications such as removing the country from AGOA.[28] In practice, import countries like the United States are actually more interested in knowing that export countries understand that forced labor exists and are taking concrete measures to address it.[29]

Research Capacity and Resources

There is a strong correlation between the amount of resources that will have to be invested in the research and the research capacity of local research organizations. While research can be conducted with local research organizations that do not possess high levels of research capacity, it will cost more to train and support them. On the other hand, in countries that have local research organizations with strong research capacities, the costs will be less. This is especially true for forced labor prevalence surveys.

For example, in Madagascar, the project could not find a qualified local research organization so it contracted IPSOS: a Zambian firm that contracted a local enumeration firm to assist with data collection. Since the local data collection firm did not have experience with forced labor research and the respondent driven sampling (RDS) methodology[30], the project invested substantial resources in training the firm on the survey methodology ahead of the enumerator training. In contrast, since the local research organization and enumerators in Argentina were familiar with both forced labor research and the RDS methodology, the project did not have to invest substantial resources into the enumerator training and data collection.

Involvement of the ILO Country Office

Several ILO and USDOL stakeholders stressed that it is important to have the ILO country office on board with any research activities involving sensitive topics such as forced labor. Producing and disseminating forced labor prevalence estimates is complicated and can

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[28] To date, the US removed Uganda, Gabon, Niger and the Central African Republic from AGOA for "gross violations" of human rights or not making progress towards democratic rule. None were removed for use of child labor or forced labor in production of goods: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/10/30/letters-to-the-speaker-of-the-house-and-president-of-the-senate-on-intent-to-terminate-the-designation-of-the-central-african-republic-the-gabonese-republic-niger-and-the-republic-of-uganda-as-bene/

[29] The list primarily serves to raise public awareness about forced labor and child labor around the world and to promote efforts to combat them; it is not intended to be punitive, but rather to serve as a catalyst for more strategic and focused coordination and collaboration among those working to address these problems: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods-print

[30] RDS is a methodology similar to snowball sampling, where participants recommend other people they know. RDS is useful for sampling from hard-to-reach populations such as migrant workers. RDS is mathematically tweaked to add an element of randomness. https://www.statisticshowto.com/respondent-driven-sampling/

trigger reactions from political and economic actors that might pose a risk to the ILO as an honest broker in the country, especially where there are deep political divisions.

3.1.3. INCORPORATION OF DEI&A PRINCIPLES IN THE PROJECTS' DESIGNS

The general consensus among both ILO and USDOL representatives is that neither the R2A and E2A projects were specifically designed to address diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI&A) principles largely because USDOL did not make this a requirement in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA). While including DEI&A principles in the design would have helped ensure that vulnerable populations benefited from the projects' interventions, DEI&A principles were addressed in both projects given the focus on child labor and/or forced labor that mainly affects vulnerable populations such as women and migrant workers.

The R2A project tried to address DEI&A principles by formulating the research agenda questions and the policy guidance tool to make sure these principles, especially non-discrimination and gender, were addressed. According to one R2A staff member, "When we looked at the studies and the impact on child labor we also included the impact on gender."

R2A also addressed DEI&A principles in the way in which it awarded the research grants. To address DEI&A principles, the project ensured that 1) the research grant recipients came from a mix of universities including those in the global south, 2) the researchers included a mix of females and males, and 3) the research focused on child labor and forced labor in vulnerable populations.

The R2A online tools also specifically addressed DEI&A principles since they meet international accessibility requirements and are available in the ILO's three main languages: English, French, and Spanish.

The E2A project document makes reference to diversity under the discussion of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, people with disabilities, and age mainstreaming. The document notes the existence of an informational gap in terms of the availability of data about identity based inequalities and demographic characteristics of forced labor's victims and survivors. The E2A project specifically addressed DEI&A principles in a variety of ways. First, the project disaggregated data by age, migrant worker, and gender status. The project's research methodologies also incorporated these principles in both countries. For example, the project chose enumerators for the prevalence survey to ensure a mix of gender and ethnic background that reflected the gender and ethnic backgrounds of the study population. The sampling methodology also helped ensure that vulnerable groups such as migrant workers from Bolivia and Peru were represented in the sample for the prevalence survey in Argentina.[31]

In Argentina, the project also conducted a case study of home-based workers that allowed the project to understand the division of time between men and women as well as key issues that migrant workers face. Nearly 37 percent of the garment sector labor force are

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[31] Note that researchers over sampled sub-populations to ensure vulnerable groups were represented.

one person establishments based in homes and, of these, 87 percent are women.[32] Twenty percent of the garment workforce are migrant workers. The project designed the data collection tools taking into consideration the social, cultural, and language characteristics of migrant workers in the study.

3.2. COHERENCE

Table 12: Coherence Questions

Coherence Questions
To what extent did the R2A and E2A projects establish linkages and coordinate with other international and national organizations to address child labor and forced labor?
How could the project have improved coordination and collaboration with these organizations?

3.2.1. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ACTORS

Respondents from R2A and partner organizations noted that the project worked effectively with a range of international organizations including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). R2A also consulted closely with national statistical offices (NSOs) and universities in the preparation and piloting of the child labor and forced labor data analysis training modules. In addition, R2A collaborated with the ILO ACCEL Africa project and ILO and IOM country offices.

The R2A project collaborated with Alliance 8.7 in several important ways.[33] R2A helped track the progress and identified synergies across 21 Pathfinder Countries and Alliance 8.7 action groups[34]; provided input to the information registered in the Pathfinder Countries' dashboards and the resource page of the Alliance 8.7 platform; and supported the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 8.7 Monitoring Working Group by synthesizing the results of 21 progress reports to be presented at a high-level Global Coordinating Group (GCG) meeting.[35]

In addition, the R2A project provided support to Alliance 8.7 for a competition among Pathfinder Countries calling for innovative solutions with social impact to accelerate action towards SDG Target 8.7 (i.e. SDG 8.7 Innovation Challenge). The project used experience from its research grant program to help Alliance 8.7 launch and evaluate the submissions

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[32] Fundar: The Journey Continues. Employment in the Textile and Apparel Sector. https://fund.ar/en/publicacion/employment-in-the-textile-apparel-industry/

[33] Alliance 8.7 is a global partnership taking measures to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, in accordance with SDG Target 8.7: https://www.alliance87.org/about

[34] Pathfinder countries are those that commit to going further and faster to achieve the

objectives of Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals: https://www.alliance87.org/pathfinders

[35] The GCG gathers representatives of Alliance 8.7's stakeholder groups and meets regularly to set goals and monitor progress. The GCG is led by a Chair (Government of Chile) and Vice-Chair (Government of Côte d'Ivoire) on a rotational basis.

to the competition. Alliance 8.7 also supported R2A in several ways. including by disseminating key R2A research products — such as the global and country research agendas — and by sharing information about R2A webinars and other events through the Alliance 8.7 newsletter, which has over 8,000 subscribers.

The R2A project also collaborated with a range of stakeholders through the International Advisory Board (IAB). The R2A and MAP 16 projects established the IAB to provide technical guidance and strategic advice to research developed within the frameworks of the two projects. The IAB consists of representatives from ILO, IOM, UNICEF, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNU, USDOL, academic institutions, and national stakeholders from a sub-group of Pathfinder Countries. The IAB is viewed by the ILO, USDOL, and other key stakeholders as an innovative and effective coordination and collaboration mechanism.

In particular, R2A fostered strong collaboration with IOM and IPA. The ILO loaned one of its staff to IOM under the project to support work on migration. The loan ensured that the project had access to technical support on migration and helped to promote strong collaboration and coordination between R2A and IOM. The loan also helped the R2A project to leverage IOM's relationship with technology companies, such as Microsoft Research, through the Tech Against Trafficking Initiative.[36]

While the relationship between IPA and R2A was not envisioned in the project design and early planning, the collaboration proved beneficial to both IPA and the ILO. Because IPA was implementing the Human Trafficking Research Initiative funded by the US State Department,[37] USDOL representatives suggested that the R2A project talk to IPA about possible collaboration. Subsequently, IPA and R2A started to communicate about funding and disseminating research. In the process, both organizations realized an important overlap in their mandates and, thus, started to look for concrete ways to collaborate. For example, IPA, along with IOM and ILO, served as a co-organizer for the international research conference, which served as a mechanism to share and promote the research conducted under R2A's Outcome 4.

The R2A project also collaborated with the ACCEL Africa and MAP 16 projects to conduct the child labor and forced labor data analysis online pilot training activity at ITC-ILO in Turin, Italy. The pilot training course was used to train seven representatives from national statistical offices (NSO) in four African countries on child labor and forced labor data analysis techniques and, at the same time, test and revise some of the online training modules, video lessons, and companion notes. Through the ITC-ILO, the R2A project is offering the online training course to other NSO representatives and researchers free-of-charge.

R2A collaborated with ILO and IOM country offices to help countries develop their research agendas under Outcome 2. While the collaboration with the ILO and IOM country offices

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[36] IOM Enters New Collaboration to Promote Use of Technology to Combat Human Trafficking (2018): https://www.iom.int/news/iom-enters-new-collaboration-promote-use-technology-combat-human-trafficking

[37] The Human Trafficking Research Initiative (HTRI) is a five-year program funded by the Program to End Modern Slavery at the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and implemented by IPA. HTRI seeks to expand the evidence on the primary drivers of human trafficking and the most effective ways to prevent this pervasive problem.

was effective overall, it could have been improved if the project had placed a representative in the countries to support certain activities, such as the mapping of stakeholders as discussed above in Section 3.1.1. The project also attempted to support Mexico to develop its research agenda, which was not successful for several reasons, including the politics surrounding forced labor and migration making them sensitive topics.

When asked how the project could have improved the effectiveness of coordination and collaboration, stakeholders made several useful suggestions. For example, similar future projects could include a component that tracks donor interest and programs that fund research activities and provides a mechanism to better coordinate with them. While an effective mechanism, some stakeholders opined that IAB did not meet as frequently as it should have. On the other hand, some research grant recipients felt that the project could have done more to create linkages between the researchers and ILO country offices, relevant ministries (e.g., labor and agriculture), and trade unions that would have helped in planning, conducting, and disseminating the research. These linkages may also have helped to promote the use of the research findings.

The E2A project collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders in Argentina to address forced labor. Key government institutions included the following:

- **Secretary of Labor, Employment, and Social Security - Coordination for the Fight Against Human Trafficking and Forced Labor and for the Assistance of Victims (STEySS)**. STEySS representatives participated in meetings to review and comment on prevalence survey methodology and questionnaire. They also provided comments and suggestions on garment sector value chain study methodology and preliminary results. The project conducted meetings with the STEySS coordinator overseeing human trafficking, forced labor, and victim assistance and the representative in charge of working with companies on responsible business conduct to review and provide feedback on the due diligence tools.

- **Executive Committee for the Fight Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims (Executive Committee)**. Like STEySS representatives, Executive Committee representatives participated in meetings to review and comment on the prevalence survey methodology and questionnaire, provided comments and suggestions on the garment sector value chain study methodology and preliminary results, and reviewed and commented on the due diligence tools. Executive Committee representatives also supported the project's plans to pilot test the due diligence tools.

- **The Attorney General's Office of Human Trafficking and Exploitation (PROTEX)**. PROTEX representatives also reviewed and commented on the prevalence survey methodology and questionnaire, the value chain study methodology and preliminary results, and the due diligence tools. At the time of this evaluation, the project was in discussions with PROTEX to provide technical assistance in the management and visualization of the information on the human trafficking cases with which PROTEX works.

- **National Institute of Industrial Technology – Textiles (INTI)**. INTI, specifically staff in the textiles and shared social commitment areas, reviewed and commented on the prevalence survey methodology and questionnaire, the value chain study methodology and preliminary results, and the due diligence tools. INTI

representatives intend to collaborate on the due diligence tool pilot testing activity mentioned previously.

Following is the list of other key collaborating organizations in Argentina along with a short description of the collaboration:

- **Argentina Industrial Union (UIA)**. UIA is the largest employer and business organization in the country and an ILO member. UIA collaborated with E2A to provide feedback on the due diligence tools and facilitated the connection with the Argentina Industrial Chamber of Clothing.

- **Argentina Industrial Chamber of Clothing (CIAI)**. CIAI, which is a member of UIA, is considered the most important chamber for the garment sector. Its membership includes large, medium, and small enterprises. The project planned to collaborate with CIAI to provide feedback on the due diligence tools and put the project in contact with companies that would like to test and implement the due diligence tools. However, due to the economic policies of the new government and changing priorities for the textile and garment sector, CIAI asked the project to postpone collaboration.

- **General Confederation of Labor (CGT)**. CGT is one of the national union confederations and a member of the ILO. The unions of the textile and garment sector are part of this confederation. Based on a midterm evaluation recommendation to strengthen trade union involvement in the project, E2A invited CGT to participate in a workshop to discuss its research activities. The project also held preliminary discussions with CGT on developing a labor risk monitoring tool to be implemented by union delegates in the factories and garment-making workshops.

- **Fashion and Public Image Workers Union (AMA).** The General Secretary of the AMA is also the focal point for CGT on forced labor. The project worked with AMA's General Secretary to organize a workshop with representatives from the different sectoral unions of the textile and garment sector. The workshop focused on the different activities of the project and provided an opportunity for the trade union representatives to provide their perspective on the project's activities as well as on forced labor in the country.

- **Gino Germani Research Institute (IIGG).** IIGG is one of the most prestigious research institutions in Argentina. It served as the data collection agency for the force labor perception survey. IIGG and NORC involved key stakeholders from the government institutions mentioned above in a participatory manner that improved their understanding of the forced labor in the garment sector and generated the commitment to addressing forced labor.[38]

- **La Alameda.** La Alameda is an NGO that has been working for many years to identify and prevent forced labor cases in the garment sector in Argentina and to provide assistance to rescued victims. Its founder and some members also serve on the

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[38] The stakeholders were involved in the overall research process including the conceptualization of the research, discussing the sample strategy, the data collection instruments. They also participated in the enumerators training, which increased the understanding of the enumerators.

> Executive Committee. La Alameda provided E2A with guidance and helped facilitate the fieldwork for the forced labor prevalence survey and qualitative studies.

> ▪ **University Tres de Febrero (UNTREF).** UNTREF developed an innovative data ecosystem case study that has the potential to help researchers use secondary data sources instead of collecting primary data, thus creating efficiency.

In addition to these organizations, E2A collaborated closely in Argentina with the MAP 16 project. MAP 16, which also focuses on child labor and forced labor research, was funded by USDOL and implemented by the ILO globally and in 13 countries including Argentina.

According to project staff, the ILO prioritizes work with NSO in the implementation of child labor and forced labor research to transfer knowledge and technologies, and to include forced child labor and forced labor in NSO agendas. In the case of E2A, the collaboration with Argentina's NSO, the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC), was not feasible due to difficulties in the project's implementation context. It is important to note that INDEC does not conduct sectoral surveys and has never conducted a survey on forced labor. Thus, INDEC could have benefited from having access to cutting edge sampling techniques and other components of the survey implementation that could be applied to INDEC data collection activities. Moreover, it could have increased its awareness of working with challenging topics such as forced labor. Project staff noted that this was a missed opportunity.

E2A's 2023 midterm evaluation found that trade unions in Argentina were less involved in the project and, thus, recommended to look for ways to involve them to strengthen the tripartite dialogue around forced labor, thus contributing to higher impact and sustainability of the research.[39] To respond to the findings and recommendations, the project team met to discuss ways to involve trade unions, which led to the collaboration with CGT described above.

One key trade union leader confirmed that since the midterm evaluation, the E2A project has made efforts to include the CGT and its textile and garment sector affiliates in the project.[40] While the trade unions appreciated this effort, they also suggested that they should have been involved earlier in the life of the project. The interviewee explained that there are a variety of trade unions in the textile and garment sector in Argentina and that they are interested in eliminating child labor and forced labor and, thus, could have been an important ally for the project if they would have been engaged earlier with guidance about how to collaborate and support the E2A project.

Nevertheless, some stakeholders noted that the typical ILO tripartism was lacking because trade unions and employers in the garment sector did not attend many meetings. Project staff acknowledged this observation and explained that a major challenge going forward is to deepen the involvement of trade unions as well as the garment and textile chambers and companies working in the garment sector.

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[39] Internal mid-term evaluation of ILO's project titled "Evidence to Action (EvA): Increasing the Impact of Research to Mobilize Efforts against Forced Labour in Mauritius and Argentina." January 2023.

[40] According to project staff, E2A reached trade unions early in the life of the project through stakeholder mapping and the rapid sector appraisal.

In contrast to Argentina, the E2A project did not collaborate and coordinate with many stakeholders in Madagascar. The project's only point of collaboration and coordination in the government was the coordinator for Alliance 8.7 activities in the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Civil Service and Social Laws.[41] Instead, the project relied on the ILO country office for guidance because the ILO implements a cluster of projects focused on the garment sector, including the ILO-IFC Better Work program, and the Sustainable Supply Chains to Build Forward Better project funded by the European Union (EU) and the Vision Zero Fund.[42, 43] These projects provided some degree of access to garment sector actors. For example, the Better Work program helped Verité access key garment sector actors to conduct interviews and ascertain other information as part of the rapid sector appraisal. E2A is also collaborating with Better Work to develop a decision-making dashboard using data collected by sector projects.

3.3. EFFECTIVENESS

Table 13: Effectiveness Questions

Effectiveness Questions
To what extent did the R2A and E2A projects achieve their outcomes and outputs?
What were the key internal or external factors that limited or facilitated the achievement or progress toward achieving the outcomes and outputs?

3.3.1. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS

This section includes an assessment of the achievement of the R2A and E2A project objectives, outcomes, and outputs. The following assessments are based on the achievements of indicator targets as reported in the October 2023 TPRs, and triangulated with information ascertained during interviews.

R2A Project Achievements

The overall R2A project objective was *to accelerate the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support of efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor around the world*. The project objective did not have indicators to measure achievement. Nevertheless, based on the achievement of key outcomes and outputs, the evaluation team found evidence that R2A made progress in accelerating the use of child labor and forced labor research by policymakers and practitioners.

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[41] During the evaluation, the evaluation team learned that the Alliance 8.7 coordinator was named the new labor minister.

[42] Better Work is a collaboration between ILO and the International Finance Corporation that aims to improve working conditions, respect of workers' labor rights and boost the competitiveness of apparel and footwear businesses.

[43] The VZF is a multi-donor trust fund that accepts contributions from governments, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, and from private sources including companies, foundations and individuals. The ILO administers and implements the Fund's projects.

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 Overview

Figure 1 shows Outcome 1, its five indicators, end of project indicator targets, achievements, and overall performance status.

Figure 1: R2A Outcome 1, Indicators, Indicator Targets, and Achievements

Outcomes and Indicators	Target	Achieved	Status
Outcome 1: Increased policymaker and practitioner interaction with rigorous research, data collection and analysis tools, and other relevant data needed to address child labor and forced labor internationally.			
Indicator 1.1: Number of users of the "country dashboard" of the Delta 8.7 platform	100	12,022	+11,922
Indicator 1.2: Number of users interacting with the Interactive policy guidance tool	100	0	-100
Indicator 1.3: Number of users interacting with the Prezi presentations	100	0	-100
Indicator 1.4: Narrative indicator: through direct interaction with policymaker and practitioner if they took any action as a results of the information made available	NA	NA	NA
Indicator 1.5: Narrative indicator: average length of time on country dashboards of the Delta 8.7 platform	NA	NA	NA

Based on the collected data, the evaluation team concluded that the project did not collect adequate information to allow an assessment of the achievement of Outcome 1. The project only collected data on Indicator 1.1. While the project significantly overachieved the number of users of the Delta 8.7 platform, we do not know much about the quality of the interaction and how the information was used. To further complicate an assessment of the effectiveness of Delta 8.7, UNU decided to take the platform down in December 2023 due to a lack of funding to maintain the platform. Additional details on the specific Outcome 1 findings are included below.

Indicator 1.1

The project significantly overachieved the first indicator. It set a target of 100 persons using the Delta 8.7 country dashboard and reported an achievement of 12,022 users. Delta 8.7 was a global knowledge platform containing research and other information to eradicate child labor, forced labor, modern slavery, and human trafficking, which is an aim set out in Target 8.7 of the UN SDGs. It was hosted by the UNU. According to the project, it set a conservative goal because it did not know what to expect in terms of users. However, the platform met an important information gap and attracted a much higher

number of users than expected. In hindsight, it would have been more appropriate from a monitoring point of view to have adjusted the target upwards once the project started to observe the high number of users.

Indicators 1.2 and 1.3

The project reported zero achievements under the second and third indicators. Indicator 1.2, use of the policy guidance tool, was reported as zero users because the tool was delayed and, thus, not completed under R2A. The reason for the delay, according to project staff, was that the tool was supposed to have been completed by UNU under a subcontracting arrangement. Due to contractual issues, UNU did not become a subcontractor and the responsibility for developing the tool fell back on project staff, which were overburdened with other responsibilities.[44] The policy guidance tool was eventually completed under the R2A but was not made public until after the project ended. USDOL and ILO launched the tool in February 2024 in Washington, DC. at a joint USDOL and ILO planning event.

Indicator 1.3, use of the Prezi presentations was reported as zero because ILO communication experts recommended that R2A not use Prezi since it is not considered the most up-to-date communication tool.[45] Thus, the project shifted from the plan to develop Prezi presentations to developing a range of online explainer videos. However, the project did not modify the indicator nor did it track the number of users of the videos.

Indicators 1.4 and 1.5

For Indicators 1.4 and 1.5, the project originally planned to collect narrative/qualitative data through interviews with and self-reporting from policymakers and practitioners to help assess and understand how they used research and the Delta 8.7 platform. According to project staff, the idea of collecting narrative data was abandoned because once the project started to implement activities, the narrative indicators did not seem to be practical and useful.

Outputs and Achievements

Figure 2 shows the three outputs and achievements for Outcome 1. The project reported that it achieved all three outputs as planned. It mapped and categorized rigorous research, evaluation studies, and research tools, adapted them for policymakers and practitioners, and made them available on the Alliance 8.7 platform. According to project staff and stakeholders, the mapping and categorization of the research was a highly useful output.

Figure 2: R2A Outcome 1 Outputs and Achievements

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[44] R2A consisted of three part-time staff.

[45] Prezi is a web-based tool for creating presentations (called Prezis for short). It's similar to other presentation software like Microsoft PowerPoint.

Outputs	Status
1.1. Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools mapped and categorized	Achieved
1.2: Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools are adapted for policymakers and practitioners	Achieved
1.3: Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools are made accessible for policy makers and practitioners on the Delta 8.7 platform	Achieved

As explained in Section 3.2.1, the R2A and MAP 16 projects established the IAB to provide technical guidance and strategic advice on research activities for both projects. For the R2A project, the IAB provided technical guidance and advice on research tools, including the bibliography, evidence gap maps, meta-analysis study, and policy guidance tool under Outcome 1, and the global and country research agendas under Outcome 2 below.

Twelve IAB members responded to the online perception survey.[46] Ten (83 percent) of the 12 members agreed while two (17 percent) somewhat agreed that the IAB contributed to the quality of the research tools such as the evidence gap maps and the research agendas.[47] Furthermore, eight members (67 percent) agreed and four members (33 percent) somewhat agreed that the research tools and global research agenda will increase the understanding by researchers of questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to inform policy and programs that aim to eliminate child labor and forced labor.

The IAB respondents were slightly less certain that researchers will use the research tools and global research agenda to conduct research that can be used by policymakers and practitioners. Seven (58 percent) agreed that researchers will use the tools and research agenda while five (42 percent) somewhat agreed. Likewise, the respondents were less certain that policymakers and practitioners will use knowledge from the research to improve policies and programs that aim to eliminate child labor and forced labor. Six IAB members (50 percent) agreed and five members (42 percent) somewhat agreed that policymakers and practitioners will use the knowledge. One member (eight percent) somewhat disagreed that the knowledge would be used.

As noted previously, the project decided not to use Prezi presentations. Instead, to adapt the research to policymakers and practitioners, the project developed videos and used infographics to communicate complex research concepts in the kind of policy and service delivery language that policymakers and practitioners use and understand. Given the marginal involvement of UNU in the project activities and for reasons linked to the sustainability of the R2A products, the project team, in consultation with the ILO information and communication specialists, decided to build a platform to host the

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[46] See Annex G for the complete results of the R2A online perception surveys.

[47] The online perception survey response options were: agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, and disagree. See Annex G for the survey questions and response options.

knowledge products. The project uploaded the literature reviews/bibliographies, research for policy guidance tools and evidence gap maps to the R2A platform.

Outcome 2

Outcome 2 Overview

Figure 3 shows Outcome 2, its indicators, indicator targets, achievements against the indicator targets, and the overall performance status. Outcome 2 had four indicators.

Figure 3: R2A Outcome 2, Indicators, Indicator Targets, and Achievements

Outcomes and Indicators	Target	Achieved	Status
Outcome 2: Increased understanding by researchers of the questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to inform policy and program efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor			
Indicator 2.1: Number of country-level agendas developed	4	5	+1
Indicator 2.2: Global-level research agenda developed	1	1	0
Indicator 2.3: Narrative indicator through direct interaction with researcher, policymaker and local stakeholders	NA	NA	NA
Indicator 2.4: Number of Country Situation Briefs developed	10	10	0

The project achieved three of its four indicator targets. The narrative indicator to assess researchers, policymakers, and local stakeholders did not materialize. The project also achieved both of its outputs. While it would have been useful to have a specific indicator to measure whether researchers increased their understanding of the knowledge gaps, the evaluation team believes the achievements of the research agendas, situational briefs, the literature reviews, and the gap maps helped increase the understanding by researchers of existing child labor and forced labor knowledge gaps that need to be addressed by research.

Indicators 2.1 and 2.2

The project developed research agendas for five countries: Chile, Malawi, Nepal, Paraguay, and Uganda (Indicator 2.1). The research agendas are research that countries should conduct to help fill gaps and meet policy priorities that were identified by the research mapping noted in Output 1.1. Four out of the five countries are Pathfinder

Countries, and the research agendas serve as contributions to their Pathfinder status.[48] The project tried to work with Mexico to develop a research agenda but was unsuccessful due to a lack of funding to support a dedicated ILO staff person, as well as the political situation in Mexico, which did not facilitate discussions on forced labor and migration. Nonetheless, the project successfully developed a global research agenda as planned with contributions from Chile, Malawi, Nepal, Paraguay, Uganda and representatives from the Government of Mexico, as well as input from the academic community, World Bank, and several key UN organizations including the ILO, IOM, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNODC, and UNICEF (Indicator 2.2).

Indicators 2.3 and 2.4

For Indicator 2.3, the project planned to collect qualitative data from interviews and direct interaction with researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders. The collection of these data did not materialize because the project did not find this narrative indicator useful. Finally, for Indicator 2.4, the project developed 10 country situation briefs as planned. The countries included Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. The country situation briefs are essentially two-page summaries of the results of the research agendas.

Outputs and Achievements

Figure 4 shows Outcome 2's outputs, sub-outputs, and achievements.

Figure 4: R2A Outcome 2 Output and Achievements

Outputs	Status
2.1: Country-level research agendas and/or plans based on systematic needs assessments developed	Achieved
2.2: Global-level policy-relevant research agenda is developed and integrated into the knowledge platform	Achieved
2.2.a: Meta-analysis/literature reviews on child labor and forced labor and human trafficking are developed and integrated into Delta 8.7[49]	Achieved
2.2.b: Gap maps on child labor and forced labor and human trafficking are developed and integrated into Delta 8.7	Achieved
2.2.c: Enhancing evidence base for rapid policy action	Achieved

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[48] Although Paraguay is not a Pathfinder Country during the project implementation period, the Government has expressed interest to ILO and IOM country offices about their intention to achieve SDG Target 8.7.

[49] While the indicator was not changed, the project rephrased the related sub-activities to read "integrated into the Delta 8.7 and other relevant platforms".

The project reported that it achieved the outputs and sub-outputs as planned. R2A developed country-level research agendas (Output 2.1) based on assessments, and developed and integrated the global research agenda into the knowledge platform (Output 2.2). These two outputs essentially reflect Indicators 1.1 and 1.2, which were discussed above. As part of the global research agenda, the project conducted a meta-analysis, rigorous literature review, mapped gaps in research, and enhanced evidence for policy action (Outputs 2.2a, 2.2.b, and 2.2.c). As noted above, this information was uploaded to the R2A and the Alliance 8.7 platforms. The project continued to contribute to the Delta 8.7 platform before it was taken down by providing statistical and technical input to the expansion and updating of the country dashboards. Under Output 2.2.c, enhancing evidence for rapid policy action, the project developed the country situation briefs (same as Indicator 2.4) as well as several other complimentary activities.

Outcome 3

Figure 5 shows Outcome 3, its four indicators, indicator targets, achievements against the indicator targets, and the overall performance status. The indicators included the number of researchers and practitioners who participate in online training courses and a narrative indicator based on interactions with universities to assess their efforts to incorporate training modules into massive open online courses (MOOC).[50]

Figure 5: R2A Outcome 3, Indicators, Indicator Targets, and Achievement

Outcomes and Indicators	Target	Achieved	Status
Outcome 3: Improved capacity of researchers to study child labor and forced labor issues			
Indicator 3.1: Number of researchers and or practitioners who complete the online training courses and course modules on child labor	10	20	+10
Indicator 3.2: Narrative indicator: universities integrating modules/carrying summer school/ universities distributing MOOC to students/advertising the MOOC course	NA	NA	NA

Outcome 3 Overview

Outcome 3 did not include an indicator to actually measure improved capacity of researchers as stated in the outcome. While the project exceeded its indicator for the number of researchers it trained and produced training materials that are available online, the evaluation team could not objectively assess to what extent the capacity of

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[50] A course of study made available over the internet without charge to a very large number of people. Anyone who decides to take a MOOC simply logs on to the website and signs up.

researchers actually increased. However, the seven NSO representatives who participated in the child labor and forced labor data analysis pilot training course reported that they believe their capacity increased as a result of the training course.

Indicator 3.1

For the first indicator, the project intended that 10 researchers and practitioners would complete online training courses and reported that 20 completed online training courses. The project collaborated with MAP 16 and ACCEL Africa to select seven national statistics office (NSO) representatives from four African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria) to participate in a child labor and forced labor data analysis pilot training course at ITC-ILO in Turin, Italy. [51]

In the pilot training course, the participants practiced using and providing feedback on the online training materials including video lessons, companion notes, and presentations. It is also important to note that the NSO representatives were chosen because their NSOs were in the process of planning child labor and forced labor surveys (Nigeria) or in the process of analyzing data from child labor and forced labor surveys (Ghana , Kenya, and Malawi).

According to project staff, the other 13 researchers and practitioners who took the online training were either colleagues of the seven NSO representatives mentioned above or others who found the training link online.

Of the seven NSO representatives who participated in the pilot training course noted above, three representatives responded to the online perception survey. According to these survey results, NSO respondents were highly satisfied with their participation in the training course. On a satisfaction scale of one to ten, where one is highly dissatisfied and ten is highly satisfied, the respondents rated their participation as seven, nine, and 10, respectively.[52] In addition all three respondents (100 percent) agreed that the design of the training course their needs as a NSO representative for their countries; increased their knowledge and skills to either plan or analyze child labor and forced labor surveys/data; and have been able to apply the knowledge and skills they gained from the training course in their work.[53]

In addition, two NSO representatives (67 percent) agreed while one (33 percent) somewhat agreed that the training course was conducted in an effective manner so they were able to learn new child labor and forced labor analysis techniques. One area that the respondents were slightly less positive about was the support they received once they returned to their NSOs. One NSO representative (33 percent) agreed that she received adequate support from the project to help apply knowledge and skills while two representatives (67 percent) somewhat agreed that they received adequate support.

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[51] Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa. ILO project funded the Netherlands: https://www.ilo.org/projects-and-partnerships/projects/accelerating-action-elimination-child-labour-supply-chains-africa-accel

[52] See Annex G for the complete results of the R2A online perception survey including the satisfaction rating scale.

[53] The online perception survey response options were: agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, disagree. See Annex G for the survey questions and response options.

Indicator 3.2

Regarding the second indicator, the project intended to collect qualitative data from interactions with universities and their efforts to offer MOOC for child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking topics. Like the other narrative indicators, the project decided to remove this indicator because it was not practical or useful.

Outputs and Achievements

Outcome 3's output, two sub-outputs, and achievements appear in Figure 6.

Figure 6: R2A Outcome 3 Outputs and Achievements

Outputs	Status
3.1: Course modules on child labor and forced labor research, data collection and communication with policymakers that are suitable for a variety of training contexts	Achieved
3.1.a: Contacts established with university programs to discuss integration of course modules into ongoing programs	Achieved
3.1.b: Delivery mechanism for on-line training course on child labor and forced labor research	Achieved

The project reported that it achieved the output and sub-outputs as planned. The project ensured that child labor and forced labor research, data collection, and communication training modules were suitable. It also established contacts with 27 researchers from 16 universities and academic institutions to ascertain information on how to integrate the training courses into on-going academic programs.[54] The online training mechanism consists of an agreement with the ITC-ILO to host the child labor and forced labor data analysis training modules that it will offer free of charge (Indicator 3.1).

Outcome 4

Outcome 4 Overview

Figure 7 shows Outcome 4 and its three indicators, indicator targets, achievements against the indicator targets, and the overall performance status.

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[54] The project also noted that it established contacts with 223 university professors who teach/research topics related to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking and invited them to the R2A-HTRI conference. According to project staff, these professors expressed interest in learning more about how to integrate the course modules into on-going academic programs.

Figure 7: R2A Outcome 4, Indicators, Indicator Targets, and Achievements

Outcome and Indicators	Target	Achieved	Status
Outcome 4: Increased engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues			
Indicator 4.1: Number of researchers participating in webinars and the listserv in Delta 8.7	50	1,373	+1,223
Indicator 4.2: Number of applications to the small seeds grants	20	245	+225
Indicator 4.3: Number of grantees completing the research	8	16	+8

The evaluation team considers that Outcome 4, engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues, was achieved. The research seed grants, the research they generated, and the dissemination through the global conference made important contributions to addressing gaps in research on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

Indicator 4.1

The first indicator was the number of researchers participating in webinars and the listserv in Delta 8.7, The project significantly exceeded the first indicator by 1,223 researchers participating in webinars. Like Outcome 1, the project set a conservative target because it did not know how much interest researchers would have in participating in webinars. The first webinar focused on how to write research proposals for funding and had 323 participants. It took place on two days at different times to accommodate researchers located in different time zones. The second webinar involved the presentation of research findings conducted by the research grant recipients. The three-day webinar (also called the RTA-HTRI Conference) included 23 presentations of which 16 were R2A-awarded research and was attended by 1,050 persons.

Indicators 4.2 and 4.3

Indicators 4.2 and 4.3 measured the program that awarded grants to researchers. The first indicator was the number of applications, while the second indicator was the number of researchers who finished their research. The project set another conservative target of 20 researchers who would apply for research grants and eight who would conduct and finish research. The project reported that 245 researchers applied for grant funds and, of

these, 16 received grants and completed the research, which exceeded the target by eight.[55]

According to project staff, the original budget had funds for about eight grants. However, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the project realized a savings on travel and used the surplus to fund eight additional research grants. Of the total grants, the project provided four fellowship grants worth USD 10,000 each to four universities (i.e. BRAC Bangladesh, UCLA, the University of Tanzania, and the University of Lausanne) that supported one researcher in each institution. The other 12 were grants provided to individual researchers. The 16 researchers who received grant funds presented their research findings at the global conference (see Indicator 4.1).

Outputs and Achievements

Outcome 4's three outputs and achievements appear in Figure 8.

Figure 8: R2A Outcome 4 Outputs and Achievements

Outputs	Status
4.1: New mechanisms and support for researchers for accessing research awards on child labor and forced labor	Achieved
4.2: Researchers complete research funded by small seed grants and fellowship addressing priority knowledge gaps	Achieved
4.3: Research findings to relevant policy makers disseminated	Achieved

The project reported achieving the outputs as planned. It created mechanisms and support for researchers for accessing research on child labor and forced labor that consisted of mapping existing research awards, uploading the award information to the Delta 8.7 platform, and providing a training webinar on proposal writing (Output 4.1). The project provided seed grants to 16 researchers who completed their research (Output 4.2), and disseminated the research findings to policymakers largely through the global conference (Output 4.3).

Of the 16 seed grant recipients who conducted research, 14 responded to the online perception survey. Overall, the researchers were satisfied with their participation in the seed grant research component. Based on the satisfaction scale described previously, seven researchers (50 percent) rated their satisfaction as a seven, three (21 percent) as an eight, and four (29 percent) as a ten.

The research respondents were also overall satisfied with the support they received from the project to design and conduct the research. Ten of the respondents (72 percent) agreed, two (14 percent) somewhat agreed, and two (14 percent) somewhat disagreed

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[55] Note that 450 researchers applied. After an initial screening, 245 remained that competed for the 16 research fellowships and seed grants.

that they received adequate support from the project to design and conduct the research and produce the research report.

The researchers were slightly less optimistic about the publication and use of their research. Three (21 percent) agreed while two (14 percent) somewhat agreed that they received adequate support from the project to publish their research. However seven researchers (50 percent) somewhat disagreed and two (14 percent) disagreed that they received adequate support to publish research results.

Eight respondents (57 percent) agreed and one (7 percent) somewhat agreed that their research will be published and available to policymakers and practitioners. On the other hand, three (21 percent) somewhat disagreed and two (14 percent) disagreed that their research will be published and available. Finally, regarding whether their research has or will be used by policymakers or practitioners, four respondents (29 percent) agreed, five (36 percent) somewhat agreed, four (29 percent) somewhat disagreed, and one (seven percent) disagreed that it will be used.

E2A Project Achievement

Project Objective

The E2A project objective is to *increase the use of forced labor research in policy and programmatic decision-making to eliminate forced labor around the world*. The objective's indicator is *actionable knowledge is available, fostering the use of evidence to inform policy and programmatic decision-making to eliminate forced labor (milestones)*. This indicator is considered a comprehensive milestone indicator that monitors key deliverables in each target country that contribute to the achievement of the overall project objective. The deliverables include the rapid sector appraisal, qualitative research, quantitative research, policy research, and capacity building/training activities. It should be noted that these milestones are essentially the outputs under Outcome 1 described below.

In Argentina, the achievement of the milestones/deliverables are largely on track. The rapid sector appraisal was completed, including the appraisal's key dissemination product, the workers interview report. The value chain analysis report was also finalized. The prevalence survey was conducted and preliminary prevalence estimates were produced. Pending the discussion of the estimates, the survey report will be revised and disseminated.

In Madagascar, the achievement of the key milestones and deliverables are behind schedule. The project conducted and finalized the rapid sector appraisal and was in the process of conducting the forced labor prevalence survey at the time of this evaluation. In part, the slower delivery rate in Madagascar can be explained by the fact that the project started implementing activities in September 2022 while Argentina started implementation in May 2021.

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 Overview

The evaluation team could not assess achievement of the Outcome 1 indicator targets because the project had not conducted the pre- and post-test to assess changes in

stakeholders' perception that their knowledge about forced labor had increased. In Madagascar, the project is running behind in output delivery. With the project scheduled to end in June 2024, only one of the four planned outputs were achieved. More progress has been made in Argentina with three of the five planned outputs achieved and the remaining two are on course to be achieved by June 2024.

Figure 9 shows Outcome 1, its indicator, end of project indicator target, achievement, and overall performance status.

Figure 9: E2A Outcome 1, Indicator, Indicator Targets, and Achievements

Outcomes and Indicators	Target	Achieved	Status
Outcome 1: Increased knowledge of the extent, nature and characteristics of forced labor where scarce research exist			
Indicator 1.1: Ex-post variation on the average score of trained national stakeholders' perception that their knowledge about forced labor had increased due to project activities (percentage)	60%	NA	NA

Indicator 1.1

The indicator is the ex-post variation of training test scores of the stakeholders who will participate in the training on due diligence. The indicator essentially measures average increase in test scores from the pretest to the post-test. Since the project does intend to train the national stakeholders until the end of the project, information for this indicator is not available.

Outputs and Achievements

Outcome 1's nine outputs and their status are summarized in Figure 10 by target country.

Figure 10: E2A Outcome 1 Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Outputs	Status[56]
1.1: Madagascar - Rapid Sector Appraisal of the garment sector is completed	Achieved

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[56] According to project staff, these products should be completed by the time the project ends. Draft reports for the prevalence surveys and qualitative research are mostly concluded, pending revision and post-production for publication. The policy oriented research is under development in Argentina and Madagascar.

1.2: Madagascar -Quantitative research conducted and discussed with national partners	Not Achieved
1.3: Madagascar - Qualitative research conducted and discussed with national partners	Not Achieved
1.4: Madagascar - Policy-oriented research on forced labor in the garment sector is publicly available	Not Achieved
1.5: Argentina - Rapid sector appraisal of the garment sector is completed	Achieved
1.6: Argentina - Qualitative research (Value Chain Analysis) conducted and discussed with national partners	Achieved
1.7: Argentina - Quantitative research conducted and discussed with national partners	Achieved
1.8: Argentina - Policy-oriented research on FL in the garment sector in Argentina is publicly available	Not Achieved
1.9: Argentina - Home-based workers voice and empowerment research is publicly available with gender perspective	Not Achieved

Outputs 1.1 - 1.4 (Madagascar)

In Madagascar, the project conducted the rapid sector appraisal (Output 1.1) in the garment sector and was in the process of finalizing the graphic design of the final reports. The rapid sector appraisal provided valuable information to help design and implement the forced labor prevalence survey. At the time of this evaluation, the project was in the process of conducting the prevalence survey (Output 1.2). The other qualitative research activity (Output 1.3) will be conducted once the prevalence survey is completed and will likely consist of a series of case studies on forced labor victims.

It is not clear how the project and the ILO will handle the publication of the research (Output 1.4) because, according to project staff, the existence of forced labor in the garment sector reflects negatively on the sector and could interfere with its willingness to work with the ILO to address forced labor in a meaningful manner. Key government and private sector stakeholders are concerned that research that shows the existence of forced labor in the garment sector could harm export markets. To address this concern, the project is considering focusing on due diligence for garment exports that would map risks such as poor working conditions and develop solutions to improve the working environment.

Outputs 1.5 - 1.9 (Argentina)

In Argentina, the project conducted the garment sector rapid appraisal (Output 1.5) as planned and was in the process of developing the graphic design for the report at the time of the evaluation. It also conducted the analysis of the garment sector value chain (Output 1.6). The research was completed, presented and discussed with national stakeholders.

Regarding the rapid appraisal and value chain analysis, it is important and interesting to note that they were designed to be complementary and create synergies. The rapid assessment is a scoping exercise designed to provide an overview of the sector with an emphasis on informing future research and collecting evidence about workers' working and living experiences. The value chain analysis, on the other hand, provides more in-depth and comprehensive information about how the sector is organized and productive arrangements that offer useful information to the private sector. The analysis also includes a detailed set of recommendations. These qualitative studies provided valuable information in the design and implementation of the forced labor prevalence survey.

According to project staff, the E2A project theory of change is built on the premise that the knowledge products should be tailored to specific audiences to facilitate the use of evidence in decision-making about forced labor policies and programs. Thus, both the rapid appraisal and value chain analysis include key sub-products. For example, the rapid appraisal consists of a sector appraisal report, a mapping of key stakeholders, and a report based on interviews with workers. In addition to the main report, the value chain analysis has a set of infographics and a value chain timeline that shows the development and evolution of the labor sector in Argentina.

The project also completed the forced labor prevalence study (Output 1.7), and was in the process of finalizing the report at the time of the evaluation. Like Madagascar, the project and the ILO are not entirely certain about how to handle the publication and dissemination of the research (Output 1.8) because the research findings, which found forced labor in the garment sector, could be perceived as reflecting negatively on the sector and might interfere with the ILO's efforts to work with stakeholders to address forced labor.[57]

The most likely approach would be for E2A to work with the Argentina ILO country office to disseminate the prevalence survey findings in several national events at the end of the project so that any negative findings about forced labor does not interfere with project implementation.[58] The project was also considering using a smart practice case study approach to frame the forced labor findings for policymakers and practitioners. The challenge, according to project staff, is presenting the research findings and recommendations in policymaker friendly words and formats (infographics).

The home-based worker research was not entirely completed at the time of the evaluation fieldwork (Output 1.9). The work plan includes first conducting research on vulnerable home-based workers in the garment sector, then using the findings to give them a voice. The research will be presented as a case study and include a short video documentary.

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[57] It should be noted that the project uses a statistical definition of forced labor contained in the ILO ILSC Guidelines concerning the measurement of forced labor.

[58] The midterm evaluation recommended disseminating research results through events carefully planned, tailored, and targeted to the private sector, civil society, academia, relevant trade unions, and government agencies. The evaluation also suggested a more general dissemination event under the auspices of the *Executive Committee for the Fight against Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims as well as a separate event where other ILO country office representatives in the region could* exchange learning about and the benefits of prevalence research in forced labor.

Once the research is completed, the project will need to determine the most effective way to target and communicate the findings to policymakers, practitioners, and the public.[59]

Outcome 2

Outcome 2 Overview

It was not possible for the evaluation team to assess the achievement of Outcome 2 indicator targets because the E2A intends to wait until the end of the project to measure changes in perceptions about the usefulness of the research and stakeholder intentions to use the information. In Madagascar, the project achieved one of its three outputs, while in Argentina it achieved two of the three planned outputs with the third one scheduled to be completed by June 2023. The two global outputs have not been completed.

Figure 11 shows Outcome 2, its indicators, indicator targets, achievements against the indicator target, and the overall performance status. Outcome 2 has two indicators, which are ex-post perceptions of stakeholders. The first is the perception of the usefulness and quality of the information while the second is the perception of the intention to use the information in decision-making situations.

Figure 11: E2A Outcome 2, Indicators, Indicator Targets, and Achievements

Outcomes and Indicators	Target	Achieved	Status
Outcome 2: Increased dialogue and engagement of decision-makers in the private sector, government, and civil society to act against forced labor			
Indicator 2.1: Ex-post perception of key national stakeholders' in terms of information usefulness and quality (percentage)	70%	NA	NA
Indicator 2.2: Ex-post perception of key national stakeholders' in terms of their intention to use information generated by the project in their own decision-making processes (percentage)	60%	NA	NA

Indicators 2.1 and 2.2

Like Indicator 1.1, the project intends to wait until the end of the project to measure changes in perception about information usefulness and quality and any intention of the stakeholders to use the information in their decision-making processes.

Although the project intends to wait to measure these two outcome indicators, it did conduct an online perception survey to assess usefulness, quality, and intention to use

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[59] During the review of the evaluation report, E2A project staff informed the evaluation team that the home-based research was completed and under technical review.

information generated by the project's research activities. The project sent an invitation to participate in the online perception survey to 103 stakeholders from government, employers' organizations/garment sector, trade unions, civil society organizations, and academic institutions. Thirty-nine of these stakeholders, all from Argentina, responded. The complete results of the survey appear in Annex G along with the gender breakdown and organization affiliation of the respondents.

Regarding knowledge generated by the project's research, 36 respondents (86 percent) totally agreed or agreed that the project increased their knowledge about forced labor and human trafficking in the garment industry while 34 respondents (82 percent) totally agreed or agreed that the project contributed to filling knowledge gaps in the country.[60]

Regarding the usefulness of the information provided by the project's research activities, 33 respondents (84 percent) totally agreed or agreed that the project was aligned with national information needs and priorities. Only one respondent disagreed. Thirty-eight (97 percent) totally agreed or agreed that the research provided useful and quality information while all 39 respondents (100 percent) totally agreed or agreed that the information was easy to understand.

The respondents were slightly less optimistic about whether the information will be used. Twenty-eight respondents (72 percent) totally agreed or agreed that they intend to use forced labor and human trafficking information in future decision-making processes in the garment industry. When asked whether they used any of the project's research products in their work, only four persons (10 percent) responded "yes" while 20 (51 percent) responded "no". Another 15 persons (38 percent) responded "not sure if I did".

Outputs and Achievements

Outcome 2's eight outputs and their status are summarized in Figure 12 by implementation country.

In both Madagascar and Argentina, the project aimed to map the needs of stakeholders for forced labor data and develop a stakeholder engagement strategy and establish a national advisory committee. To increase the capacity of stakeholders, the project intended to develop recommendations to strengthen stakeholder capacity, develop a set of due diligence tools to help garment sector companies identify and mitigate forced labor risk factors, and conduct a capacity building training course on statistical methods to detect forced labor in the garment sector supply chain.

Figure 12: E2A Outcome 2 Outputs and Achievements

Outputs	Status[61]

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[60] The E2A online perception survey response options were: totally agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, totally disagree. See Annex G for the E2A survey questions and response options.

[61] According to project staff, Verité is in the process of developing the stakeholder engagement strategy and stakeholder training activities in Madagascar (Outputs 2.2 and 2.3) and the due diligence training in Argentina (Output 2.6)

2.1: Madagascar - Stakeholders' informational needs on forced labor are assessed	Achieved
2.2: Madagascar - Stakeholders' engagement is increased	Not Achieved
2.3: Madagascar - Capacity of stakeholders in garment sector strengthened	Not Achieved
2.4: Argentina - Stakeholders' needs on forced labor data are assessed	Achieved
2.5: Argentina - Stakeholders' engagement is increased	Achieved
2.6: Argentina - Capacity of stakeholders in garment sector strengthened	Not Achieved
2.7: Global - Policy oriented knowledge products are disseminated	Not Achieved
2:8: Global - Global stakeholders outreached	Not Achieved

Outputs 2.1 - 2.3 (Madagascar)

In Madagascar, the project completed the stakeholder mapping of their information needs (Output 2.1) and was in the process of developing the stakeholder engagement strategy (Output 2.2). While the project contacted key stakeholders in ILO's cluster of garment sector projects to discuss how to engage stakeholders, the project has not yet determined the most appropriate engagement mechanism. The project also developed recommendations to strengthen stakeholder capacity and was in the process of completing the set due diligence tools (Output 2.2) at the time of this evaluation. Verité's local partner, BuyYourWay, shared the due diligence tools with 10 garment companies based in Antananarivo. Of these 10 companies, one agreed to test and pilot the tools.[62] Three other companies, according to Verité, expressed interest in testing and piloting the due diligence tools but wanted to wait until later in the year. In addition, BuyYourWay, is awaiting confirmation from the Association for Free Zone Exporting Companies (GEFP) to disseminate the due diligence tools to all free zone enterprises.

E2A intends to wait until the end of the project, once all research reports have been formally published and disseminated, to conduct the training (Output 2.3).

Outputs 2.4 - 2.6 (Argentina)

In Argentina, the project mapped the needs of stakeholders for forced labor data (Output 2.4) and developed a stakeholder engagement strategy (Output 2.5). The engagement strategy is built on existing mechanisms such as the Executive Committee, which serves

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[62] BuyYourWay is a French Business Consulting and Service organization that specializes in sustainability. It has participated in previous ILO projects and has previous experience and contacts in the garment sector in Madagascar: https://buyyourway.eu

as an advisory committee to the project.[63] At the time of the evaluation, the project was in the process of developing recommendations to strengthen stakeholder capacity as well as finalizing the due diligence tools (Output 2.6).[64] During interviews, private sector representatives noted that while the due diligence tools show promise to help the garment sector identify and address risks that could damage their reputation and markets, the sector has not shown much interest in using them.[65] They noted that the major challenge moving forward is to convince key companies in the sector to use the due diligence tools now that they exist. Like Madagascar, the stakeholder training will not be conducted until the end of the project (Output 2.6).

Outputs 2.7 and 2.8 (Global)

In addition to the two implementation countries' outputs, the project has two global-level outputs. The first output is the dissemination of policy knowledge products (Output 2.7). The project intends to disseminate both hard copies (200) and digital copies (1,800) to global stakeholders using platforms like Alliance 8.7. The second output is the organization of a global webinar conference to disseminate and discuss E2A research methodologies and innovations (Output 2.8). The project intends to invite 170 persons to the conference. While both global outputs are planned for the end of the project, dates have not been set.

3.3.2. FACILITATING AND HINDERING FACTORS

The evaluation team identified a variety of factors that facilitated or limited the achievement of project objectives for both the R2A and E2A projects. First, key facilitating factors are summarized below by project.

R2A PROJECT FACILITATING FACTORS

ILO and IOM collaboration

The original project design document called for the IOM to be one of the sub-contractors to support work on migration, but due to US government contracting rules, the IOM decided that, as an independent UN organization, it could not meet the US government contracting requirements. Instead, ILO loaned one of its staff to IOM under the R2A project to support work on migration and serve as an important bridge between R2A and the IOM both at the global and country levels. The collaboration with IOM country offices was especially effective and helped contribute to the achievement of the country level research agendas.

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[63] The Executive Committee articulates the prevention, sanction and assistance actions in matters of human trafficking developed by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Social Development and the Secretary of Labor, Employment and Social Security.

[64] According to project staff, the due diligence tools are completed and are in final production. In addition, to promote sustainability, generic versions of the tools are being developed in Spanish and Portuguese.

[65] The project was able to involve some garment sector companies in testing the due diligence tools in both Argentina and Madagascar.

Collaboration with ILO Library

The project collaborated with the ILO Library to develop the R2A bibliography that served as the foundation to develop other key products such as the evidence gap map, meta-analysis study, and policy guidance tool.[66] The project needed a dynamic way to interface with the evidence gap map. Through brainstorming discussions, the ILO Library staff recommended that the project use two of its existing features to increase interactivity with the evidence gap map. The features are *Primo View* and *Views List – where the ILO Library has a paid license*.[67] The advantage of using the ILO Library's system and these features is that they already existed and thus did not have to be created making the bibliography and associated gap map more sustainable. According to both the project's and ILO Library's staff, one of the keys to the successful collaboration was the fact that the R2A project involved the ILO Library at the beginning of the project.

FUNDAMENTALS Research and Evaluation Unit Mandate and Capacity

The FUNDAMENTALS research and evaluation unit has both the mandate and capacity to conduct research and produce world class research reports and other publications on child labor, forced labor, freedom of association and collective bargaining, and discrimination at work. This mandate and capacity facilitated the outcome achievements such as the bibliography, evidence gap maps, meta-analysis study, policy guidance tool, and the global and country research agendas.

International Advisory Board

The R2A and MAP 16 projects established the IAB to provide technical guidance and strategic advice to the development of research developed within the framework of both projects. The IAB consists of representatives from ILO, IOM, UNICEF, UNODC, UNU, USDOL, academic institutions, and national stakeholders from a subgroup of Pathfinder Countries. The R2A project used the IAB as a sounding board to discuss and review a number of research tools including the bibliography, evidence gap maps, meta-analysis study, policy guidance tool, and the global and country research agendas. Some IAB members also served as peer reviewers for the recipients of the research grants.

Collaboration with Innovations for Poverty Action

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[66] The ILO Library is situated in the ILO's Information Management Services Unit within the Information and Technology Department (INFOTEC). The ILO Library manages Labordoc where hundreds of thousands of ILO books, journal articles, reports, working papers, and more are available online.

[67] Primo View enables users to perform searches, view online material, request materials, and view their account information. The Views List page enables users to configure multiple views that can be based on institution, library, campus, and user group:
https://knowledge.exlibrisgroup.com/Primo/Product_Documentation/020Primo_VE/Primo_VE_(English)/050Display_Configuration/010Configuring_Discovery_Views_for_Primo_VE

The collaboration with IPA was another important facilitating factor. IPA, through its Human Trafficking Research Initiative, seeks to expand evidence on the main drivers of human trafficking and effective prevention measures. While the collaboration with IPA was not originally planned, USDOL saw a potential for collaboration and made introductions. R2A and IPA collaborated on co-hosting the international conference in 2022 where the research grant recipients presented their research findings. They also collaborated on presentations at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour (side event) in May 2022; the development of the human trafficking evidence gap map in 2023; and a presentation at the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons' (ICAT) Webinar Series 2023 on data gathering, analysis and visualization.

The ILO International Training Centre in Turin

ITC-ILO was an important facilitating factor for a couple of reasons. First, ITC-ILO's web designers provided valuable suggestions and support to the project to establish the R2A platform that hosts a range of research tools and other resources. The project initially planned to develop the R2A platform within the ILO web infrastructure but after internal consultations, the project decided to use ILO-ITC services and to develop the platform within the Alliance 8.7 infrastructure, which was newer, more sustainable, and more user-friendly. Second, ITC-ILO agreed to host the child labor and forced labor data analysis training course that R2A, MAP 16, and ACCEL Africa piloted and provided online training to researchers and other interested stakeholders free of charge.

Flexible Project Design

Both ILO and USDOL representatives noted that the flexibility of the project design was an important facilitating factor. The flexibility allowed the project to implement different interventions. While some of these interventions were successful and other less so, the experimentation allowed the project to take an adaptive management and learning approach. Following are several examples:

R2A platform. Once UNU decided to discontinue Delta 8.7, the project developed the R2A platform to host its research products. The R2A platform is linked to the Alliance 8.7 platform.

Cocoa research. USDOL asked R2A to provide comments and ideas on sampling for one of its projects with a research component focused on the cocoa sector in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. The R2A project hired a group of experts to provide specific input to overcome some of the problems the project encountered with its sampling methodology.

IOM case management data and recruitment fees. The project originally intended to develop a knowledge product on migration and child labor. However, upon further consideration and to ensure that the project could deliver a useful knowledge product within the timeframe of the project, R2A decided to cancel this activity. In its place, the project, with agreement from USDOL, developed a paper on recruitment fees using the

IOM case management data that could be converted into a data story.[68] An IOM project funded by the government of the Netherlands intends to use the paper to develop three short online data stories. The paper is awaiting final approval from the ILO to be published.

Online explainer videos and infographics. As discussed in Section 3.3.1 under achievements, the project decided not to use Prezi because ILO communication experts considered it to be an out-of-date communication tool. Instead, the project decided to use a range of online explainer videos and infographics that, according to stakeholders, have been highly effective.

SDG 8.7 Innovation Challenge. As discussed in Section 3.2.1, the project collaborated with Alliance 8.7 to launch and evaluate a competition among Pathfinder Countries calling for innovative solutions to accelerate action towards SDG Target 8.7. The idea was to provide USD 20,000 to support one of the winning digital innovation proposals if it included a compelling plan for innovative financing or showed potential for scaling-up to other national contexts. However, none of the proposals were selected because they did not present a sufficiently compelling plan.

In an alternative attempt to support funding for SDG Target 8.7, the R2A project provided technical input to a thematic panel on financing the elimination of child labor and organized a side event at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labor in Durban. The technical input included the preparation of an infographic that showed relatively low commitments of Official Development Aid to SDG Target 8.7. The side event brought together different stakeholders to discuss the importance of using research to drive policy action.[69] The project's input contributed to a commitment to increase financing and international cooperation for the elimination of child labor and forced labor.[70]

Pledge monitoring system. The project originally intended to develop a pledge monitoring system to monitor and report progress towards SDG Target 8.7. The monitoring system was discussed with countries during the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. Many countries expressed concerns about having another tool that they needed to report on and also noted that they already reported on SDG target indicators. In addition, the project realized that the pledge monitoring system would require both qualitative and quantitative data to determine whether countries are accelerating actions to end child labor. According to project staff, it would be a monumental task to get all countries in the world to report qualitative and quantitative data to input into the monitoring system and analyze them. Instead, the project decided to develop an online pilot monitoring tool for Pathfinder Countries that allows them to complete an annual online progress report and

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[68] According to R2A staff, IOM's Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC) publishes data stories regularly to present insights related to human trafficking, forced labor, and child labor.

[69] The side event "From Research to Action: the state of child labor and forced labor research and the need to build the evidence base to increase policy impact" is recorded and available" https://www.5thchildlabourconf.org/en/session/side-event-11-research-action-state-child-labor-and-forced-labor-research-and-need-build

[70] The Durban Call to Action document produced as a result of the conference emphasized the need for urgent action to end child labor and highlighted six important commitments. One of these commitments is to "Increase financing and international cooperation for the elimination of child labor and forced labor": https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/genericdocument/wcms_845907.pdf

collect and showcase a set of statistical and legal indicators taken from publicly available sources.

Project Team

The R2A project team consisted of the Project Director, Data Science Officer, and a Research Officer with strong technology skills who was loaned from the ILO to the IOM. Although small, representatives from IOM, ILO, and USDOL commented that the R2A project team was skilled and operated in a highly effective and efficient manner that was a key factor in R2A achievements.

E2A PROJECT FACILITATING FACTORS

Strong Relationships with Argentina Stakeholders

The project established strong collaborative relationships with key stakeholders in Argentina including the Executive Committee, STEySS, PROTEX, INTI, UIA-CIAI, GTC-AMA, and several academic institutions. The Executive Committee, STEySS, PROTEX, and INTI were involved in the development of survey methodology and questionnaire by providing input, which in the long run helped create buy-in to the research. These stakeholders along with UIA-CIAI provided input to the due diligence tools.

Implementing Partners

In addition to the ILO, the E2A project consisted of two key implementing partners; NORC and Verité. NORC was responsible for the forced labor prevalence surveys in Argentina and Madagascar while Verité was responsible for the rapid sector appraisals in both countries and the home-based worker case study in Argentina. NORC contributed its strong capability and experience on surveying techniques while Verité brought its experience in forced labor and human trafficking, qualitative studies, and relationship with the private sector, especially the garment sector. These partners provided world-class technical support and credibility to the research methodologies and findings.

ILO Credibility and Convening Power in Argentina

The ILO uses a tripartite process that involves working closely with government, employer organizations, and worker organizations on labor issues. The tripartite process requires the ILO to consult and ascertain approval from the representatives of governments, employers, and workers for ILO standards, policies, and programs. This approach helped the ILO build relationships, gain credibility, and develop the ability to convene organizations. This was especially true in Argentina where the E2A project achieved effective participation from key government agencies such as the Executive Committee, STEySS, PROTEX, and INTI; employer organizations such as UIA and CAIA; trade union federations such as CGT; and the academic community.

Awareness about Forced Labor in Argentina

As discussed in Section 3.1.1, public awareness about forced labor in the garment sector, especially the informal sector, is relatively high due to publicity resulting from fires in 2006 and 2015 that killed seven Bolivian children and the fact that Argentina is on the US list of countries that produce goods (garments) by child labor or forced labor. The high level of awareness about forced labor in the informal garment sector meant that the project did not have to start from scratch to convince the stakeholders that labor problems exist within the sector.

Strong Local Research Partners in Argentina

The project contracted strong local research partners that was a key facilitating factor. In particular, IGG served as the local partner that worked with NORC to implement the forced labor prevalence survey. According to NORC representatives, IIGG and its research team understood the RDS methodology and had a deep understanding of and contacts within the garment worker population that created data points that NORC would not have had if working alone.[71] On the other hand, UNTREF developed an innovative data ecosystem case study that has the potential to help researchers use secondary data sources instead of collecting primary data.

Project Management

The Project Director has a strong background in research that, according to stakeholders, helped him understand the nuances of research methodologies and make important contributions to the research. Also, the decision to move him from Brazil to Argentina instead of Geneva, as originally planned, was a key factor in research achievements in Argentina. Finally, the decision to hire a M&E and engagement specialist with strong relationships with key stakeholders, helped the project engage effectively with stakeholders in Argentina.[72]

The key hindering factors that the evaluation team identified are summarized below by project.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic was the most important hindering factor for both the R2A and E2A projects. Project staff and stakeholders told the evaluation team that restrictions on travel and social distancing protocols forced the project to postpone training, meetings, and other key research activities and move them to virtual formats. While the project eventually moved certain activities to virtual formats, significant delays occurred.

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[71] RDS is a methodology similar to snowball sampling, where participants recommend other people they know. RDS is useful for sampling from hard-to-reach populations such as migrant workers. RDS is mathematically tweaked to add an element of randomness. https://www.statisticshowto.com/respondent-driven-sampling/

[72] The M&E and engagement specialist is the former MAP 16 national project coordinator.

R2A PROJECT HINDERING FACTORS

Contracting Problems with IOM and UNU

The project originally planned to contract IOM and UNU to play key roles. IOM was intended to provide support in migration including the promotion of international migration law, policy guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health, and gender dimensions of migration. UNU, on the other hand, was considered an ideal partner given its mandate to coordinate with researchers and its interest in child labor and forced labor. UNU was supposed to play an advisory role and collaborate with R2A through its Delta 8.7 platform that would host key project research products and help link the project to universities.

As described earlier in the report, neither IOM nor UNU decided to accept a subcontract from R2A because they felt they could not meet the US government contracting rules and requirements. The process that led to the decision not to accept the sub-contracts and the gaps the decision created caused nearly a one year delay and meant that R2A project staff had to assume the responsibilities that IOM and UNU would have been responsible for if they had accepted the sub-contracts. One R2A staff explained that, *"The project consisted of many activities and we were very stretched at times"*. In hindsight, R2A and ILO should have confirmed the willingness and ability of IOM and UNU to accept the sub-contracts in the project design phase.

Delta 8.7 Platform

To support the SDG Target 8.7, *the eradication of modern slavery, human trafficking, forced labor, and child labor*, UNU created the Delta 8.7 platform. The platform aimed to help policymakers understand and use data responsibly to inform policies that contribute to achieving Target 8.7. As noted above, the project intended to use Delta 8.7 to host a range of its research tools and resources. However, due to a lack of funds, UNU decided to stop uploading information in 2022 and eventually took Delta 8.7 down in December 2023. In response, the R2A project developed its own platform to house its tools and other resources, which represented a completely new effort that was not envisioned in the original project design.

Sensitivity of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking

Child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking are sensitive topics for many countries due to a variety of political , cultural, and historical dimensions. The project's focus on research tools such as the country research agendas based on gaps in research on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking is a key hindering factor because by its nature, research that exposes labor exploitation creates sensitivities.

The project tried to address these sensitivities by framing the discussion in a positive manner. For example, it emphasized that research provides a deeper understanding of the root causes, prevalence, and impact of forced labor and human trafficking while providing policymakers with the useful instruments and knowledge to develop more effective strategies and interventions. The project also highlighted the opportunities for international collaboration with experts, additional support in conducting research, and the recognition given to countries that actively engage in research on forced labor that contribute to global efforts to eradicate forced labor and human trafficking.

Bureaucracy

At times, organizational bureaucracy caused delays and hindered activities. For example, due to both ILO and university bureaucracy, it took more than two months to prepare implementation agreements for four universities. Prolonged and extensive ILO administrative procedures also caused delays in selecting a contractor to produce the explainer videos under Outcome 1.

E2A PROJECT HINDERING FACTORS

Mauritius Government Non-Approval of the Project

Despite beginning research activities on the garment sector rapid appraisal during the first quarter of 2021, the project was unable to get the Mauritius government to approve the "on-the ground" implementation of the project. After more than one year of trying to negotiate an implementation agreement, the Mauritius government officially informed the project that it was no longer interested in having the E2A project implemented in Mauritius. Thus, the ILO and USDOL decided to move the implementation site to Madagascar in September 2022. The project lost nearly one and a half years of time and effort trying to negotiate approval of the project in Mauritius, which at the same time, meant that implementation of activities in Madagascar was about a year and a half behind Argentina.

Elections in Argentina

General elections were held in Argentina in October 2023. Since no candidate received more than 50 percent of the popular vote, run-off elections were held in November 2023. The elections resulted in a new president and administration that were sworn in in December 2023. The time leading up to the elections and the time required by the new government to establish itself afterwards created uncertainty and stalled government decision-making. Project staff estimated that the general elections delayed implementation by approximately four months.

Civil Unrest and Natural Disasters in Madagascar

Civil unrest and natural disasters were important hindering factors in Madagascar. The civil unrest resulted in violence in the lead up to the November 2023 presidential elections while Tropical Cyclone Freddy traversed much of the southern Indian Ocean for five weeks in February and March 2023. In Madagascar, Freddy claimed 17 lives and adversely affected almost 300,000 people. The political instability and civil unrest along with the effects of Cyclone Freddy hampered some of the project's planned research activities because there were travel restrictions in place.

Private Sector and Government Concerns About Forced Labor Data

The garment sector in both Argentina and Madagascar is sensitive about information released to the public that is critical of the sector. This is especially true in Madagascar where, according to the project team, garment sector representatives are adamant that enterprises meet international certifications and have passed third person audits that did not find any issues involving forced labor. However, according to one project team

member, the certification audits looked at standard occupational safety and health issues but did not examine social components such as recruiting and supervision practices. Also, some of the formal factories have extended supply chains where forced labor situations might exist but are not included in the audits.

Additionally, the Madagascar government is concerned about forced labor data because it might result in Madagascar being placed on the US list of countries that produce goods by child labor or forced labor that, in turn, could have a negative impact on export markets or even could lead to Madagascar being removed from AGOA.[73] The challenge, according to project staff, is how to present research findings in ways that are not perceived as threats to the sector.

Turnover of ILO Country Directors

The ILO Country Directors turned over once in Madagascar and three times in Argentina. Argentina also had two Interim Country Directors. According to project staff, each time the leadership changed, the project had to provide an orientation to the new Country Director or Interim Country Director, which took time and delayed some activities due to changes in priorities and risk appetites.

National Project Coordinator for Madagascar

As discussed in Section 1.2.2, the project tried to hire a National Project Coordinator for Madagascar but could not find a candidate with the required experience and skill set. Not having someone in that role in Madagascar hindered the process of establishing relationships with key stakeholders and engaging them in dialogue regarding some of the research findings. Since there is a relatively low level of public awareness and a high level of sensitivity about forced labor among government and garment sector stakeholders, a National Project Coordinator would likely have allowed for more effective implementation of a stakeholder engagement strategy.

Research Challenges

The researchers in Argentina noted several other hindering factors related to the data collection process. During the lead up to the general elections in Argentina, many organizations and media outlets were conducting surveys and polls that created survey fatigue. Thus, some of the study population was reluctant to participate in the research. The researchers also had to overcome a relatively high degree of distrust among migrant workers. This was especially true during the home-based worker research where the researchers arrived with audio visual equipment to record conversations.

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[73] See footnote #27 that explains why countries have been removed from AGOA. None were removed for use of child labor or forced labor in production of goods.

3.4. IMPACT

Table 14: Impact Questions

Impact Questions
To what extent has the knowledge generated by the R2A and E2A projects informed stakeholders' policies, programs, and other strategies and activities?

3.4.1. USE OF KNOWLEDGE TO INFORM POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The evaluation team was not able to find evidence that the knowledge generated by the R2A and E2A projects was used by policymakers and practitioners to develop or improve child labor and forced labor policies and programs. The ILO, USDOL, and key stakeholders for both projects noted that changes in policies and programs take time and it is too early to say whether the knowledge led or will lead to changes in policies, programs, and other strategies.

R2A project staff noted that government and academic institutions expressed strong interest in discussing how research might be used to inform policies. In addition, the project laid the groundwork with the evidence gap maps that show research gaps as well as the policy guidance tool that is intended to help inform policies. While these tools have helped increase the interaction between research and policy, the evaluation team could not identify any examples of how the research and research tools changed policy and programs. It should also be noted that the R2A project did not have a robust mechanism in place to measure how research was used by policymakers and practitioners.

The same observation was echoed by the research grant recipients who were interviewed. While they believe their research was important and could be used to inform policies and programs, they commented that they have no idea if or how their research has or will be used. One researcher explained that NGOs and labor inspectors requested that the researcher send their research on forced labor among migrant workers in the agriculture sector but the researcher does not know if it will be used. Other researchers said that the project did not have a strategy to get their research in front of policymakers and practitioners and that there was not a mechanism in place to track use of the research.

As discussed in Section 3.3.1, the E2A project completed the garment sector rapid appraisals in both Argentina and Madagascar and the analysis of the garment sector value chain and the forced labor prevalence study in Argentina. During the review of the draft evaluation report, the project notified the evaluation team that the forced labor prevalence survey in Madagascar was completed and in the process of final production. At the time of this evaluation, the project was deciding how to present the findings to the government and garment sector and other key stakeholders in both Argentina and Madagascar given the sensitivity of forced labor and uncertainties about the policies of the newly elected government in Argentina. Thus, since the planned research had not been entirely completed and presented to key stakeholders, it is too early to determine whether the research informed policies and programs.

During interviews, some stakeholders in Argentina expressed optimism that the research findings would be used. For example, some of the anti-trafficking community are talking about how to use the information while the STEySS has discussed how it might use the information to train labor inspectors to identify forced labor. One key stakeholder noted that public servants are interested in using the information to improve their programs.

As discussed in Sections 3.1.1, and 3.3.1, project staff and stakeholders noted that both government and garment industry actors in Madagascar are either unaware of forced labor situations or are reluctant to admit that forced labor exists. One possible explanation is that if the prevalence survey finds forced labor in the sector, the US might put Madagascar on its list of countries that produce goods (garments) by child labor or forced labor, which could have a negative impact on the country's export markets. For these reasons, stakeholders were less optimistic that information from the research studies would be used by government and garment sector decision-makers.

However, other stakeholders commented that the EU proposed ban on goods produced using forced labor represents an opportunity for Madagascar to use the research findings to take concrete steps to address forced labor.[74] The set of due diligence tools developed by the project could be used by the garment sector to identify risk factors and take actions to mitigate risk that, in turn, would help ensure that products have access to the EU markets.

3.5 EFFICIENCY

Table 15: Efficiency Questions

Efficiency Questions
How efficient have the R2A and E2A projects been? Are there certain types of activities that are more efficient than others?
What factors affected the efficiency of the R2A and E2A projects (e.g. delays, changes in host governments, turnover of project staff, COVID-19) and how did the projects respond to these factors?

3.5.1. EFFICIENCY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Overall, the R2A and E2A projects operated in an efficient manner. They implemented activities and produced outputs with the planned amount of human and financial resources. According to stakeholders who were interviewed, the majority believed the project operated in a cost-effective manner. However, some stakeholders explained that they did not have enough information about the project to comment.

R2A

The R2A project achieved efficiency in several ways. The project staffing structure was thin but highly efficient. Staff consisted of the part-time project director, part-time data science officer, and the ILO researcher who was on loan to IOM within the R2A project. The project team shared various responsibilities and worked effectively as a team, which also contributed to efficiency.

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[74] On March 5, 2024, the European Union legislators reached provisional agreement on new rules that, once formally adopted, will ban products made with forced labor from being placed or made available on the EU market or exported from the EU market. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/01/26/forced-labour-council-adopts-position-to-ban-products-made-with-forced-labour-on-the-eu-market/

Another way efficiency was achieved was through the collaboration with the ILO Library. This collaboration leveraged ILO Library staff expertise and understanding of information systems as well as the *Primo* and *Reading List* features of the ILO Library system that were already in place.

It should be noted that R2A did not conduct specific research activities. Instead, it developed a variety of research papers and tools of which several can be considered efficient and worth trying to replicate in future projects. The first is the meta-analysis study that compiled the results of 41 impact evaluations.[75] The study highlights how social protection programs and other interventions aimed at improving the welfare of poor households in developing countries work.

The online tools are also highly efficient and would be worth considering in future projects. These include the bibliography, evidence gap maps, and the policy guidance tool. The child labor and forced labor data analysis training should also be considered both efficient and sustainable since the ITC-ILO will host the course and make it available for free to researchers and other interested stakeholders. Finally, the research grant program was a cost-effective way to produce and disseminate research on forced labor topics. While the research was an important contribution to the forced labor research, the grants program is not sustainable. The sustainability of the grants program is discussed in more detail in Section 3.6.

E2A

The E2A project also achieved efficiency. Like the R2A project, the E2A project operated most of the time with a thin staffing structure that consisted of a global project director, a M&E and engagement specialist and a part-time administrative assistant. The project attempted to hire a national project coordinator for Madagascar but could not find a candidate with the required qualifications.

The qualitative and quantitative studies were also considered highly efficient. The rapid sector appraisal, value chain analysis, and home-based workers case study in Argentina cost USD 6,000 and USD 13,000, and USD 44,000 respectively. In Madagascar, the rapid sector appraisal cost USD 14,000. The forced labor prevalence surveys were more expensive given the large sample sizes. The prevalence survey cost USD 205,000 in Argentina while the cost of the survey in Madagascar was USD 235,000.[76]

According to project staff and some stakeholders who were interviewed, the research was cost-effective because the E2A team (e.g. ILO, NORC, and Verité) possessed strong research capabilities meaning that the project did not have to hire expensive firms to conduct the research as was originally envisioned in the project budget. For example, the original budget for the value chain analysis in Argentina was USD 65,000 because the entire production was to be outsourced. Instead, the project team worked with local researchers to define the sample and develop the semi-structured interview protocols,

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[75] The project reviewed 654 evaluation impact articles of which 99 matched the eligibility criteria. However, only 41 impact evaluation articles fully matched the criteria for inclusion in the meta-analysis.

[76] Note that some costs for travel, preparatory work, and overseeing product development, editing, translation, and graphic design are not included in these costs.

conduct the analysis and peer review process, and prepare the draft and final reports. This led to a savings of USD 52,000.

One project team member commented that, *"We knew what kind of work we wanted and how to do it, so we were able to identify and hire research consultants with experience in the garment sector in Argentina and interact with them to make the research process more efficient."* The team's research capabilities also allowed the team to engage efficiently and in meaningful ways with the research consultants. For example, the E2A team provided technical advice and support to local research consultants to improve the data collection methods, tools, and analyses for both the qualitative and quantitative studies. The efficiency of using a project team with strong research capacity to lead research activities instead of contracting expensive research firms is an approach the ILO and USDOL might consider in future research oriented projects.

In Madagascar, the project contracted Entreprendre a Madagascar to conduct the rapid sector appraisal. However, the project was unable to identify qualified local research consultants to help carry out the prevalence survey so it contracted a firm based in Zambia called Global Market Research and Public Opinion Specialist (IPSOS) that worked with a local research firm in Madagascar to collect data for the forced labor prevalence survey. While the project worked closely with Entreprendre a Madagascar and IPSOS to conduct the qualitative and quantitative research activities, it did not create the same level of efficiency as it did in Argentina because the local firm lacked experience conducting forced labor research and had to be trained and coached throughout the research process.

3.5.2. FACTORS THAT AFFECTED PROJECT EFFICIENCY

COVID-19

COVID-19, which was also identified as an important hindering factor in Section 3.3.2, was noted by project staff, as well as the majority of stakeholders who were interviewed, as an important factor that created inefficiencies in both the R2A and E2A projects, especially in the early stages of the pandemic. Many project activities had to be postponed and rescheduled, which caused delays. To adjust to COVID-19 restrictions, the project shifted meetings and training from face-to-face formats to virtual formats using video conferencing applications. The shift to virtual formats caused delays while conducting meetings and training virtually took more time than traditional face-to-face formats.

While the majority of stakeholders who were interviewed believed that the virtual formats were less effective than face-to-face formats, they agreed that working virtually represented a new and potentially efficient way of doing business. Virtual formats allowed the project to continue conducting meetings, training, and other key activities during periods when movement and public gatherings in the implementing countries were restricted. Stakeholders also noted that using virtual formats to conduct certain activities in the future could be a viable option when face-to-face formats are not feasible due to high costs, distances, and other logistical obstacles.

Factors that specifically affected the R2A project efficiency are summarized below.

IOM and UNU Contracting Issues

The IOM and UNU contracting issues, that were discussed previously in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.3.2, caused inefficiencies. The ILO was in discussions about the sub-contracting

arrangement with IOM and UNU for nearly one year before they decided not to accept the sub-contracts. As a result, the project lost more than one year of implementation time as well as the time and effort that were invested in the contract negotiations.

Staff Turnover and Illness

One of the project staff decided to resign her position with the project. The turnover delayed some activities. In Malawi, R2A had a project coordinator to support the research agenda activities but he took a leave of absence for nearly three months that caused delays implementing some activities.

False Starts

Under Outcome 2, *innovation sandbox activity*, the project attempted several activities that were not successful for various internal or external factors. These "false starts" resulted in delays and created some inefficiencies. For example, the R2A project collaborated with the Child Labor Platform and ACCEL Africa in Côte d'Ivoire to conduct desk research and key informant interviews to identify good practices of public-private partnerships. Initially, the project planned to share the findings in an online workshop to engage different stakeholders. However, ILO authorities thought it was not a good idea because child labor in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire is a sensitive topic so the project canceled the workshop.

Another innovation sandbox activity was the pledge monitoring system discussed in Section 3.3.1. During the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, many countries expressed their concerns about having another tool that they needed to report on and, at the same time, the project realized that the kind of data collection required by countries to report was complicated. The project shifted from the pledge monitoring system to an online pilot monitoring tool for Pathfinder Countries.

Under Outcome 2, research agendas, the project intended to work with Mexico, which is a Pathfinder Country, to develop a country research agenda. After discussions with both ILO and IOM country offices, the R2A project decided to drop Mexico because the topics of child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, and migration are sensitive and the political climate at the time of the discussions suggested that developing a country research agenda was not feasible. While the project decided to replace Mexico with Chile and Paraguay, countries that were interested in developing research agendas, the project lost valuable time on Mexico before it decided the research agenda was not feasible.

Factors that specifically affected the E2A project efficiency are summarized below.

Decision to Replace Mauritius with Madagascar

In addition to COVID 19, the factor that most affected project efficiency was the decision to replace Mauritius with Madagascar as the implementing country. As noted above in Section 3.3.2 (i.e. hindering factors), the E2A project decided to withdraw from Mauritius because it could not get the approval of the government to implement the project due to sensitivities about forced labor in the country. The project lost about one and a half year of time and effort trying to negotiate approval of the project in Mauritius before replacing it with Madagascar.

General Elections in Argentina

The general elections resulted in putting some activities on pause during the election campaign and afterwards until the new government administration took office. The project lost approximately four months of implementation time due to campaigning, election process, and the formation of the new government.

Turnover of ILO Country Directors

As noted in Section 3.3.2, the turnover of ILO country directors and interim directors in Argentina meant that the project had to orient the new ILO country directors and explain the projects and get their support. At the same time, the country directors viewed risk from the forced labor research differently. The time it took to orient and discuss the project with the new directors and acting directors took time and created some inefficiencies.

3.6. SUSTAINABILITY

Table 16: Sustainability Questions

Sustainability Questions
Which of the R2A and E2A project outcomes are most likely to be sustained and transferred to communities or relevant institutions when the project ends?

3.6.1. LIKELIHOOD OF SUSTAINING PROJECT OUTCOMES

The likelihood of sustaining project outcomes is described below by project.

R2A PROJECT

OUTCOME 1: Increased policymaker and practitioner interaction with rigorous research, data collection and analysis tools, and other relevant data needed to address child labor and forced labor internationally.

To support policymaker and practitioner interaction with research and research tools, the project developed an extensive bibliography and linked it to the evidence gap map, created the R2A platform, and developed the policy guidance tool.

The bibliography has been incorporated into the ILO Library system and thus has been institutionalized. The challenge, however, is to find the resources to update the bibliography at least once per year. According to ILO Library staff, research in the areas of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking is published frequently and should be added to the bibliography so it remains relevant.

Once the UNU decided to discontinue the Delta 8.7 platform, the project created the R2A platform that hosts key R2A research tools and resources. In the short-term, the plan is to have the R2A follow-up project (i.e. RTA II) support the platform and eventually fold it into the ILO system.

Like the bibliography, the R2A platform should be kept up-to-date so it is relevant to researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. The policy guidance tool exists and is available on the R2A platform. It should be sustainable in the short to medium term but longer term sustainability will depend on resources to update the tool so it remains relevant for users.

OUTCOME 2: Increased understanding by researchers of the questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to inform policy and program efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor.

This outcome attempted to provide information to researchers that policymakers require to address child labor and forced labor. The major products were the global and country research agendas, meta-analysis study, evidence gap maps, and country situation briefs. These products exist and are available on the R2A platform. They should be sustainable in the short to medium term but longer term sustainability will require resources to keep them up-to-date. The more challenging aspect of Outcome 2 is the engagement with researchers around these products. Project staff note that this kind of outreach and engagement with researchers needs to be continuous and requires resources to be successful. It is not clear where those resources will come from now that the project has ended.[77]

OUTCOME 3: Improved capacity of researchers to study child labor and forced labor issues.

The main focus of Outcome 3 is the online training course on child labor and forced labor data analysis that the project developed and piloted with representatives from six NSOs in Africa. The ITC-ILO intends to make the course (modules) available online free of charge to researchers and other key stakeholders. Thus, the course appears to show strong signs of sustainability. The sustainability of the broader outcome, to increase capacity of the researchers, will depend to what extent researchers take advantage of the online course.

OUTCOME 4: Increased engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues.

The main focus of Outcome 4 was the research grant program that provided small grants to researchers to produce research on child labor and forced labor. The research was completed and presented at an international conference and are available on the R2A platform. The researchers who were interviewed expressed mixed views about the sustainable impact of the research. All believe the research is valuable and has important policy implications. However, what could limit their impact and sustainability is the lack of a strategy to get the research in front of policymakers and practitioners. The researchers also noted that while they are interested in conducting future research on child labor and

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[77] One possibility is that engagement with stakeholders can be supported by the RTA II follow-up project. However, this is not a long term sustainability strategy.

forced labor, they are not clear where the funding would come from. The research grant program itself is not sustainable since it will require donor funding for the grants.

E2A PROJECT

OUTCOME 1: Increased knowledge of the extent, nature, and characteristics of forced labor where scarce research exists.

To increase knowledge about forced labor, the project conducted both qualitative and quantitative research. In Argentina, these included the rapid sector appraisal, value chain analysis, and the prevalence survey. While some of the research findings have been shared with key stakeholders, the project intends to wait until the end of the project to publish and disseminate these research reports. The research reports and related knowledge products such as infographics, smart practice case study, and the home-based worker case study exist and will be available to policymakers and practitioners. Their sustainable impact, however, will be determined by if and how they are used by these key stakeholders.

At the time of the evaluation, the project was in the process of deciding where to host key products. One option is the Alliance 8.7 platform but since Alliance 8.7 is built on inter-institutional collaboration, its members would have to agree on any decision to host E2A products. Other options include the new ILO website and the platform developed by the R2A project. The Global Business Network on Forced Labour website is also an option for hosting the due diligence tools. Since these products exist and will be hosted on platforms and available they should be considered sustainable in the short to medium term. However, given the dynamic nature of forced labor, quantitative and qualitative research should be repeated so the information remains relevant. The challenge will be to find the resources to conduct future research.

Project staff and some stakeholders expressed optimism that once the government understands the value of actionable and reliable research that is supported by the ILO, it will be more willing to fund similar research in the future. On the other hand, most stakeholders who were interviewed opined that in Argentina, the government usually relies on the UN and other donors to fund research projects while scarce government resources can be used to fund programs. Furthermore, these stakeholders noted that while it is too early to be certain, the newly elected government has not expressed interest in addressing forced labor thus far. One academic stakeholder commented that the government has the capacity to conduct forced labor research but it is not certain whether it has political willingness to do so.

In Madagascar, the project conducted the rapid sector appraisal and plans to complete the forced labor prevalence survey and the case studies by the end of the project. Like Argentina, some variation of these research reports and related knowledge products will be published and available on key platforms making them sustainable in the short to medium term. Unlike Argentina, however, the government lacks the capacity and resources to conduct future research on forced labor. More importantly, according to some stakeholders who were interviewed, the government does not have a strong political

willingness to conduct this kind of research given sensitivities around forced labor and its trade implications.[78]

OUTCOME 2: Increased dialogue and engagement of decision-makers in the private sector, government, and civil society to act against forced labor.

The evaluation team found it difficult to assess the sustainability of this outcome since the project decided to wait to implement some of the key activities until the main research products under Outcome 1 are officially published and disseminated to stakeholders. These include the stakeholder engagement strategy (Madagascar), the due diligence tools, and stakeholder capacity building training activities. Sustaining dialogue and engagement will depend to what extent key stakeholders are willing to accept and act on the research findings. Since the research has not been published and disseminated, it is not clear how key stakeholders, especially the government and garment sector actors, will react.

In Argentina, based on preliminary discussions with stakeholders about some of the research findings, there appears to be interest based largely on a relatively high degree of public awareness about poor labor conditions in the informal garment sector. While many of the stakeholders who were interviewed believe that the public has an appetite to understand the labor problems in the sector, they also noted that it is not clear what approach the newly elected government will take to address them. Other stakeholders noted that given the ILO's credibility and unique convening power, the tripartite partners will always rely on the ILO to bring them together to stimulate dialogue about labor situations including forced labor in the garment sector.

In Madagascar, the results of the qualitative studies and prevalence survey potentially could provide valuable information to government and garment sector decision-makers to help them identify forced labor problems and target the appropriate interventions, such as the due diligence tools, to address them. However, it is not clear whether the political willingness exists to address forced labor in the sector that, in turn, will determine to what extent dialogue and engagement can be sustained.

4. LESSONS LEARNED AND PROMISING PRACTICES

This section describes lessons learned and promising practices that USDOL, ILO, and other grantees should consider in future projects.

4.1 LESSONS LEARNED

R2A Lessons Learned

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[78] As noted earlier in the report, the government is concerned that it could be placed on the US list of countries that produce garment using child labor or forced labor or could be removed from AGOA.

It is critical to determine the mandates and limitations of potential partners (i.e. IOM and UNU) during the project design phase in order to avoid problems that could otherwise arise during the implementation phase

The R2A project anticipated providing sub-contracts to IOM and UNU to support migration-related topics and research hosting, respectively. After nearly one year of discussions, both organizations decided not to accept the sub-contracts because they could not comply with US government contract rules and regulations. The ILO collaborated with IOM and UNU on other projects and assumed the same collaboration mechanisms would continue in the R2A project with the sub-contracts. On the other hand, IOM and UNU were not aware of some of the US government rules and requirements (e.g. Fly America Act) until they started to review the contracts and eventually determined, as independent UN organizations, they could not comply with all of the rules and requirements.[79] The delays that these contracting issues caused could have been avoided if the US government contracting rules and regulations would have been discussed with IOM and UNU during the project design phase.

Projects that aim to accelerate the use of research to improve policy and programs require specific strategies to get research and research tools in front of policymakers and practitioners.

The R2A project was highly effective at producing research tools and resources (e.g. bibliography, evidence gap map, policy guidance tool, research agendas, online data analysis training modules). Important research was also produced under the research grant program. However, the project would have benefitted from a strong advocacy and communication strategy to get research and research tools in front of policymakers and practitioners and convince them to use the research and tools. One element of this strategy might include hiring a project representative in the implementing countries responsible for promoting research and research tools to policymakers and practitioners.

Projects that aim to achieve knowledge and behavior changes require M&E systems with indicators to measure changes in knowledge and behaviors.

The R2A project aimed to accelerate the use of research by policymakers and practitioners, increase their interaction with research and research tools, increase the understanding of researchers about gaps in research, build the capacity of researchers, and foment a cadre of young researchers to produce valuable research. All of these are knowledge or behavior changes. While the project's M&E system was able to count the numbers achieved (e.g. visits to R2A platform hosting research tools, research agendas, researchers trained, researchers who received grant funds), it did not include indicators to measure if and how these "outputs" contributed to achieving the higher level effects or outcomes (e.g. policymakers or practitioners using the research tools and resources).

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[79] Fly America Act (49 U.S.C. 40118) requires a person traveling on funds provided by the U.S. Federal Government to use a U.S. flag carrier (an airline owned by an American company), regardless of cost or convenience unless certain waivers are approved. A person may travel on a foreign air carrier that shared a code with a U.S. flag carrier.

Projects that produce research agendas require a strategy and resources to support their effective implementation.

The R2A project provided technical support to five countries to develop country research agendas. While the development of the country research agendas was an important achievement, the project did not have a strategy and resources to help the countries implement the research agendas. A specific strategy along with the required resources would have allowed the project to provide technical support to the countries to implement the agendas so policymakers and practitioners have evidence and information to help them take concrete steps to eliminate child labor and forced labor. One element of the strategy could have been a national project coordinator to provide direct support to the operationalization of the research agendas.

Ambitious projects require adequate staffing to enhance project success.

The R2A project can be considered an ambitious project because it consisted of four outcomes, 13 outputs, and 26 activities. Many of the outputs and activities, such as the bibliography, evidence gap map, policy guidance tool, and research agendas, were complex. Once the IOM and UNU decided not to accept the sub-contracts, the project moved to a staffing structure of three persons. While the project staff functioned effectively as a team, they were stretched at times meaning there were not enough persons to follow up on key activities. For example, once the research agendas were developed, the countries would have benefited from support from the project to operationalize the agendas. The research grant recipients would also have benefitted from support from the project to get their research published and in front of policymakers and practitioners and the NSO training participants could have used additional support once they returned to their child labor and forced labor survey work.

It is important to anticipate bureaucratic delays and plan for them in advance.

The ILO, USDOL, and other donors and organizations have complicated rules and procedures to process paperwork, requests, and applications. If not anticipated, these bureaucratic processes can cause delays that affect project implementation. For example, it took the ILO more than two months to approve and sign implementation agreements with four universities. The explainer videos were also delayed due to protracted administrative procedures required by the ILO to select a company to produce the videos. It is important for projects to understand rules and procedures, anticipate delays, and, thus, submit requests and applications in advance.

E2A Lessons Learned

National coordinators, based in the countries targeted by the project, are highly important to ensure that activities and outputs advance as planned, especially outreach and engagement with key stakeholders.

The project operated nearly 30 months with only the project director covering both Argentina and Madagascar and providing overall project management, research, and

monitoring and evaluation support.[80],[81] In July 2023, the project added the position of M&E and Engagement Specialist based in Argentina.[82] While the M&E and Engagement Specialist covers both Argentina and Madagascar, he plays a critical role in Argentina by helping the project engage with key stakeholders from the government, garment sector, trade unions, and some NGOs around preliminary research results. The addition of the M&E and engagement specialist helped ensure project activities remained on track, especially those under Outcome 2. On the other hand, the project was not able to identify a suitable National Project Coordinator for Madagascar. An effective national project coordinator in Madagascar would have been helpful to advance project activities and engage key stakeholders in the project, especially given the concerns about finding forced labor in the garment sector supply chains.

Involve the private sector early in the project so it can help set the agenda and ensure their needs are being met by the project.

The early stages of the project focused on conducting the qualitative studies so valuable information would be available to design and execute the forced labor prevalence survey. In Argentina, the project's main partners participated in meetings to review and provide input to the research methodologies and data collection tools for both the qualitative studies and the prevalence survey. These included STEySS, Executive Committee, PROTEX, and INTI. In the later phases, the project discussed the preliminary results of the qualitative studies with the private sector (UIA and CICI) and involved them in the development of the due diligence tools. Involving the private sector earlier in the project to help set the agenda, review and discuss the research studies, and develop the due diligence tools would have helped ensure that their needs were being met and helped create commitment and ownership.

Anticipate and understand the economic concerns of forced labor research to develop proactive strategies to raise awareness about the risks that forced labor poses to export markets.

It is critical for projects that aim to increase the use of research to improve forced labor policies and programs to understand and address stakeholder concerns that research findings could have negative economic and social implications. In the FOA guidelines, USDOL required research to be conducted on a good in one country where forced labor in the production process is suspected to be widespread but the evidence base is weak. Furthermore, the chosen good and country should not be on the US list of countries that produce goods by child labor or forced labor. The rationale was to choose one good and

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[80] During the early stages of the project, it received limited part-time monitoring and evaluation (4 percent effort) and research support from an ILO Geneva-based researcher (14 percent effort).

[81] The project also had a part-time principle investigator provided by NORC and research support from both NORC for the prevalence surveys and support from Verité for the qualitative studies. However, Outcome 2, engagement and dialogue, was the responsibility of the core ILO/E2A project staff.

[82] In addition to supporting dialogue and engagement processes in Argentina, the engagement and M&E officer acts as a research advisor and provides monitoring and evaluation support for general backstopping of activities and strategies in both Argentina and Madagascar.

country where E2A research could strengthen the evidence base that forced labor exists in the production process. In response to this requirement, the ILO proposed the garment sector in Mauritius. Due largely to concerns that the research findings could have negative economic implications, the government did not approve the project.

To replace Mauritius, the ILO and USDOL chose the garment sector in Madagascar. However, this evaluation found that the government and private sector in Madagascar are also concerned about the economic implications of the research if forced labor is found in the sector, which could end up threatening the use of the research findings by Malagasy government and private sector actors to address forced labor.[83] Anticipating and understanding these kinds of stakeholder concerns can be used by projects to develop proactive strategies to raise awareness about the risks that forced labor poses to export markets so these stakeholders understand them and are prepared to take concrete measures to eliminate forced labor.

Some project activities do not necessarily have to be implemented in a linear sequence as planned but can and should be implemented in parallel.

Some of the key project activities and outputs are concatenated. For example, the rapid sector appraisal and value chain analysis needed to be conducted first so the information could be used to help design and implement the prevalence survey. On the other hand, the training did not have to wait until the end of the project. It could have and should have been started earlier in parallel with the research to ensure the project had adequate time to provide high quality training to the key stakeholders.

The involvement of community-based organizations and other civil society organizations is important to help researchers gain access to the study population.

Community-based organizations and civil society organizations that implement projects and provide other forms of assistance to communities are generally known and trusted by those communities. On the other hand, researchers are often not known and the reasons for conducting research are not well understood by communities. By collaborating with community-based organizations or civil society organizations, researchers can more easily access individuals or households in communities to collect data. Researchers involved with the qualitative studies collaborated with some civil society organizations that facilitated data collection. In hindsight, these researchers opined that a more strategic approach to identifying civil society organizations working in communities where the study population lives and works would have been beneficial.

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[83] As noted previously in the report, there is a concern that Madagascar, which is not on the US list of countries that produce goods by child labor or forced labor, could be placed on the list for garments if the research shows prevalence of forced labor in the supply chain. There is also concern that Madagascar could be removed from AGOA if forced labor is found in the sector.

The prevalence survey would have benefitted from more time and resources for cognitive testing.[84]

The prevalence survey researchers used cognitive testing to gain valuable information to improve the survey questionnaire. However, the questionnaire would have benefitted from more cognitive testing. The lesson learned is that to ensure that adequate cognitive testing is conducted, the prevalence survey budget requires a sufficient amount of resources in the budget and time to do the testing and questionnaire revision.

Plan for important national events such as general elections.

It is important for projects to identify important national events, such as general elections, that might interrupt implementation schedules and factor these events into planning tools such as annual work plans. General elections are particularly complex due to their political nature and the consequences. For example, the elections often result in changes of elected officials leading to new governments with new policies. The general election process including campaigning, elections, and the transition period often paralyzes decision-making until a new government is elected and installed. The E2A project activities in Argentina were delayed approximately four months due to general elections. Since the dates for important national events like general elections are known well in advance, projects might anticipate delays and build them into the workplan or focus on activities that are not affected by the elections.

4.2 PROMISING PRACTICES

R2A and E2A Promising Practices

Flexible Project Approach.

Projects like R2A and E2A require flexibility to make mid-course corrections based on changes in the operating environments. Both projects maintained sufficient flexibility to allow for constant adaptations and adjustments to political situations and changes requested by stakeholders and project partners at the global level as well as in Argentina and Madagascar. For example, the R2A project tried innovative approaches that in some cases worked and in other cases did not work. When a particular innovative approach did not work, the project adjusted and adapted the approach. This was the case with Delta 8.7 and the Alliance 8.7 pledge monitoring system.

On the other hand, the E2A project team demonstrated flexibility on numerous occasions during research activities to adjust and adapt its approaches. For example, rather than creating a national advisory committee as called for in the project document, E2A collaborated with the Executive Committee and involved them in the design of the research activities and the due diligence tools. Based on stakeholder interest in learning more about home-based garment workers, the project included this sub-population in the

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[84] Cognitive testing is a technique used to test and improve survey questions. During a cognitive interview survey questions are administered and participants are asked about the cognitive processes they go through in answering those questions to uncover problems with those questions and to make recommendations for improvements.

prevalence survey sample to determine forced labor prevalence rates. The project also conducted a home-based garment worker case study to better understand gender, migrant workers, and other key dimensions of forced labor as well as giving them a voice through the case study.

R2A Promising Practices

International Advisory Board.

IABs, consisting of academic institutions, international research specialists, and representatives of international organizations, serve as an important platform for research cooperation and dialogue on child labor and forced labor issues. The ILO established the IAB to review and comment on the various research projects, reports, and tools. The IAB served both the R2A and MAP16 projects by providing critical technical and strategic advice and guidance regarding child labor and forced labor statistics and research.

Collaboration with ILO departments and external organizations.

The project collaborated effectively with ILO departments and external partners. Internally, the project collaborated with the ILO Library on the child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking bibliography and evidence gap maps; with Alliance 8.7 on several key initiatives using research and information; with ITC-ILO on the pilot training course to build capacity in child labor and forced labor data analysis for policy design; and with ILO country offices on the country research agendas. Externally, the project collaborated with a range of key organizations including the IOM and its regional and country offices on migration, humanitarian crises, and human trafficking issues; IPA on the global conference to disseminate newly-awarded research; and the ILO-ACCEL Africa project on the ITC-ILO training course. The project also collaborated with a range of academic institutions, international research specialists, and representatives of international organizations through the IAB. The collaboration brought together different internal ILO departments and external organizations with different skills and perspectives that improved the quality of R2A research products.

The ILO and IOM staff loan arrangement.

Once the IOM decided that it would not be able to sign a contract with the ILO due to US government contract rules and requirements, the IOM and ILO negotiated an arrangement where a key ILO researcher was loaned to the IOM to work with the R2A project to provide input and guidance on migration issues as well as help the project link with IOM country offices. The arrangement allowed the IOM and ILO to establish and maintain an effective institutional relationship on issues relevant to migration, human trafficking, humanitarian crises, and forced labor.

The selection of Pathfinder Countries to develop the country research agendas. Pathfinder Countries commit to develop, adopt, and put into practice improved legislation, national action plans or policies on child labor, forced labor, modern slavery and/or human trafficking and to ratify or actively work towards the ratification or implementation of applicable international human rights standards, including international labor

standards.[85] By choosing Pathfinder Countries to develop the country research agendas, the project was able to leverage the countries' commitments to addressing child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through improved research and knowledge.

Building project interventions and products into existing ILO systems and procedures.

The project successfully built key products into ILO systems and procedures. These include the bibliography that has been incorporated into the ILO Library system and the training course/modules on child labor and forced labor data collection and research that ITC-ILO plans to host on its platform and offer to learners free of charge. The policy guidance tool, research agendas, meta-analysis study, evidence gap maps, and country situation briefs are available on the R2A platform. Once the new and improved ILO website is completed, the plan is to migrate these products over to the ILO website where they will be available to stakeholders.

E2A Promising Practices

The active participation of key national stakeholders in the development of methodologies and data collection instruments and due diligence tools.

In Argentina, the project consulted with its primary stakeholders during the design of the research activities including the methodology and data collection tools and the due diligence tools. The key stakeholders included STEySS, Executive Committee, PROTEX, and INTI. Active participation by these key stakeholders not only provided important input to the development of the research methodology and data collection tools and due diligence tools, but helped create both a deep understanding of the research activities and commitment to the findings and recommendations. UIA, a key private sector stakeholder, participated in the development of the due diligence tools by providing important input and advice for eventual implementation of the tools.

Conducting qualitative studies to ascertain critical information prior to the design and implementation of the forced labor prevalence surveys.

The project conducted the rapid sector appraisal and the value supply chain qualitative studies before designing and implementing the forced labor prevalence survey in Argentina and conducted the rapid sector appraisal before conducting the prevalence survey in Madagascar. The qualitative studies provided important information to help understand the garment sector in both countries. In addition, the qualitative studies served as formative research activities that provided highly valuable information about the garment sector supply chains, workforce characteristics, and potential labor related issues to the research teams responsible for designing the prevalence surveys.

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[85] https://www.alliance87.org/pathfinders

Discuss and adjust research findings with key stakeholders before making the research reports public.

Forced labor is a sensitive and complex topic in many countries given the social, cultural, and economic dimensions involved. In some African countries, for example, there is a link between forced labor and traditional slavery or between forced labor and compulsory labor used to build infrastructure like railroads. The economic implications of forced labor and the effect it could have on export markets also makes it a delicate topic. Given the sensitivity and complexity of forced labor in both Argentina and Madagascar, the project decided to present, discuss, and solicit feedback and advice from key stakeholders on the research findings before publishing the various research reports. This process enabled the project to better understand sensitivities and how the reports might be presented to different audiences and consumers of knowledge in the most palatable manner.

Breaking large research products into several smaller products facilitates targeting audiences with useful information.

The project conducted qualitative and quantitative research that culminated in large research reports.[86] Based on the premise that different audiences have different information needs and can better absorb information when targeted to those needs, E2A developed sets of sub-products such as infographics and short videos targeted to the different audiences. The audiences include elected policymakers, civil servants, corporate executives, activists, communities, and media. For example, in conducting the research on home-based workers, the project team video recorded interviews and discussions with home-based workers to capture their histories and stories in their own words. The video recordings were used to produce a range of short audio visual materials targeted to specific audiences. The topics include supply chain structure, home-based work dynamics, health and safety, overtime, and income.

Building on existing institutions and structures.

The original plan, based on the project document, was to create a national advisory committee. In Argentina, rather than create a new advisory committee, the project collaborated with and helped broaden and strengthen the already existing *Executive Committee for the Fight against Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims* in Argentina. Using this existing structure helped the project avoid duplication and increase the likelihood of sustaining key products and tools through an official government mandated committee.

Training of enumerators involving actual data collection situations.

The project research team and local research partners in both countries trained enumerators for the forced labor prevalence survey using real situations. The enumerators and researchers visited areas where garment sector workers either lived or frequented to

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[86] The project document refers to these large products as "mothership products".

practice administering the questionnaire. This allowed the enumerators to practice and confront problems and situations and learn how to resolve them before the actual survey work started. Another important aspect of the enumerator training was that key representatives from STEySS, Executive Committee, PROTEX, and INTI participated in parts of the training that conveyed their interest and importance of the survey, which motivated the enumerators.

Documentation of the research methodologies and findings.

To address the gap in forced labor research methodologies (both qualitative and quantitative) with a sector focus, the project decided to document research methodologies and findings in two different ways. First, the project plans to develop a set of white papers that are short, non-technical descriptions oriented to mid-level managers who do not have research training so they can use the information in their decision-making processes. The white papers will address topics like the rapid sector appraisal for the garment sector, the garment sector value chain analysis, trauma informed research, sampling, and awareness of forced labor prevalence. The second is extensive technical documentation of the development of the forced labor prevalence survey methodology and questionnaire. The documentation is intended to provide other researchers a clear and concise roadmap on the steps the project took to develop the methodology and questionnaire as well as the data analysis techniques.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation team's conclusions, based on the findings, are organized according to the evaluation questions under the evaluation's main categories: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact, efficiency, and sustainability.

5.1 RELEVANCE

- The R2A project design was relevant and effectively responded to the needs of its key stakeholders. The E2A project design was relevant and effectively responded to the needs and priorities of its stakeholders in Argentina but was less successful in these areas in Madagascar.

- The R2A project was well designed in the sense that the different outcomes and their outputs were interconnected and created effective synergies. The project's design was also flexible, which allowed it to adjust and adapt to meet the research needs and priorities of its key stakeholders.

- Overall, the E2A project was well designed. For example, the qualitative studies laid the groundwork and provided important information for the forced labor prevalence surveys in Argentina and Madagascar.

- The E2A project design was flexible and allowed project management to adapt to research needs and priorities based on the country context in Argentina. While the qualitative and quantitative research conducted in Madagascar provided valuable information about forced labor, it is not clear whether the stakeholders will embrace and use this knowledge given concerns about the research implications for the country's international garment markets. Thus, the project design for Madagascar may not have been the most appropriate.

- The E2A project design, specifically its qualitative and quantitative research and engagement strategies, can be replicated in other countries if adjusted for certain factors. The factors include interest and willingness of a country to understand and address forced labor, institutional capacity and choosing the right strategy for that country, and the capacity of local research organizations that determine the amount of resources required to train and supervise them.

- The R2A project was not specifically designed to incorporate DEI&A principles but addressed them to a certain extent during implementation (e.g. framing country research agenda questions and the selection of research grant recipients). The E2A project design (e.g. project document) refers to DEI&A principles and incorporates these principles into research methodologies and data collection and analysis.

5.2 COHERENCE

- The R2A project collaborated effectively with organizations at both the global level and with the country research agenda countries.

- The E2A project was effective at collaborating with key stakeholders in Argentina, especially government and academic institutions. While the project collaborated with the garment sector, the collaboration could have been deepened. Collaboration with trade unions could also have been strengthened.

- The E2A project was less effective at collaboration with stakeholders in Madagascar where the project was unable to engage and enter into dialogue with government, garment sector, and worker organizations. It did collaborate effectively with other ILO projects focused on the garment sector such as Better Work.

5.3 EFFECTIVENESS

- The R2A project made progress towards achieving its overall objective of *accelerating the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support of efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor around the world*.

- The R2A project met or exceeded most of its outcome indicator targets and all of its output targets. However, it was difficult for the evaluation team to determine the achievement of Outcomes 1 and 3 because the indicators were inadequate to make a full assessment of outcome achievement.

- The evaluation team was unable to assess the achievement of the E2A outcome indicators at the time of the evaluation because the project had not collected data for the outcome indicators (e.g. ex-post measures to assess improvements in perceptions) due to delays linked to the project's switch from Mauritius.

- Under Outcome 1, the E2A project achieved three of the five outputs in Argentina (e.g. the rapid sector appraisal, value chain analysis, and the prevalence survey). It was in the process of completing the home-based worker case study and planning for the dissemination of the research results. In Madagascar, the E2A project is behind schedule in achieving its Outcome 1 outputs due largely to a late start and difficulty engaging key stakeholders. The project achieved one of its three outputs (e.g. the rapid sector appraisal).

- Under Outcome 2, the E2A project completed two of the three outputs (e.g. stakeholder engagement strategy and stakeholder engagement/ due diligence tools) in Argentina and one of its three outputs in Madagascar (e.g. stakeholder engagement strategy). E2A is waiting until the end of the project to conduct capacity building training and to disseminate research findings at the global level.

5.4 IMPACT

- The evaluation team was not able to find evidence that the knowledge generated by the R2A and E2A projects informed stakeholders' child labor and forced labor policies, programs, and other strategies and activities. Changes in policies and programs take time and it is too early to say whether the knowledge led or will lead to changes.

- There appears to be a strong interest among R2A stakeholders and E2A stakeholders in Argentina to explore ways that the knowledge can be applied to develop or improve policies and programs. In Madagascar, given the sensitivity of forced labor and the perception that its existence might damage international export markets and trade for its garment sector, there appears to be less interest in using the knowledge.

5.5 EFFICIENCY

- The R2A and E2A projects operated in an efficient manner. they produced outputs with the planned amount of human and financial resources. Both projects achieved efficiency through lean and efficient staff structures.

- R2A research products and tools are also highly efficient and would be worth considering in future projects. These include the meta-analysis study, bibliography, evidence gap maps, and the policy guidance tool. The child labor and forced labor data analysis training should also be considered both efficient and sustainable since the ITC-ILO will host the course free of charge.

- The qualitative research conducted by the E2A project is highly cost effective. These studies provided important information on forced labor and helped lay the groundwork for the prevalence surveys in Argentina and Madagascar.

- While prevalence surveys are more expensive than qualitative studies, the E2A project conducted them in a cost-effective manner by using project and partner researchers coupled with competent local researchers. This was especially true in Argentina. In Madagascar, the prevalence survey cost more because the project had to spend time and resources to train and supervise a local research organization that lacked experience.

- The COVID-19 pandemic was the most important factor that affected efficiency in the R2A and E2A projects. The pandemic caused the project to postpone and reschedule activities and shift training and policy dialogue activities to virtual formats that caused some delays.

- Other important factors that affected R2A efficiency included the delay and eventual decision of IOM and UNU not to sign contracts and the UNU decision to take down the Delta 8.7 platform. The main factors that caused delays and affected E2A efficiency were the decision to replace Mauritius with Madagascar and general elections in Argentina.

5.6 SUSTAINABILITY

▪ Under R2A project Outcomes 1 and 2, there are several products that show signs of sustainability. The bibliography has been incorporated into the ILO Library system but will need to be updated in the future. In the short to medium term the R2A platform, policy guidance tool, research agendas, meta-analysis study, and evidence gap maps appear to be sustainable but will eventually need to be updated to remain relevant. Under Outcome 3, the online training course hosted by the ITC-ILO is sustainable. However, the research grant program under Outcome 4, while important, is not sustainable because it will require donors to fund the research grants.

▪ Under E2A project Outcome 1, the project produced important qualitative and quantitative research in Argentina and Madagascar on forced labor. While the research exists and is or will be available to policy makers, practitioners, and the public, it is not clear to what extent it will be used. The use of the research is key to sustainability.

▪ Under E2A project Outcome 2, it was difficult to assess sustainability since many of the products/outputs were not completed at the time of this evaluation. In general, there appears to be interest in Argentina to engage in dialogue about the research findings. However, stakeholders expect the ILO to take the lead in convening such discussions. In Madagascar, as noted above, key stakeholders appear to be reluctant to engage in dialogue about the research findings on forced labor largely out of fear for what the findings might mean for its garment export markets.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ILO AND US DOL

Develop and use indicators that measure how research findings are used to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

The M&E plans of projects that aim to generate knowledge through research and have it used by policymakers and practitioners should include effect-level indicators that measure if and how knowledge is used to inform child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking policies and programs. The evaluation team understands that developing or improving policies can take time; sometimes longer than the life of a typical project. Nevertheless, to effectively address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, countries must act on the knowledge generated from rigorous research. Thus, the M&E plans might include a mix of direct and proxy indicators to assess the use or the likelihood of the use of knowledge.[87] These might include actual changes to policies and programs and perceptions whether knowledge will lead to changes in policies and programs (using perception scales or surveys). Some projects have successfully used stories as part of a

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[87] The E2A midterm evaluation noted that "the results framework strongly focuses on the delivery of research, while dissemination is only marginally addressed through results-based indicators. Also, research uptake (institutionalization of research and training) indicator seems to be discussed insufficiently by performance indicators."

most significant change approach while others have used a psychosocial theory of behavior change.[88],[89] Obviously, there would need to be a strong engagement and dialogue strategy in place, as part of the theory of change, to promote the use of the knowledge in policies and programs.

Design forced labor research projects, including their main strategies, based on the context of the implementation country.

To be effective, project designs should take into consideration key contextual factors in the implementation country. These might include interest and willingness to conduct the proposed research, capacity to act on the research findings, perceptions and concerns about negative research findings, level of understanding and awareness about forced labor, and capacity of local research firms or organizations. While the actual forced labor research activities (i.e. rapid appraisals, prevalence surveys) may not vary considerably from country to country, the preparation and planning should be shaped by the contextual factors. For example, in countries where stakeholders do not fully understand forced labor and its risks and view any negative research findings as an economic threat or social criticism, upfront time should be taken to discuss these concerns and adjust the project design/strategies that reflects stakeholder concerns and defines an acceptable path forward.

Hire national project coordinators to lead the engagement and dialogue around research findings (knowledge).

It is important to have a project representative (i.e. national project coordinator) in the implementation country to engage stakeholders. The engagement process might include dialogue around the purpose of the research, research methodologies, how the research findings could be used, and risks of forced labor and implications for national and international markets. The project representative would serve as the overall main point of contact between the project and stakeholders. The representative would help address stakeholder questions and concerns about the research activities and work with stakeholders to explore ways for using the research findings (knowledge) to improve policies and programs that address forced labor. It is important that the project coordinator speak the language of the stakeholders and understand the country's social, cultural, and economic context.

Ensure adequate staffing to ensure effective implementation of activities and technical support to project partners.

The project management and technical staffing should be adequate to ensure effective implementation of planned activities. One way to achieve this would be to use a time and effort tool to estimate the level of effort (usually expressed in person days) to produce

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[88] https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/approaches/most-significant-change

[89] Selecting, Measuring, Monitoring, and Evaluating Behavior Change Indicators: Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility; https://behavior.rare.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BC-in-Practice-Part-III.pdf

outputs. The level of effort can then be converted into management and technical staffing needs. While the R2A and E2A projects consisted of lean and efficient staffing structures, both projects would have benefitted from additional staff. The R2A project could have used at least one additional person to backstop some of the research tools and country research agendas to take pressure off of the project team. The E2A project eventually added a M&E and engagement officer that took some of the management pressure off of the project director and facilitated engagement and dialogue with stakeholders in Argentina. The project would have benefitted from a national project coordinator or similar position in Madagascar.

Include a strong research communication/advocacy strategy.

Projects that aim to increase the use of knowledge to develop or improve child labor and forced labor policies and programs should have a well-defined communication/advocacy strategy and adequate time to implement the strategy. The communication element of the strategy is especially important because it defines the target audience and how to effectively communicate messages to the audience. The advocacy element is also important to help ensure uptake of the research/knowledge. Producing research products and tools and conducting robust research are highly relevant and important but these products, tools, and knowledge must be acted on in order to eliminate child labor and forced labor. The R2A and E2A projects aimed to increase the use of research to inform policies and programs.[90] While both projects achieved important results on the production of research and research tools, the evaluation team could not find evidence that the research and research tools were actually used to develop or improve policies and programs.[91]

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR US DOL

Provide specific and detailed instruction in the FOAs on the expectation that USDOL funded projects incorporate DEI&A principles into the project designs/strategies.

USDOL expects DEI&A principles to be incorporated into project designs but only within the past year has it included DEI&A language in some of the FOA guidelines.[92] USDOL did not provide specific instruction to the ILO to include DEI&A principles in the design of the R2A and E2A projects. Beginning in 2023, USDOL started to include reference to DEI&A principles in some of the FOA guidelines but these references are not specific or detailed. For example, a 2023 FOA for a project to address child labor and forced labor in domestic work in Mexico only had one reference to DEI&A: "In addition, diversity, inclusion, equity, and accessibility should be at the core of all strategies." To ensure that DEI&A principles

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[90] The R2A project focused on child labor and forced labor while the E2A project focused on forced labor.

[91] As noted earlier in the report, the evaluation team understands that changes to policies takes time; often more than the life of a typical project. The evaluation team also acknowledges that the decision to wait until the very end of the project to publish and disseminate research findings in Argentina meant the project did not have adequate time to fully implement its engagement and dialogue strategy. The project did not have an effective uptake strategy in place in Madagascar due to issues discussed in the report about stakeholder concerns about the economic implications of forced labor research findings.

[92] The evaluation found several 2023 ILAB FOAs that did not have any mention of DEI&A principles.

are built into project designs in relevant and meaningful ways, applicants require specific and detailed instruction. For example, FOA guidelines for research oriented projects like R2A and E2A might include specific instruction on applying DEI&A principles to study populations, data collection methods and instruments, enumerators, and disaggregation techniques.

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ILO

Vet potential subcontractors to determine if they are able and willing to adhere to US government contracting rules.

The R2A project planned to provide sub-contracts to IOM and UNU to support implementation. In the process of reviewing US government contracting rules and requirements, both organizations decided that, as independent UN agencies, they could not adhere to some of the rules and requirements and, thus, decided not to accept the sub-contracts. The review of the contracting rules, internal discussions, and the final decision not to accept the sub-contracts took more than one year, which delayed activities and forced the project to develop alternative staffing and collaboration arrangements. For future USDOL funded projects where the ILO anticipates using sub-contractors, it would be important to discuss the sub-contracting arrangements including US government contracting rules and regulations to determine whether the potential subcontractors are able and willing to accept the sub-contracts.

When feasible, configure project teams with qualified researchers to take the lead on research activities, supported by local researchers, instead of hiring expensive research firms.

The E2A project team consisted of representatives from the ILO, NORC, and Verité. The ILO provided the project director, M&E specialist, and engagement specialist, both of whom have extensive research experience. NORC provided the principal investigator and supporting researchers with extensive experience conducting surveys. Verité provided researchers with extensive experience conducting qualitative research on forced labor and human trafficking. In Argentina, rather than contracting an expensive research firm as was originally envisioned in the project document and budget, the project team took the lead to conduct the rapid sector appraisal, value chain analysis, prevalence survey, and home-based worker case study. The team provided technical support and technical guidance to qualified local researchers that, in turn, increased their capacity to conduct similar qualitative and quantitative research in the future. The ILO should consider this approach in similar projects in the future because it is not only cost-effective but builds local capacity that contributes to sustainability.

Table 17: Recommendations and Supporting Evidence

Recommendation	Evidence	Report Section

1. Develop and use indicators that measure how research findings are used to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.	R2A did not have indicators to measure use of research by policymakers and practitioners.	Section 3.3.1
	E2A will attempt to measure the use of research by using pre- and post-tests to assess perceptions about use of research but does not have indicators to measure actual use.	Section 4.1
	Projects that aim to achieve knowledge and behavior changes require indicators to measure changes in knowledge and behaviors.	
2. Design forced labor research projects, including their main strategies, based on the context of the implementation country.	For E2A, Madagascar required an approach tailored to address concerns of stakeholders that forced labor research could harm garment sector exports.	Section 3.1.1 Section 3.3.2 Section 4.1
3. Hire national project coordinators with a budget to lead the implementation of national research agendas (R2A) and the engagement and dialogue around research findings (E2A).	For R2A, it would have been beneficial to have had national project coordinators in countries to help implement the national research agendas.	Section 4.1 Section 3.3.1 Section 4.1
	For E2A, the national project coordinator (M&E and engagement specialist) facilitated the engagement process in Argentina. Lack of a national project coordinator impeded stakeholder engagement in Madagascar.	
4. Ensure adequate staffing to ensure effective implementation of activities and technical support to project partners.	At times R2A project staff were stretched thinly.	Section 3.3.2
	Ambitious projects like R2A require adequate staffing to achieve outcomes and outputs.	Section 4.1
5. Include a strong research communication/ advocacy strategy.	For R2A and E2A, no evidence of policymakers and practitioners using research findings/knowledge.	Section 3.3.1
	R2A lacked uptake strategies for its key products (i.e. evidence gap maps, research agendas, research produced under the research grant program, etc).	Section 3.1.1

	E2A did not have an effective uptake strategy for Madagascar.	Section 3.1.1 Section 3.3.2 Section 4.1
6. Provide specific and detailed instruction in the FOAs on the expectation that USDOL funded projects incorporate DEI&A principles into the project designs/strategies.	The R2A and E2A FOA guidelines did not provide mention of DEI&A principles and USDOL expectations that they be built into the project designs.	Section 3.1.3
7. Vet potential subcontractors to determine if they are able and willing to adhere to US government contracting rules.	Once the R2A started, the ILO spent more than one year in contract negotiations with the IOM and UNU that eventually decided not to accept the sub-contracts due to US government contracting rules.	Section 1.2.1
		Section 3.3.2
		Section 4.1
8. When feasible, configure project teams with qualified researchers to take the lead on research activities, supported by local researchers, instead of hiring expensive research firms.	E2A research was efficient and cost-effective because the project team led research activities supported by qualified researchers in Argentina.	Section 3.5.1
		Section 4.2

ANNEXES

ANNEX A. LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

1. R2A Funding Opportunity Announcement and Guidelines

2. E2A Funding Opportunity Announcement and Guidelines

3. R2A Technical Proposal: From Research to Practice: Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labor and Forced Labor

4. E2A Technical Proposal: Evidence to Action: Increasing the Impact of Research to Mobilize Efforts against Forced Labor in the Garment Sectors of Mauritius and Argentina

5. R2A Award Notice: Grant Number IL-32462-18-75-K

6. E2A Award Notice: Grant Number IL-34208-19-75-K

7. ILAB Management Procedures and Guidelines 2017, 2029, 2021

8. R2A Award Modifications (#1 to #4)

9. E2A Award Modifications (#1 to #4)

10. R2A Project Document and Budget: From Research to Action: Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labor and Forced Labor

11. E2A Project Document and Budget: Evidence to Action: Increasing the Impact of Research to Mobilize Efforts against Forced Labour in Mauritius and Argentina

12. R2A Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

13. E2A Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

14. R2A Technical Progress Reports and Annexes (11 Reports: October 2018 to October 2023)

15. E2A Technical Progress Reports and Annexes (8 Reports: April 2020 to October 2023)

16. Internal mid-term evaluation ILO's project titled "Evidence to Action (EvA): Increasing the Impact of Research to Mobilize Efforts against Forced Labour in Mauritius and Argentina." November 2022 – January 2023

17. Federal Financial Reports (2017 to 2023)

18. Entrelazados: Oportunidades y desafíos para la afirmación de principios y derechos fundamentales en el trabajo en la cadena de valor de la industria de confección en Argentina (Value Chain Analysis Report 2023)

19. Desk Research Report - Evidence to Action (Eva) Project: The Garment and Apparel Sector in Argentina, Verité

20. Analysis of Consultations with Stakeholders in the Argentina Garment Sector Rapid Sector Appraisal (RSA), December 2021

21. En primera persona: Factores e indicadores de vulnerabilidad relacionados con experiencias de vida y trabajo en el sector argentino de la confección

22. E2A due diligence tools: Herramientas de diligencia debida para el sector de la confección en Argentina

23. Estudio de caso del ecosistema de datos en Argentina: Mapeo de los datos y sistemas de información disponibles sobre la trata de personas y delitos conexos

ANNEX B. EVALUATION ITINERARY

RESEARCH TO ACTION STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Country	Name	Organization	Interview date	Interview time	Gender
USA	██████████	USDOL ILAB	Friday 01/24	12.00 PM EST	Male
USA	██████████	USDOL ILAB	Friday 01/23	02:00 PM EST	Female
USA	██████████	USDOL ILAB	Friday 01/23	02:00 PM EST	Female
USA	██ ██████ ██	USDOL ILAB	Friday 01/23	02:00 PM EST	Male
USA	██████████	USDOL ILAB	Thursday 02/01	04:00 PM EST	Female
Switzerland	██████████	ILO	Friday 02/05	05:00 PM EST	Female
Switzerland	███████ ██████	ILO	Thursday 02/01	10:00 AM EST	Male
Spain	██████████	ILO	Wednesday 02/07	08:00 AM GMT-6	Male
India	██████████	███████ ██████, Jindal School Of Government and Public Policy, Jindal Global University	Friday 02/09	11:00 AM GMT-6	Female

USA	███████████	███████, Human Trafficking Research Initiative (HTRI), Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)	Friday 02/09	04:00 PM GMT-6	Female
Switzerland	██████ ██████	██████████ ████ ██████, Information Management Systems (ILO Library)	Tuesday 02/13	08:00 AM GMT-6	Female
UK	█████ ██████████	████████, Department of Global Health and Development, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Tuesday 02/13	01:00 PM GMT-6	Female
Malawi	████████ ███████	ILO	Wednesday 02/14	07:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Malawi	██████ ███████████	National Statistical Office	Wednesday 02/14	11:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Uganda	██████████	██████ ████████████, Industrial Relations & Productivity, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda			Male

Nigeria	████████ ██████████	National Statistical Office	Thursday 02/15	09:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Ghana	████████ ████████ ██████████	National Statistical Office	Friday 02/16	07:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Switzerland	██████ ██████████ ██████	██████████ ████████████ ██████ ████████, Information Management Systems (ILO Library)	Friday 02/16	08:00 AM GMT-6	Female
UK	████████ ██████████	████████████, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sheffield	Tuesday 02/20	08:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Myanmar	████████████████	████████████, Gender Violence and Health centre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)	Wednesday 02/21	07:00 PM GMT-6	Female
Switzerland	████████ ██████████	██████ ████████, Graduate School of Public Administration, Lausanne University	Friday 02/23	07:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Nigeria	██████████████ ██████████	National Statistical Office	Friday 03/01	11:00 AM GMT-6	Female

USA	███████████	████████, Department of Economics, Dartmouth College	Tuesday 03/05	09:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Uganda	███████ ███████	███████ ██████████ Labour Inspection	Monday 03/11	07:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Chile	██████████ ██████	ILO	Monday 03/11	11:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Switzerland	██████████	IOM	Thursday 03/14	08:00 AM GMT-6	Female
USA	██████████	██████████ ██████ ██████████ ████████, Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Stanford University	Friday 03/22	01:00 PM GMT-6	Female

EVIDENCE TO ACTION STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Country	Name	Organization	Interview date	Interview time	Gender
USA	██████████	USDOL ILAB	Friday 01/24	12.00 PM EST	Male
Argentina	██████████ ██████	ILO	Wednesday, 02/07	03:00 PM EST	Male

Argentina	███████	ILO	Thursday, 02/08	01:00 PM EST	Male
Argentina	███████ ██████	Executive Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and Exploitation and for the Protection and Assistance of its Victims.	Tuesday, 02/27	07:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Argentina	███████ ██████	███████ ████ ████ Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani	Tuesday, 02/27	10:00 AM GMT-6	Male
USA	███████	Verité	Tuesday, 02/27	1:00 PM GMT-6	Female
Argentina	███████	UNTREF	Thursday, 02/29	07:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Switzerland	██████	ILO	Thursday, 02/29	08:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Argentina	█████ █ █████	Ministerio Público Fiscal	Friday, 03/01	07:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Argentina	██████ █████	UIA - Argentinean Industrial Union	Friday, 03/01	09:00 AM GMT-6	Female

Argentina	██████████	UIA - Argentinean Industrial Union	Friday, 03/01	09:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Argentina	██████████	UIA - Argentinean Industrial Union	Friday, 03/01	09:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Argentina	███████ ███████ ███████	Universidad Nacional de San Martin, Instituto de altos estudios sociales (IDAES)	Friday, 03/01	11:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Bangladesh	██████████	Sheva Consultants Ltd	Monday, 03/04	08:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Argentina	████ ████████	ILO	Thursday 03/07	07:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Argentina	██████████	ILO	Friday 03/08	07:00 AM GMT-6	Male
USA	██████████	NORC	Friday 03/08	09:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Argentina	██████████	INTI - National Institute of Industrial Technology	Friday 03/08	11:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Argentina	██████████	INTI - National Institute of	Friday 03/08	11:00 AM GMT-6	Male

		Industrial Technology			
Argentina	███ ███	INTI - National Institute of Industrial Technology	Friday 03/08	11:00 AM GMT-6	Female
USA	████	Verité	Friday 03/08	01:00 PM GMT-6	Male
USA	██	Verité	Friday 03/08	12:00 PM GMT-6	Female
USA	████ ██	NORC	Tuesday 03/12	08:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Argentina	███	Universidad Nacional de Córdoba	Tuesday 03/12	01:00 PM GMT-6	Male
USA	███	NORC	Wednesday 03/13	10:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Switzerland	██ ███	ILO	Friday 03/15	07:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Madagascar	█ ████ █ ████	Socio-Economic Consultant	Tuesday 03/19	05:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Switzerland	███ ██	ILO	Tuesday 03/19	11:00 AM GMT-6	Male

Argentina	■■■■■■	Executive Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and Exploitation and for the Protection and Assistance of its Victims.	Wednesday 03/20	08:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Switzerland	■■■■■ ■■	ILO	Thursday 03/21	09:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Qatar	■■■■	ILO	Friday 03/22	09:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Madagascar	■■■■■	ILO	Friday 03/22	10:00 AM GMT-6	Male
Madagascar	■■■■ ■■	ILO	Tuesday 04/09	07:00 AM GMT-6	Female
Argentina	■■■	C.G.T.R.A.	Tuesday 04/09	12:00 PM GMT-6	Female

ANNEX C. TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) is an office within the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). ILAB's mission is to promote a fair global playing field for workers in the United States and around the world by enforcing trade commitments, strengthening labor standards, and combating international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

OCFT works to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking around the world through international research, policy engagement, technical cooperation, and awareness-raising. Since OCFT's technical cooperation program began in 1995, the U.S. Congress has appropriated funds annually to USDOL for efforts to combat exploitive child labor internationally. This funding has been used to support technical cooperation projects in more than 90 countries around the world. Technical cooperation projects funded by USDOL support sustained efforts that address child labor and forced labor's underlying causes, including poverty and lack of access to education.

This evaluation approach will be in accordance with DOL's Evaluation Policy[93]. OCFT is committed to using the most rigorous methods applicable for this qualitative performance evaluation and to learning from the evaluation results. The evaluation will be conducted by an independent third party and in an ethical manner and safeguard the dignity, rights, safety and privacy of participants. The quality standards underlying this evaluation are: Relevance, Coherence (to the extent possible), Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact (to the extent possible), and Sustainability.[94] In conducting this evaluation, the evaluator will strive to uphold the American Evaluation Association Guiding Principles for Evaluators.[95] OCFT will make the evaluation report available and accessible on its website.

PROJECT CONTEXT

At the global level, a proliferation of international data and research on child labor and forced labor over the past two decades have not always translated into more effective policies and programs to combat them. Policymakers cannot always readily access key information that can drive decision-making. Even those who can may lack awareness of existing research tools, including survey methodologies and statistical resolutions. Infrequent dialogue between the scientific community and policymakers and practitioners further hinders progress. Meanwhile, more highly trained researchers from a broader

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[93]For more information on DOL's Evaluation Policy, please visit:
https://www.dol.gov/asp/evaluation/evaluationpolicy.htm

[94] From Better Criteria for Better Evaluation: Revised Evaluation Criteria Definitions and Principles for Use by the Organization for Economic Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) Network on Development Evaluation. DOL determined these criteria are in accordance with the OMB Guidance M-20-12. For more information, please visit: https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/revised-evaluation-criteria-dec-2019.pdf

[95] For more information on the American Evaluation Association's Guiding Principles, please visit:
https://www.eval.org/p/cm/ld/fid=51

range of disciplines are needed to conduct timely, policy-relevant research that can close the evidence gap and capture the full complexity of child labor and forced labor worldwide.

The 2021 *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* (ILO, IOM, Walkfree) provide broad information about the scale and distribution of forced labor and forced marriage. But they also highlight the need for targeted, sector-specific, and country-specific data that can inform policy design and action to combat forced labor. To date, high-quality research on forced labor has been hindered by significant practical and methodological challenges, from sampling challenges with hard-to-reach populations, challenges of underreporting, and definitional differences. Moreover, research on forced labor can be expensive and requires a strong on-the-ground presence. Additionally, research on sensitive topics concerning highly vulnerable populations requires robust ethical considerations and protocols. As a result, existing research on forced labor tends to be sparse and fragmented, making it difficult to compile and compare. Research and data have thus often played a limited role in informing the design of effective interventions to prevent and address forced labor and other forms of modern slavery.

PROJECT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

USDOL's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Trafficking (OCFT) funded two projects to address the need to translate research into effective policies. The Research to Action (R2A) project focuses at the global level while the Evidence to Action (E2A) project focuses on the country level, specifically in Argentina and Madagascar. Both projects are implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The R2A project applies rigorous research methods in an effort to accelerate global action against child labor and forced labor. The project seeks to help policymakers and practitioners access relevant research and evaluation tools, identify key knowledge gaps, and facilitate the development of a global research agenda to guide new policy-relevant research. To that end, the project also seeks to broaden and diversify the researcher pool, increasing both the number and capacity of researchers working to shed light on abusive labor practices.

The project tackles the accessibility challenge by collecting research, tools, and data and making them more readily available to policymakers and practitioners, including through a searchable database on child labor and forced labor. To address knowledge gaps, the project brings together policymakers, donors and researchers to develop a global research agenda and country-level research priorities. R2A also aims to grow and diversify the pool of researchers studying child labor and forced labor issues by providing research grants and expanding access to existing research awards. Furthermore, the project improves access to and quality of training on how to conduct research on child labor and forced labor issues.

The E2A project aims to promote increased use of forced labor research in policy and programmatic decision-making to help eliminate forced labor around the world. The project intends to achieve this by increasing knowledge through robust research on forced labor in the textile and garment sector and engaging decision makers and stakeholders to use this knowledge to take actions against forced labor. This project responds to the need to develop robust and replicable approaches to collecting and analyzing data on forced labor, as the basis for building evidence-based interventions. Building on the International Conference of Labor Statisticians' *Guidelines Concerning the Measurement of Forced Labor*, the project provides significant new information regarding the prevalence and

causes of forced labor within the garment and associated textile sectors of Argentina and Madagascar.

E2A also seeks to build the capacity of national research institutions, government, and civil society organizations to undertake and use research to prevent, identify, and combat forced labor; provide globally relevant examples and assessment of tools for the investigation of forced labor; and catalyze a broad group of stakeholders to act on the research findings, making the link from data to policy.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF EVALUATION

The purpose of final performance evaluation covered under this contract includes, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Assessing if the R2A and E2A projects have achieved their objectives and outcomes, identifying the challenges encountered in doing so, and analyzing the driving factors for these challenges;

- Assessing the intended and unintended effects of both projects;

- Assessing lessons learned and emerging practices from both projects (e.g., strategies and models of intervention) and experiences in implementation that can be applied in current or future projects in the focus country(ies) and in projects designed under similar conditions or target sectors; and

- Assessing which R2A and E2A outcomes or outputs can be deemed sustainable.

In addition, this evaluation will:

Objectively rate the level of achievement of each of the major outcomes for the R2A and E2A projects on a four-point scale (low, moderate, above-moderate, and high).

The final evaluation will focus on the global level for the R2A project and on Argentina and Madagascar for the E2A project.

INTENDED USERS

The evaluation will provide OCFT, the grantee, other project stakeholders, and stakeholders working to combat child labor more broadly, an assessment of the project's performance, its effects on project participants, and an understanding of the factors driving the project results. The evaluation results, conclusions and recommendations will serve to inform any project adjustments that may need to be made, and to inform stakeholders in the design and implementation of subsequent phases or future child labor elimination projects as appropriate. The evaluation report will be published on the USDOL website, so the report should be written as a standalone document, providing the necessary background information for readers who are unfamiliar with the details of the project.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Relevance

1. Do the R2A and E2A project designs (outcomes, outputs, and activities) respond to the needs and priorities of the stakeholders at the global and country levels?

2. To what extent can the E2A project's approach to research and the dissemination of research findings be replicated in other countries?

3. Were the R2A and E2A projects designed to adequately incorporate DEI&A principles that respond to the needs of vulnerable populations?

Coherence

4. To what extent did the R2A and E2A projects establish linkages and coordinate with other international and national organizations to address child labor and forced labor? How could the project have improved coordination and collaboration with these organizations?

Effectiveness

5. To what extent did the R2A and E2A projects achieve their outcomes and outputs?

6. What were the key internal or external factors that limited or facilitated the achievement or progress toward achieving the outcomes and outputs?

Impact.

7. To what extent has the knowledge generated by the R2A and E2A projects informed stakeholders' policies, programs, and other strategies and activities?

Efficiency

8. How efficient have the R2A and E2A projects been? Are there certain types of activities that are more efficient than others?

9. What factors affected the efficiency of the R2A and E2A projects (e.g. delays, changes in host governments, turnover of project staff, COVID-19) and how did the projects respond to these factors?

Sustainability

10. Which of the R2A and E2A project outcomes are most likely to be sustained and transferred to communities or relevant institutions when the project ends?

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY AND TIMEFRAME

The evaluation methodology will consist of the following activities and approaches:

A. APPROACH

The evaluation approach will be qualitative and participatory in nature, and use project documents including CMEP data to provide quantitative information. Qualitative information will be obtained through the review of key documents and key informant interviews. The evaluation team will conduct key informant interviews with staff of both R2A and E2A projects as well as key ILO and USDOL representatives. In addition, the team will conduct remote interviews with key stakeholders in Argentina and Madagascar.

The information ascertained from CMEP data analysis, document reviews, and key informant interviews will be triangulated and used to provide relevant and accurate responses to the evaluation questions. In addition, the participatory nature of the evaluation will contribute to the sense of ownership among stakeholders and project participants.

The evaluation approach will be independent in terms of the membership of the evaluation team. Project staff and implementing partners will generally only be present in the remote interview with stakeholders, communities, and beneficiaries to provide introductions. The

following additional principles will be applied during the evaluation process:

1. Methods of data collection and stakeholder perspectives will be triangulated for as many as possible of the evaluation questions.

2. Gender and cultural sensitivity will be integrated in the evaluation approach.

3. Consultations will incorporate a degree of flexibility to maintain a sense of ownership of the stakeholders and beneficiaries, allowing additional questions to be posed that are not included in the TOR, whilst ensuring that key information requirements are met.

4. As far as possible, a consistent approach will be followed in each interview, with adjustments made for the different actors involved, activities conducted, and the progress of implementation in each of the target countries.

B. EVALUATION TEAM

The evaluation team will consist of:

1. Evaluation Manager

2. Lead Evaluator

3. Assistant National Evaluator for Madagascar.

Evaluation Manager. The evaluation manager will serve as the primary contact between USDOL and the contractor and have full authority to act for the contractor on matters relating to daily operation of the evaluation. She will have primary responsibility for ensuring that all tasks under this contract are of the highest quality and are completed on time and within budgeted amounts. The evaluation manager will supervise the evaluation team and manage the workflow among the evaluation team as well as scheduling debriefings and presentations such as the remote stakeholder workshop to validate preliminary findings.

Lead Evaluator. The lead evaluator will be responsible for developing the methodology in consultation with USDOL and the ILO, assigning the tasks of the assistant evaluator, conducting remote interviews (global and Argentina) and facilitating other data collection processes, analysis of the data, presenting feedback on the initial results of the evaluation at the stakeholder meeting, and preparing the evaluation report.

Assistant Evaluator. The assistant evaluator will be responsible for conducting remote key informant interviews in Madagascar and preparing summary analyses organized by evaluation questions. The assistant evaluator will also be available to review and comment on draft sections of the evaluation report pertaining to Madagascar.

C. DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

1. Document Review

- Pre-field visit preparation includes extensive review of relevant documents.

- During fieldwork, documentation will be verified and additional documents may be collected.

- The evaluator shall also review key CMEP outcome and OCFT Standard Output indicators with the grantee. This will include reviewing the indicator definitions in the CMEP's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) and the reported values in the Technical Progress Report (TPR) Annex A to ensure the reporting is accurate and complete.

- Documents may include:

  o CMEP documents and data reported in Annex A of the TPR,

  o Baseline and endline survey reports or pre-situational analyses,

  o Project document and revisions,

  o Project budget and revisions,

  o Financial Reports (FFRs)

  o Cooperative Agreement and project modifications,

  o Technical Progress and Status Reports,

  o Project Results Frameworks and Monitoring Plans,

  o Original work plan and most current revised work plan,

  o Correspondence related to Technical Progress Reports,

  o Management Procedures and Guidelines,

  o Research or other reports undertaken (KAP studies, etc.), and,

  o Project files (including school records) as appropriate.

2. Question Matrix

Before beginning fieldwork, the evaluator will create a question matrix, which outlines the source of data from where the evaluator plans to collect information for each TOR question. This will help the evaluators make decisions as to how they are going to allocate their time. It will also help the evaluators to ensure that they are exploring all possible avenues for data triangulation and to clearly note where their evaluation results are coming from. The Contractor will share the question matrix with USDOL.

3. Interviews with stakeholders

Informational interviews will be held with as many project stakeholders as possible. The evaluation team will solicit the opinions of the key stakeholders identified by the project regarding the project's accomplishments, program design, sustainability, and the working relationship between project staff and their partners, where appropriate.

Depending on the circumstances, these meetings will be one-on-one or group interviews. Technically, stakeholders are all those who have an interest in a project, such as implementers, partners, direct and indirect participants, community leaders, donors, and government officials. Thus, it is anticipated that meetings will be held with:

- OCFT staff responsible for this evaluation and project prior to the commencement of the field work

- Headquarters, Country Director, Project Managers, and Field Staff of Grantee and Partner Organizations

- Government Ministry Officials and Local Government Officials who have been involved in or are knowledgeable about the project

- Community leaders, members, and volunteers

- School teachers, assistants, school directors, education personnel

- Project participants (children withdrawn and prevented and their parents)

- International NGOs and multilateral agencies working in the area
- Other child protection and/or education organizations, committees and experts in the area
- U.S. Embassy staff members

4. DATA COLLECTION AND FIELDWORK

As noted previously, data collection will consist of the review of key documents and key informant interviews. The lead evaluator will conduct document reviews as well as remote interviews with R2A project staff based in Geneva and key ILO and USDOL representatives. He will also conduct remote interviews with key stakeholders in Argentina. The assistant evaluator will conduct remote interviews with key stakeholders in Madagascar.

The Contractor will disseminate an online survey to project participants in Argentina and Madagascar. A draft of the survey questionnaire will be shared with the Grantee for their review prior to dissemination. The survey will be disseminated using I4DI's Zen-O software and survey links will be sent via email to participants for whom email addresses are available. For countries where there are limited participant email addresses, the evaluator will work with the grantee to identify alternative means of dissemination.

5. Outcome Achievement and Sustainability Ratings

The evaluator should objectively rate the level of achievement and potential for sustainability of each of the project's outcomes on a four-point scale (low, moderate, above-moderate, and high).

ACHIEVEMENT

"**Achievement**" measures the extent to which a development intervention or project attains its objectives/outcomes, as described in its performance monitoring plan (PMP).

For assessing the achievement of program or project outcomes, the evaluation team should consider the extent to which the objectives/outcomes were achieved and identify the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives/outcomes. *For this final evaluation,* the evaluation team should consider to what extent the project is likely to meet or exceed its targets and/or achieve outcomes.

Project achievement ratings should be determined through triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data. The evaluation team should collect <u>qualitative data</u> from document reviews and key informant interviews through a structured data collection process, such as a survey or rapid scorecard.

Interviews can also provide context for the results reflected in the Data Reporting Form (Annex A) submitted with the Technical Progress Report (TPR). The evaluation team should also analyze <u>quantitative data</u> collected by the project on key performance indicators defined in the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) and reported on in the TPR Data Reporting Form. The evaluation team should consider the reliability and validity of the performance indicators and the completeness and accuracy of the data collected. The assessment of quantitative data should consider the extent to which the project achieved its targets and whether these targets were sufficiently ambitious and achievable within the period evaluated. <u>The evaluation team should assess each of the project's objective(s) and outcome(s) according to the following scale:</u>

- **High:** met or exceeded most targets, outcomes or sub-outcomes for the period evaluated, with mostly positive feedback from key stakeholders and participants.

- **Above-moderate:** met or exceeded most targets, outcomes or sub-outcomes for the period evaluated, **but** with mostly neutral or negative feedback from key stakeholders and participants.

- **Moderate:** missed most targets, outcomes or sub-outcomes for the period evaluated, **but** with mostly positive feedback from key stakeholders and participants.

- **Low:** missed most targets, outcomes or sub-outcomes for the period evaluated, with mostly neutral or negative feedback from key stakeholders and participants.

SUSTAINABILITY

"**Sustainability**" is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn. When evaluating the sustainability of a project, it is useful to consider the likelihood that the benefits or effects of a particular output or outcome will continue after donor funding ends. It is also important to consider the extent to which the project takes into account the actors, factors, and institutions that are likely to have the strongest influence over, capacity, and willingness to sustain the desired outcomes and impacts. Indicators of sustainability could include agreements/linkages with local partners, stakeholder engagement in project sustainability planning, and successful handover of project activities or key outputs to local partners before project end, among others.

The project's Sustainability Plan (including the associated indicators) and TPRs (including the attachments) are key (but not the only) sources for determining its rating. The evaluation team should assess each of the project's objective(s) and outcome(s) according to the following scale:

- **High:** strong likelihood that the benefits of project activities will continue after donor funding is withdrawn and the necessary resources[96] are in place to ensure sustainability;

- **Above-moderate:** above average likelihood that the benefits of project activities will continue after donor funding is withdrawn and the necessary resources are identified but not yet committed;

- **Moderate:** some likelihood that the benefits of project activities will continue after donor funding is withdrawn and some of the necessary resources are identified;

- **Low:** weak likelihood that the benefits of project activities will continue after donor funding is withdrawn and the necessary resources are not identified.

In determining the rating above, the evaluation team should also consider the extent to which sustainability risks were adequately identified and mitigated through the project's risk management and stakeholder engagement activities. *For final evaluations*, the evaluation team should assess the risk environment and its expected effects on the project outcomes after the project exits and the capacity/motivation/resources/linkages of the local actors/stakeholders to sustain the outcomes produced by the project.

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[96] Resources can include financial resources (i.e. non-donor replacement resources), as well as organization capacity, institutional linkages, motivation and ownership, and political will, among others.

D. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The evaluation mission will observe utmost confidentiality related to sensitive information and feedback elicited during the individual and group interviews. To mitigate bias during the data collection process and ensure a maximum freedom of expression of the implementing partners, stakeholders, communities, and project participants, implementing partner staff will generally not be present during interviews. However, implementing partner staff may accompany the evaluator to make introductions whenever necessary, to facilitate the evaluation process, make respondents feel comfortable, and to allow the evaluator to observe the interaction between the implementing partner staff and the interviewees.

E. STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Following the field visits, field exit briefings will be organized by the evaluator to brief USDOL on any issues encountered with the visits. Such information can be relayed via email upon agreement between USDOL and the evaluator. After all data collection is completed and a draft of the report has been shared with USDOL and the grantee, a virtual stakeholder meeting will be organized by the project and led by the evaluator to bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including the implementing partners and other interested parties to discuss the preliminary evaluation results. The list of participants to be invited will be drafted prior to the evaluator's visit and confirmed in consultation with project staff during fieldwork. USDOL staff will participate in the stakeholder meeting virtually if available. USDOL and project staff may coordinate with relevant US Embassy representatives for their participation, as well.

The meeting will present the major *preliminary* results and emerging issues, discuss project sustainability and obtain clarification or additional information from stakeholders, including those not interviewed earlier. The agenda of the meeting will be determined by the evaluator in consultation with project staff. Some specific questions for stakeholders may be prepared to guide the discussion and possibly a brief written feedback form.

The agenda is expected to include some of the following items:

- Presentation by the evaluator of the preliminary findings
- Feedback and questions from stakeholders on the findings
- Opportunity for implementing partners not met to present their views on progress and challenges in their locality

A debrief call will be held with the evaluator, the grantee and USDOL prior to the stakeholder workshop to provide stakeholders with preliminary results and solicit feedback as needed for the meeting.

F. LIMITATIONS

During the fieldwork in Argentina and Madagascar, the evaluators may not have enough time to interview all stakeholders. As a result, the evaluators will not be able to take all stakeholder opinions into consideration when formulating the findings. All efforts will be made to ensure that the evaluators are interviewing a representative sample of sites/stakeholders.

This is not a formal impact assessment. Results for the evaluation will be based on information collected from background documents and in interviews with stakeholders, project staff, and project participants. The accuracy of the evaluation results will be determined by the integrity of information provided to the evaluator from these sources.

Furthermore, the ability of the evaluator to determine efficiency will be limited by the amount of financial data available. A cost-efficiency analysis is not included because it would require impact data which is not available.

G. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The contractor is responsible for accomplishing the following items:

- Providing all evaluation management and logistical support for evaluation deliverables within the timelines specified in the contract and TOR;

- Providing quality control over all deliverables submitted to USDOL;

- Administering the online perception survey;

- Ensuring the evaluation team conducts the evaluation according to the TOR;

The evaluation team will conduct the evaluation according to the TOR. The evaluation team is responsible for accomplishing the following items:

- Receiving and responding to or incorporating input from the grantees and USDOL on the initial TOR draft;

- Finalizing and submitting the TOR and sharing concurrently with the grantees and USDOL;

- Reviewing project background documents;

- Reviewing the evaluation questions and refining them as necessary;

- Developing and implementing an evaluation methodology, including document review, KIIs and FGDs, and secondary data analysis, to answer the evaluation questions;

- Conducting planning meetings or calls, including developing a field itinerary, as necessary, with USDOL and grantees;

- Developing an evaluation question matrix for USDOL;

- Scheduling meetings during the field visit and coordinating logistical arrangements (if applicable);

- Providing short field work exit briefings either verbally or in writing;

- Presenting preliminary results verbally to project field staff and other stakeholders as determined in consultation with USDOL and grantees;

- Preparing an initial draft of the evaluation report for USDOL and grantee review;

- Presenting draft findings from the draft report to USDOL, the grantee and other stakeholders as appropriate in a virtual workshop;

- Incorporating comments from USDOL and the grantee/other stakeholders into the final report, as appropriate.

- Developing a comment matrix addressing the disposition of all of the comments

provided;

- Preparing and submitting the final report in English;
- Preparing and submitting the final Info Brief in English and Spanish.

USDOL is responsible for the following items:

- Launching the contract;
- Reviewing the TOR, providing input to the evaluation team as necessary, and agreeing on final draft;
- Providing project background documents to the evaluation team, in collaboration with the grantees;
- Obtaining country clearance from U.S. Embassy in fieldwork country;
- Briefing grantees on the upcoming field visit and working with them to coordinate and prepare for the visit;
- Reviewing and providing comments on the draft evaluation report;
- Approving the final draft of the evaluation report;
- Participating in the pre- and post-trip debriefing and interviews;
- Including the USDOL evaluation contracting officer's representative on all communication with the evaluation team;

The grantee is responsible for the following items:

- Reviewing the TOR, providing input to the evaluation team as necessary, and agreeing on the final draft;
- Providing project background materials to the evaluation team, in collaboration with USDOL;
- Preparing a list of recommended interviewees with feedback on the draft TOR;
- Participating in planning meetings or calls, including developing a field itinerary, as necessary, with USDOL and evaluator;
- Provide assistance (if applicable) with scheduling and coordinating logistical arrangements; introducing the evaluator to the interviewees
- Helping the evaluation team to identify and arrange for interpreters as needed to facilitate worker interviews;
- Reviewing and providing comments on the draft evaluation reports;
- Organizing, financing, and participating in the stakeholder debriefing meeting;
- Helping the evaluation team to identify in-country ground transportation to meetings and interviews;s.
- Including the USDOL program office on all written communication with the evaluation team.

H. TIMETABLE

The tentative timetable is as follows. Actual dates may be adjusted as needs arise.

Task	Responsible Party	Date
Evaluation launch call	DOL/OCFT	10/03/23
Background project documents sent to Contractor	DOL/OCFT	10/11/23
TOR Template submitted to Contractor	DOL/OCFT	12/04/23
Draft TOR sent to DOL/OCFT and Grantee	Contractor	12/20/23
Question matrix submitted to DOL/OCFT for review	Contractor	TBD - December
DOL/OCFT and Grantee provide comments on draft TOR	DOL/OCFT and Grantee	01/02/24
Logistics calls - Discuss logistics and field itinerary	Contractor and Grantee (DOL/OCFT as needed)	01/03/24
Contractor sends minutes from logistics call	Contractor	01/04/24
Final TOR submitted to DOL/OCFT for approval	Contractor	01/04/24
Final approval of TOR by DOL/OCFT DOL/OCFT	DOL/OCFT	01/08/24
Submit finalized TOR to Grantee	Contractor	01/09/24
Finalize field itinerary and stakeholder list for workshop	DOL/OCFT, Contractor, and Grantee	01/12/24
Interview call with DOL/OCFT	Contractor	January - February 2024
Interview call with Grantee HQ staff	Contractor	January - February 2024
Fieldwork for Argentina and Madagascar	Contractor	February - April 2024
Field exit briefing notes submitted to DOL/OCFT for Global, Argentina and Madagascar	Contractor	05/06/24
Preliminary results workshop with grantee and DOL/OCFT	Contractor	05/06/24
Draft report (2-week review draft) submitted to DOL/OCFT and Grantee	Contractor	05/20/24
DOL/OCFT and Grantee/key stakeholder comments due to contractor after full 2-week review	DOL/OCFT	06/03/24
Revised report (Draft 2) in redline (2-week review draft) submitted to DOL/OCFT and Grantee demonstrating how	Contractor	06/10/24

Task	Responsible Party	Date
all comments were addressed either via a comment matrix or other format Draft infographic/brief document submitted to DOL/OCFT		
DOL/OCFT and Grantee/key stakeholder comments due to contractor after full 2-week review DOL/OCFT and grantee comments on draft infographic/brief	DOL/OCFT and Grantee	06/24/24
Final version of report in redline submitted to DOL/OCFT and Grantee demonstrating how all comments were addressed either via a comment matrix or other format Revised infographic/brief submitted to DOL/OCFT	Contractor	07/12/24
DOL/OCFT and Grantee provides concurrence that comments were addressed Final approval of infographic/brief by DOL/OCFT	DOL/OCFT and Grantee	07/19/24
Final report submitted to DOL/OCFT and Grantee Final report and infographic/brief submitted to DOL/OCFT (508 compliant)	Contractor	07/23/24
Final approval of report by DOL/OCFT Final approval of report and infographic/brief by DOL/OCFT (508 compliant)	DOL/OCFT	07/25/24
Final edited approved report and infographic/brief shared with grantee (508 compliant)	Contractor	07/29/24
Final evaluation briefing and presentation provided to ILAB staff	Contractor	08/12/24 - 08/23/24

EXPECTED OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

A first draft of the evaluation report will be submitted to the Contractor per the timeline detailed in the Timetable section. The report should have the following structure and content:

1. Table of Contents

2. List of Acronyms

3. Executive Summary (no more than **seven pages** providing an overview of the evaluation, summary of main results/lessons learned/emerging good practices, and key recommendations)

4. Evaluation Objectives

5. Project Description

6. Listing of Evaluation Questions

7. Findings

    a. The findings section includes the facts, analysis, and supporting evidence. The results section of the evaluation report should address the evaluation questions. It does not have to be in a question-response format, but should be responsive to each evaluation question.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

    a. Conclusions – interpretation of the facts, including criteria for judgments

    b. Lessons Learned and Emerging Good Practices[97]

    c. Key Recommendations - critical for successfully meeting project objectives and/or judgments on what changes need to be made for sustainability or future programming

9. Recommendations (citing page numbers for evidence in the body of the report, listing out the supporting evidence for each recommendation, and the identifying party that the recommendation is directed toward.) The key recommendations must be **action-oriented and implementable**. The recommendations should be clearly linked to results and directed to a specific party to be implemented. It is preferable for the report to contain no more than 10 recommendations, but other suggestions may be incorporated in the report in other ways.

10. Annexes:

    a. List of documents reviewed;

    b. Interviews (including list of stakeholder groups; without PII in web version)/meetings/site visits;

    c. Stakeholder workshop agenda and participants;

    d. TOR, Evaluation Methodology and Limitations;

The total length of the report should be approximately 60 pages for the main report, excluding the executive summary and annexes.

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[97] An emerging *good practice* is a process, practice, or system highlighted in the evaluation reports as having improved the performance and efficiency of the program in specific areas. They are activities or systems that are recommended to others for use in similar situations. A *lesson learned* documents the experience gained during a program. They may identify a process, practice, or systems to avoid in specific situations

The first draft of the report will be circulated to OCFT and the grantee individually for their review. The evaluator will incorporate comments from OCFT and the grantee/other key stakeholders into the final reports as appropriate, and the evaluator will provide a response, in the form of a comment matrix, as to why any comments might not have been incorporated.

While the substantive content of the results, conclusions, and recommendations of the report shall be determined by the evaluator, the report is subject to final approval USDOL in terms of whether or not the report meets the conditions of the TOR.

ANNEX D. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation team, with input from ILO and USDOL, developed 10 evaluation questions to guide the R2A and E2A project final evaluation. The evaluation questions are organized according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OEDC) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability).

Relevance: The extent to which the project's objectives and design respond to the needs of beneficiaries and institutional needs including their policies and priorities.
1. Do the R2A and E2A project designs (outcomes, outputs, and activities) respond to the needs and priorities of the stakeholders at the global and country levels?
2. To what extent can the E2A project's approach to research and the dissemination of research findings be replicated in other countries?
3. Were the R2A and E2A projects designed to adequately incorporate DEI&A principles that respond to the needs of vulnerable populations?

Coherence: The compatibility of the project interventions with other interventions in a country, sector, or institution.
4. To what extent did the R2A and E2A projects establish linkages and coordinate with other international and national organizations to address child labor and forced labor? How could the project have improved coordination and collaboration with these organizations?

Effectiveness: The extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups.
5. To what extent did the R2A and E2A projects achieve their outcomes and outputs?
6. What were the key internal or external factors that limited or facilitated the achievement or progress toward achieving the outcomes and outputs?

Impact: The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects.
7. To what extent has the knowledge generated by the R2A and E2A projects informed stakeholders' policies, programs, and other strategies and activities?

Efficiency: The extent to which the project intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.
8. How efficient have the R2A and E2A projects been? Are there certain types of activities that are more efficient than others?
9. What factors affected the efficiency of the R2A and E2A projects (e.g. delays, changes in host governments, turnover of project staff, COVID-19) and how did the projects respond to these factors?

> **Sustainability:** The extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue on project resources end.

> 10. Which of the R2A and E2A project outcomes are most likely to be sustained and transferred to communities or relevant institutions when the project ends?

EVALUATION TEAM

The core evaluation team consisted of the evaluation manager, lead evaluator, assistant evaluator, and evaluation analyst. Lauren Ropp, who served as the evaluation manager, was responsible for managing the evaluation including providing quality control oversight to deliverables, working to resolve operational issues, and acting as the point of contact between USDOL and I4DI. Dan O'Brien served as the lead evaluator and was responsible for developing the data collection instruments and protocols, conducting interviews with stakeholders, analyzing data, and preparing the draft and final versions of the evaluation report. Dan conducted virtual interviews with project and ILO staff in Geneva, USDOL representatives in Washington DC, and with key stakeholders in Argentina and Madagascar. Manzo Rio Rio Aminou served as the assistant evaluator and was responsible for conducting virtual interviews in French with key French-speaking stakeholders in Madagascar. Andrea Pozderac, an I4DI analyst, provided logistical and administrative support especially to schedule the key informant interviews and administer the online perception surveys to R2A stakeholders.

EVALUATION APPROACH AND SCHEDULE

EVALUATION APPROACH. The evaluation team used a mixed-methods evaluation design consisting of document reviews, key informant interviews, and online perception surveys. Fieldwork was conducted remotely using video conference platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

The evaluation team used semi-structured interview protocols, making adjustments based on interviewees' background, role in the project, and relevant knowledge. The evaluation team conducted key informant interviews with project staff/team, ILO and USDOL representatives, and key stakeholders based in Argentina and Madagascar. The team also obtained quantitative data from the project's documents and technical progress reports.

In addition to the document reviews and key informant interviews, i4Di implemented online perception surveys using Google Docs. The online perception surveys were conducted for R2A stakeholders who participated in the child labor and forced labor data analysis pilot training course at the ILO International Training and those who participated in the research grant program. In addition, the International Advisory Board members were surveyed. For the E2A project stakeholders, the evaluation team used the results of an online perception survey that E2A conducted for its key stakeholders in Argentina and Madagascar.

The lead evaluator used the findings from the surveys to further triangulate data from the document reviews and key informant interviews to strengthen the credibility and validity of the results. The lead evaluator incorporated the key findings of the online surveys in the main evaluation report. The complete results of the online perception surveys appear in Annex G.

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

The evaluation team developed the terms of reference (TOR) including key evaluation questions, methodology, data collection matrix and tools between November and December 2023. The team conducted document reviews, key informant interviews, data quality analysis, and the online perception survey between January 2023 and May 2024. After the first round of analyses, the team organized a workshop with relevant USDOL and ILO staff in May 2024 to solicit feedback on the preliminary findings from the evaluation and fill any information gaps for finalizing analyses. The evaluation team analyzed data and wrote the evaluation report in May 2024.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

DATA COLLECTION. The evaluation team developed the evaluation questions with input from USDOL and the R2A and E2A project teams. The evaluation questions were used to develop data collection guides and protocols. The data collection methods used by the evaluation team include the following:

DOCUMENT REVIEW. The evaluation team read numerous project documents and other reference publications including the project documents, monitoring and evaluation plans, technical progress reports (TPR) and their annexes, cooperative agreements, project modifications, financial reports, and other supporting project materials obtained during the fieldwork component. Overall, the document reviews provided important background information for the evaluation. Annex A shows a complete list of documents reviewed.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS. The evaluation team interviewed 60 key informant stakeholders including 32 females and 28 males for both the R2A and E2A projects. The following table shows the number of interviews by location and disaggregated by gender. A complete list of key informant interviewees is included in Annex B.

Location and Interviewees	Male	Female	Total
Geneva, Washington, and Other Locations			
R2A staff	1	2	3
ILO representatives	2	5	7
IOM representatives	0	1	1
R2A stakeholders	6	8	14
USDOL representatives	3	2	5
Argentina			
E2A staff	3	0	3
ILO representatives	1	2	3
E2A stakeholders	5	6	11

Location and Interviewees	Male	Female	Total
E2A researchers	3	1	4
Madagascar			
ILO representatives	1	1	2
E2A researchers	0	2	2
NORC	2	0	2
Verité	1	2	3
Total	28	32	60

ONLINE PERCEPTION SURVEY. The evaluation team administered three online perception surveys to R2A project stakeholders using Google Docs. The evaluation team sent the one online perception survey to 39 members of the International Advisory Board (IAB), seven participants in the child labor and forced labor pilot training course held at ITC-ILO in Turin, Italy, and 16 recipients of the research grants. 12 members of IAB, three training participants, and 14 research grantees completed the online perception for a total response rate of 40 percent.

Rather than administer an online perception survey to E2A stakeholders, the evaluation team used the results of an online perception survey that the E2A project conducted. The project sent invitations to participate in the online survey to 103 stakeholders in Argentina and Madagascar. The stakeholders included government, garment sector, trade union, civil society, and academic representatives. Thirty-nine of these stakeholders from Argentina completed the survey while none of the stakeholders from Madagascar completed the survey. This represents a response rate of 39 percent. The results of the R2A and E2A surveys are summarized in Annex G.

DATA ANALYSIS

Qualitative data collected through interviews and the document reviews were analyzed using a matrix analysis to categorize, triangulate, synthesize, and summarize the raw data captured from the interview notes. Using an Excel-based tool, the evaluation team created a matrix with primary headings associated with each of the 10 key evaluation questions. Under each evaluation question, the team added secondary cells for each country and under each country, cells for each stakeholder/ organization who was interviewed. Immediately after each interview, the team extracted relevant quotes and paraphrases from the interview notes and placed them under the corresponding evaluation question heading/ country/stakeholder. The team used the sort feature of Excel to organize the quotes and paraphrases.

Quantitative data collected from the TPRs, primarily Annex A (M&E outcome and output indicator targets and achievements), were analyzed by comparing end-of-project indicator and activity targets to actual achievements and calculating variances. The results of the quantitative data analysis are presented in the evaluation report in tabular form by each outcome and output.

The results of the qualitative and quantitative data analysis provided tangible blocks of information, which the lead evaluator used to answer the key evaluation questions and, thus, write the evaluation report. The wealth and variety of information collected allowed for high-level reinforcement and synthesis across sources to obtain a more cross-cutting and comprehensive analysis of the evaluation questions.

LIMITATIONS

The primary limitation for this combined evaluation was that the evaluation team was not able to interview any representatives from the government and textile and garment sector in Madagascar. This is largely due to the fact that the E2A project was not able to develop relationships and engage with these stakeholders. The information about the E2A project in Madagascar came from document reviews and interviews with project staff, E2A project team members (NORC and Verité), ILO country office representatives in Madagascar, and local researchers. Another limiting factor for the E2A evaluation in Argentina was that two key labor ministry representatives who participated in the project were not available for interviews due to uncertainties created by the change in government administrations.

Another limiting factor was that the remote fieldwork in Madagascar (E2A) and interviews with national statistical officers (R2A) in Ghana, Malawi, and Nigeria as well as recipients of research grants (R2A) in Myanmar. At times, the signal was weak, which resulted in interference that made the conversation with stakeholders difficult to understand or, in some cases, dropped calls that had to be reinitiated. To address this issue, the lead evaluator sent email messages to seek clarification on points in his notes, to ensure the notes represented what the interviewee intended to communicate.

The primary limitation of the online perception surveys was that none of the stakeholders from Madagascar responded to the E2A online perception survey meaning only the views of Argentina stakeholders were reflected in the E2A survey findings. While the overall response rates for the R2A and E2A survey were acceptable at 40 percent, the response rate for the R2A IAB members was slightly low at 31 percent.

ANNEX E. R2A AND E2A RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

RESEARCH TO ACTION (R2A) RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Research to Practice. Results Framework

Overall objective: To accelerate the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support of efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor around the world

Outcome 1 Increased policymakers and practitioners interaction with rigorous research, evaluation studies, research tools, and other relevant data needed to address child labor and forced labor internationally

Outcome 2 Increased understanding by researchers of the questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to inform policy and program efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor

Outcome 3 Improved capacity of researchers to study child labor and forced labor issues

Outcome 4 Increased engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues

Output 1.1. Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools mapped and categorized

Output 1.2. Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools are adapted for policymakers and practitioners

Output 1.3 Rigorous research, evaluation studies and research tools are made accessible for policy makers and practitioners on the Delta 8.7 Platform

Output.1.4 Systematic, targeted outreach and engagement of policymakers and practitioners on rigorous research, data collection and analysis tools and research and evaluation studies

Output.2.1. Country-level research agendas and/or plans based on systematic needs assessments developed

Output.2.2. Global-level research agenda on child labor, forced labor and human trafficking are developed and integrated into the Delta 8.7 Platform.

Sub-Output 2.2a. Meta-analysis/literature reviews on child labor and forced labor and human trafficking are developed and integrated into knowledge Platform

Sub-Output 2.2b. Gap maps on child labor and forced labor and human trafficking are disseminated

Sub-Output 2.2c. Enhancing evidence base for rapid policy action

Output.2.3 Inclusive outreach and engagement of researchers on refinement of research agendas, gap maps, and meta-analysis/literature reviews

Output.3.1. Course modules on child labor and forced labor research, data collection, and communication with policymakers suitable for a variety of training contexts are developed

Output 3.2a. Contact established with university programs to discuss integration of course modules into ongoing programs

Output.3.2b. Delivery mechanism for on-line training course on child labor and forced labor research developed

Output.4.1. New mechanisms and support for researchers for accessing research awards on child labor and forced labor implemented

Output.4.2. Researchers complete research funded by small seed grants and fellowship addressing priority knowledge gaps

Output 4.3 Research findings to relevant policymakers disseminated

Contributes to

Outcome 1

•Assumptions
• Countries maintain their political and financial commitment to take "immediate and effective measures" to eradicate forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030, and the worst forms of child labor by 2025.
• Governments, social partners and practitioners continue their growing interest in using evidence to strengthen policy design
• The research community and the policy practitioner community are willing to improve the connection between the two spheres.

EVIDENCE TO ACTION (E2A) RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Critical Assumptions

- The research will address critical knowledge gaps concerning forced labour, in turn informing policy and programmatic decision-making, if:
  - a) there is a demonstrated interest among key stakeholders for a better understanding of the dynamics of forced labour risk and vulnerability in the production of a given good or product;
  - b) the research design responds to stakeholder priorities, and;
  - c) the research generates quality information on the nature and scale of forced labour, produces reliable forced labour estimators, identify its underlying root causes, as well as expand the knowledge basis about related phenomena, and;
  - d) the research allows the translation of research findings and lessons learned into recommendations e other types of actionable information oriented to inform decision-making processes;

- The sector-based study will be an effective agent of change if:
  - e) stakeholders are actively engaged throughout the project;
  - f) social dialogue supports partnerships for development between garment sector stakeholders;
  - g) research findings are effectively disseminated and translated into relevant actionable information;
  - h) stakeholders receive concrete tools and their capacity is strengthened to prevent, monitor, protect victims, and remediate forced labour and forced labour risks, and;
  - i) stakeholders are motivated, via available leverage points, to improve conditions for workers using the new knowledge and capacity available.

Project Objective - Increased use of forced labor research in informed policy and programmatic decision-making to eliminate forced labor around the world

Outcome 1 - Increased actionable knowledge of the extent, nature and characteristics of forced labour where scarce research exist

- Output 1.1 Mauritius - Rapid Sector Appraisal of the garment sector is completed
- Output 1.2 Mauritius - Quantitative research conducted and discussed with national partners
- Output 1.3. Mauritius - Qualitative research conducted and discussed with national partners
- Output 1.4 Mauritius - Policy-oriented research on FL in the garment sector is publicly available
- Output.1.5 Argentina - Rapid Sector Appraisal of the garment sector is completed
- Output 1.6. Argentina - Qualitative research (value chain analysis) conducted and discussed with national partners
- Output 1.7 Argentina - Quantitative research conducted and discussed with national partners
- Output 1.8 Argentina - Policy-oriented research on FL in the garment sector in Argentina is publicly available

Outcome 2 - Increased dialogue and engagement of decision-makers in the private sector, government, and civil society, to act against forced labour

- Output 2.1. Mauritius - Stakeholders' informational needs on forced labor are assessed
- Output 2.2 Mauritius - Stakeholders' engagement mechanisms are established
- Output. 2.3 Mauritius - Stakeholders advised on forced labor prevention, monitoring, and remediation
- Output 2.4 Argentina - Stakeholders' needs on forced labor data are assessed
- Output 2.5 Argentina - Stakeholder engagement mechanisms are established
- Output. 2.6 Argentina - Stakeholders advised on forced labor prevention, monitoring, and remediation
- Output.2.7. Global - Policy oriented knowledge products are disseminated
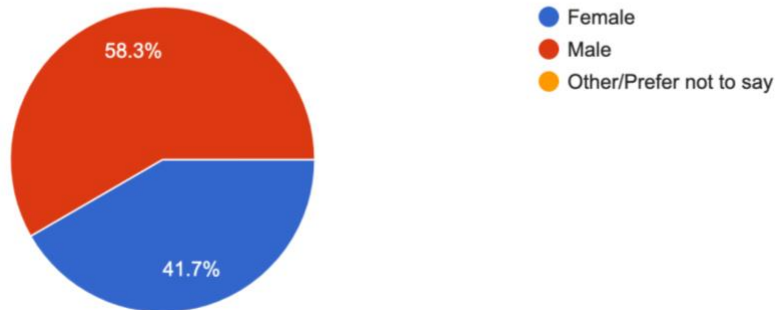- Output.2.8 Global - Global stakeholders outreached

ANNEX G. COMPLETE RESULTS OF THE ONLINE PERCEPTION SURVEY

R2A INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

1. What is your gender?
12 responses

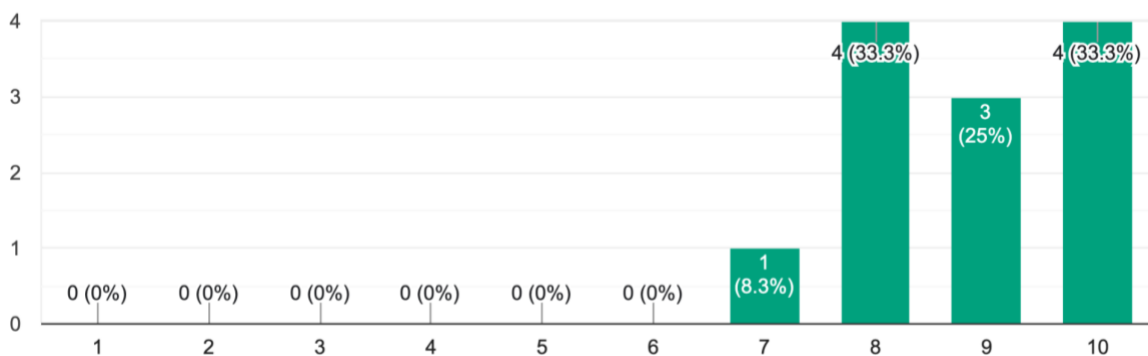| Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Female	41.7%	5
Male	58.3%	7
Other/Prefer not to say	0%	0
Total	100%	12

2. On a scale of 1-10 (1 - Highly dissatisfactory; 10 - Highly satisfactory), I would rate my participation in the ILO International Advisory Bo...he evidence gap map and global research agenda as:
12 responses

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
1 - Highly dissatisfactory	0%	0

2	0%	0
3	0%	0
4	0%	0
5	0%	0
6	0%	0
7	8.3%	1
8	33.3%	4
9	25%	3
10 - Highly satisfactory	33.3%	4
Total	100%	12

3. The International Advisory Board meetings to support the development of the evidence gap map and global research agenda were effectively planned and executed.

12 responses
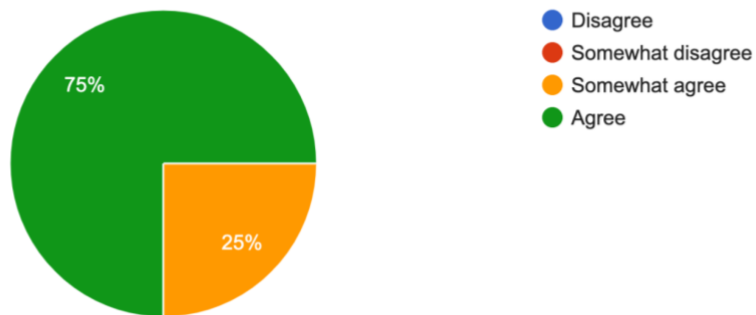
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Agree	25%	3
Agree	75%	9
Total	100%	12

4. The International Advisory Board contributed to the quality of the evidence gap map and global research agenda developed by the Research to Action project.

12 responses
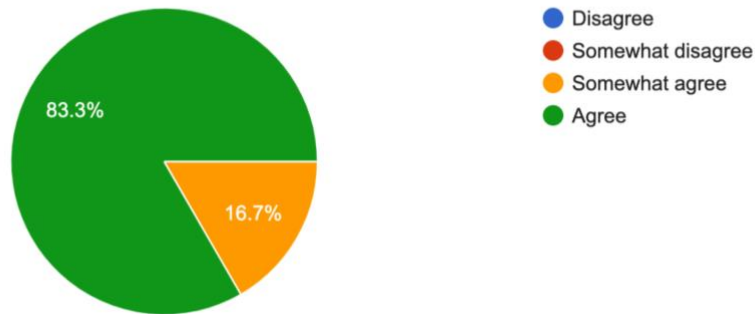
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Agree	16.7%	2
Agree	83.3%	10
Total	100%	12

5. The evidence gap map and global research agenda will increase the understanding by researchers of questions and knowledge gaps that n...hat aim to eliminate child labor and forced labor.
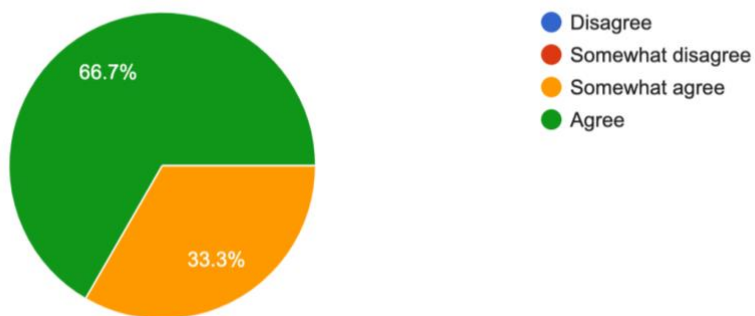
12 responses

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0

Somewhat Agree	33.3%	4
Agree	66.7%	8
Total	100%	12

6. Researchers will use the evidence gap map and global research agenda to conduct research that can be used by policymakers and practitioners to im...hat aim to eliminate child labor and forced labor.

12 responses

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Agree	41.7%	5
Agree	58.3%	7
Total	100%	12

7. Policymakers and practitioners will use knowledge from the research to improve policies and programs that aim to eliminate child labor and forced labor.
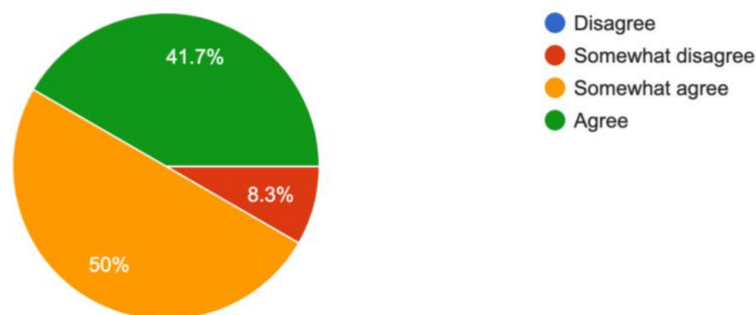
12 responses

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	8.3%	1
Somewhat Agree	41.7%	5
Agree	50%	6
Total	100%	12

R2A NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES

1. What is your gender?
3 responses
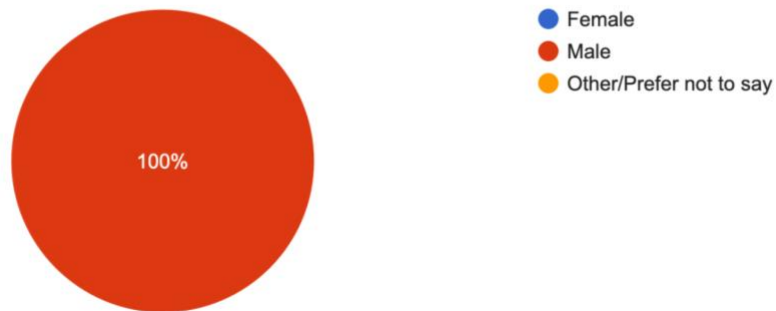
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Female	0%	0
Male	100%	3
Other/Prefer not to say	0%	0
Total	100%	3

2. On a scale of 1-10 (1 - Highly dissatisfied; 10 - Highly satisfied), I would rate my participation in the pilot workshop on child labor and forced labor da...alysis conducted at the ITC-ILO in Turin, Italy as:

3 responses
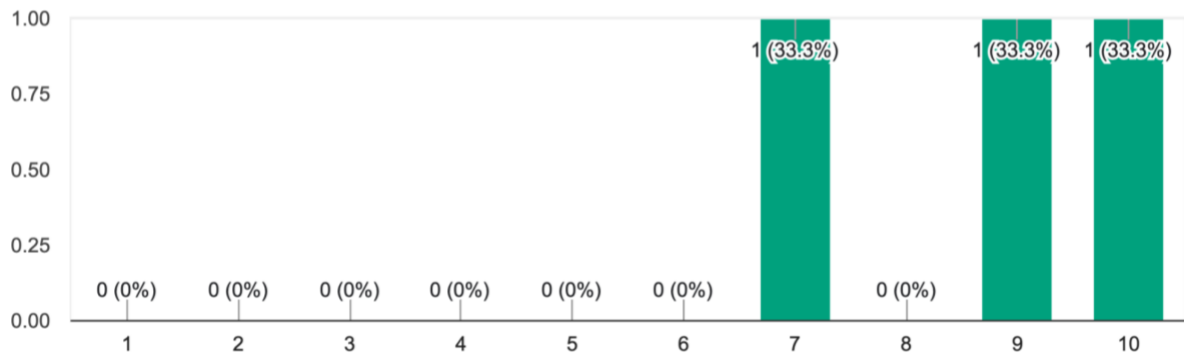
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
1 - Highly dissatisfactory	0%	0
2	0%	0
3	0%	0
4	0%	0
5	0%	0
6	0%	0
7	33.3%	1
8	0%	0
9	33.3%	1
10 - Highly satisfactory	33.3%	1
Total	100%	3

3. The design of the pilot workshop on child labor and forced labor data analysis met my needs as a national statistical office representative for my country.

3 responses

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Agree	0%	0
Agree	100%	3
Total	100%	3

4. The pilot workshop on child labor and forced labor data analysis was conducted in an effective manner so I was able to learn new child labor and forced labor analysis techniques.

3 responses
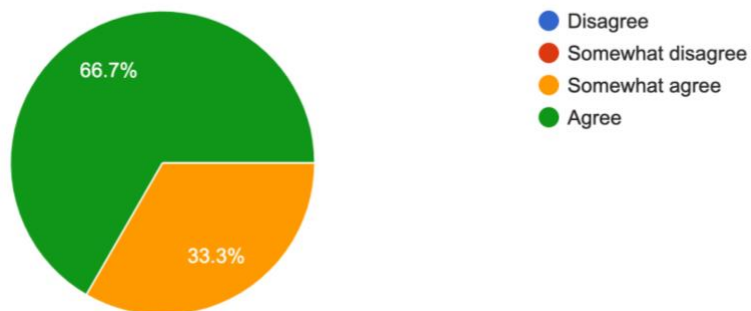
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0

Somewhat Agree	33.3%	1
Agree	66.7%	2
Total	100%	3

5. The pilot workshop on child labor and forced labor data analysis increased my knowledge and skills to either plan or analyze child labor and forced labor surveys.

3 responses

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Agree	0%	0
Agree	100%	3
Total	100%	3

6. I have been able to apply the knowledge and skills I gained from the child labor and forced labor data analysis workshop.

3 responses

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Agree	0%	0
Agree	100%	3
Total	100%	3

7. Once I returned to my national statistical office, I received adequate support from the ILO Research to Action project to help me apply knowledge and skills to my work.
3 responses
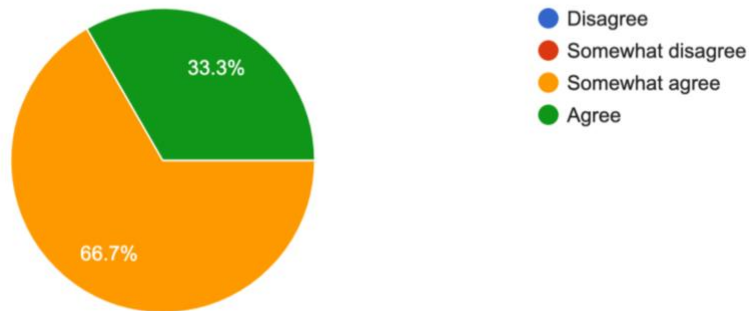
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Agree	66.7%	2
Agree	33.3%	1
Total	100%	3

R2A RESEARCH GRANTEES

1. What is your gender?
14 responses
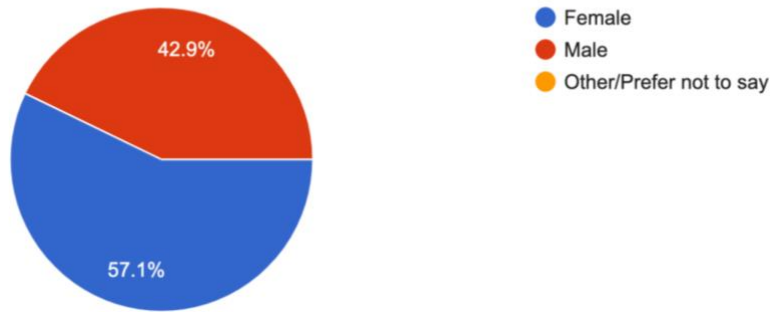
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Female	57.1%	8
Male	42.9%	6
Other/Prefer not to say	0%	0
Total	100%	14

2. On a scale of 1-10, (1 - Highly dissatisfied; 10 - Highly satisfied) I would rate my participation in the ILO Research to Action project's research grant program as:
14 responses
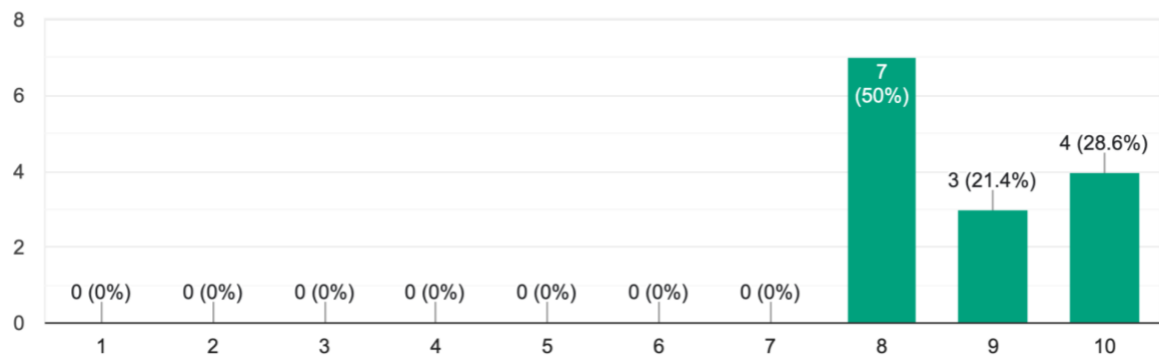
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
1 - Highly dissatisfactory	0%	0

2	0%	0
3	0%	0
4	0%	0
5	0%	0
6	0%	0
7	0%	0
8	50%	7
9	21.4%	3
10 - Highly satisfactory	28.6%	4
Total	100%	14

3. I received adequate support from the ILO Research to Action project to design my research project.

14 responses
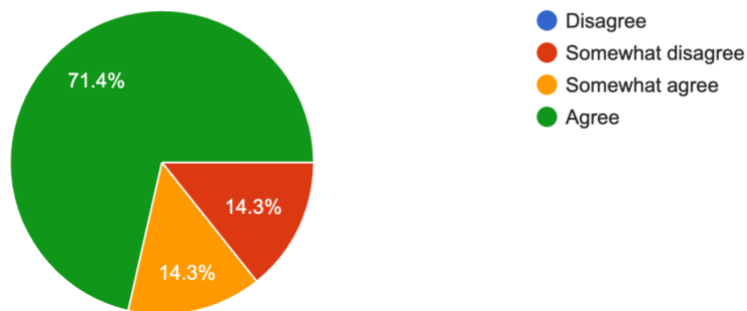
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	14.3%	2
Somewhat Agree	14.3%	2
Agree	71.4%	10
Total	100%	14

4. I received adequate support from the ILO Research to Action project to conduct my research and produce my research report.

14 responses
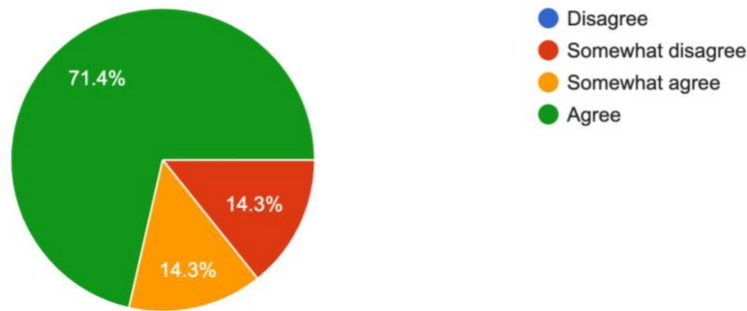
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	0%	0
Somewhat Disagree	14.3%	2
Somewhat Agree	14.3%	2
Agree	71.4%	10
Total	100%	14

5. I received adequate support from the ILO Research to Action project to publish my research.

14 responses
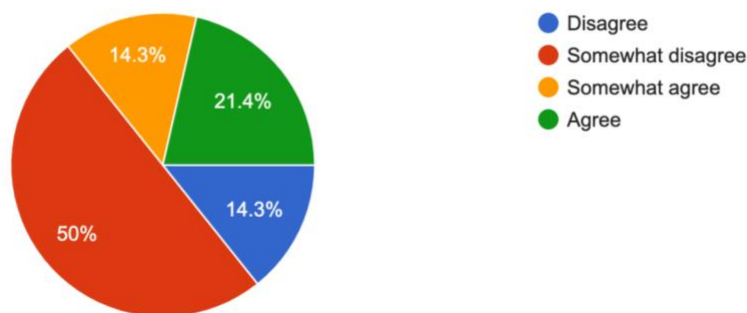
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	14.3%	2
Somewhat Disagree	50%	7
Somewhat Agree	14.3%	2

Agree	21.4%	3
Total	100%	14

6. My research has or will be published so it is available to policymakers or practitioners.

14 responses
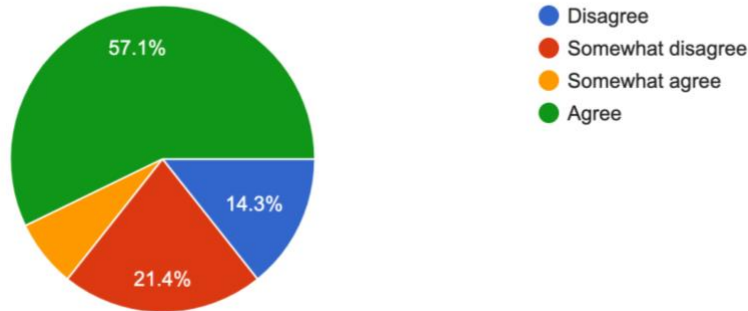
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	14.3%	2
Somewhat Disagree	21.4%	3
Somewhat Agree	7.1%	1
Agree	57.1%	8
Total	100%	14

7. My research has or will be used by policymakers or practitioners to improve child labor or forced labor policies and/or programs?

14 responses
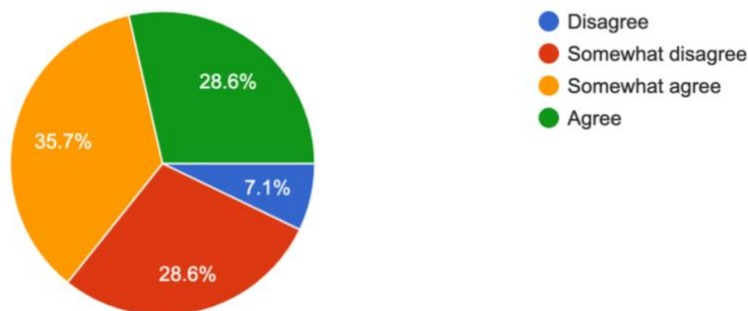
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Disagree	7.1%	1

Somewhat Disagree	28.6%	4
Somewhat Agree	35.7%	5
Agree	28.6%	4
Total	100%	14

E2A ONLINE PERCEPTION SURVEY

Q1 País - Country
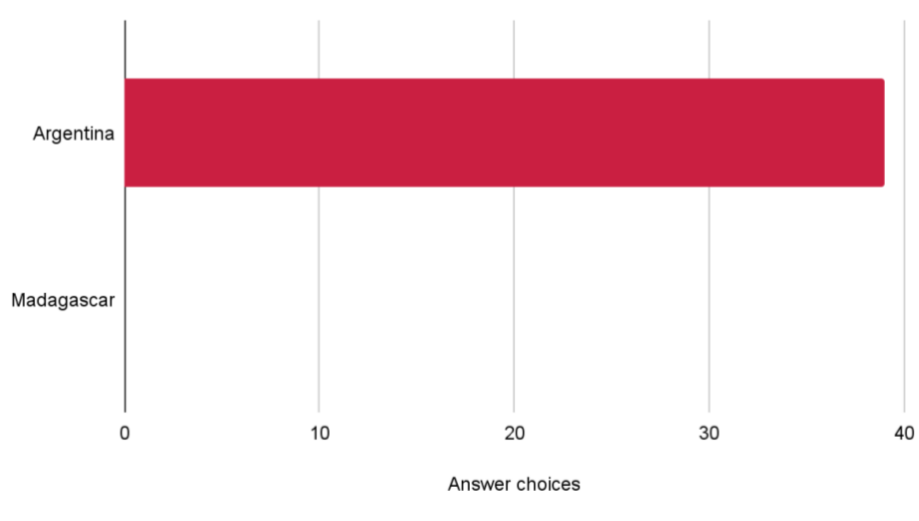
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Argentina	100%	39
Madagascar	0%	0
Total	100%	39

Q2 Sexo - Gender
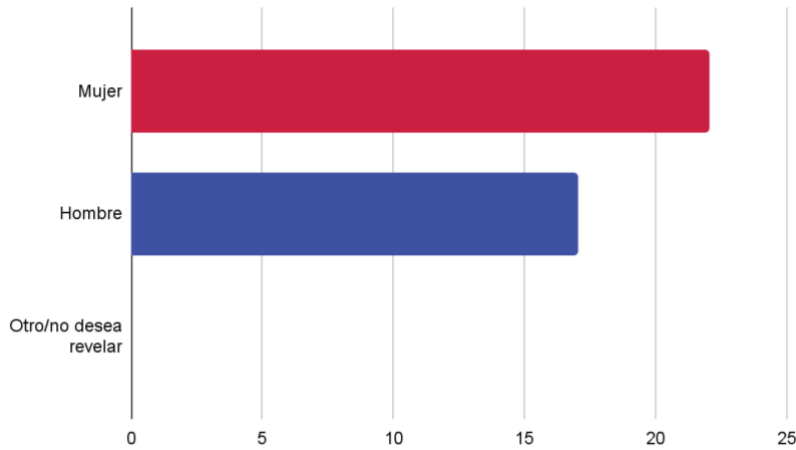
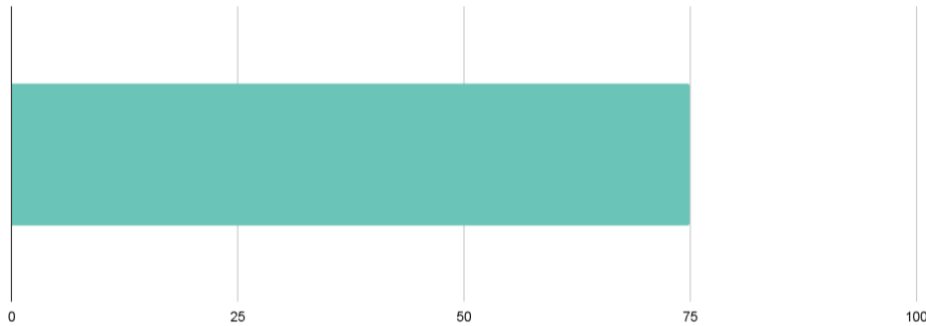| Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Mujer / Female	56.41%	22
Hombre / Male	43.59%	17
Otro/no desea revelar Other / Prefer not to say	0%	0
Total	100%	39

Q3 Pertenencia Tripartita e Institucional - Tripartite and Institutional Membership
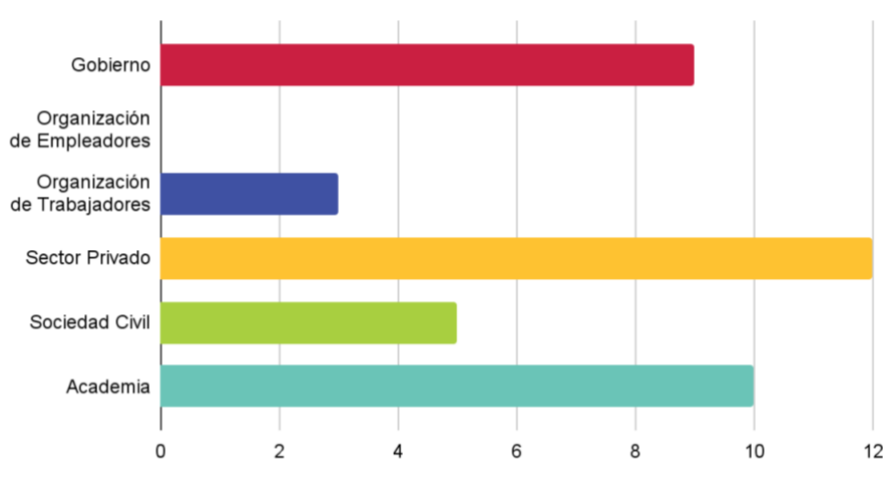
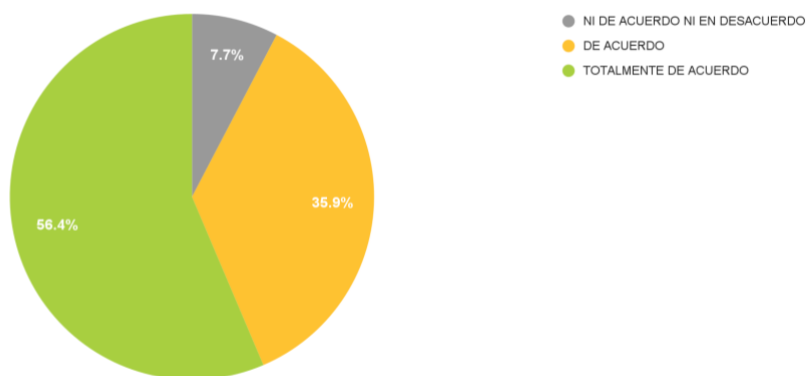| Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Gobierno	23.08%	9
Organización de Empleadores	0%	0
Organización de Trabajadores	7.69%	3
Sector Privado	20.77%	12

Sociedad Civil	12.82%	5
Academia	25.64%	10
Total	100%	39

Q4 En una escala del 0 al 10, califico mi nivel de conocimiento sobre el trabajo forzoso como - On a scale from 0 to 10, I rate my knowledge level on forced labor as

| Response Option	Average number	Total number	Responses No.
	75	2,919	39
Total respondents			39

Q5 Las actividades del Proyecto EvA contribuyeron a aumentar mi conocimiento sobre el trabajo forzoso y la trata de personas en la industria de la confección - The activities of the EvA Project contributed to increasing my knowledge about forced labor and human trafficking in the garment industry

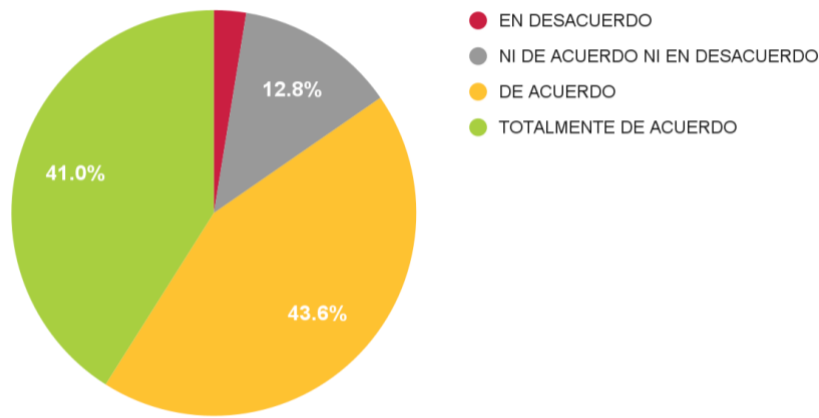| Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Totalmente en desacuerdo / Completely Disagree	0%	0

En desacuerdo /Disagree	0%	0
Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo / Neither agree nor disagree	7.69%	3
De acuerdo/ Agree	35.90%	14
Totalmente de acuerdo / Completely Agree	56.41%	22
N/A	0%	0
Total	100%	39

Q6 Las actividades del Proyecto EvA contribuyeron a saldar las brechas de conocimiento sobre el trabajo forzoso y la trata de personas en la industria de la confección - The activities of the EvA Project helped bridge knowledge gaps about forced labor and human trafficking in the garment industry
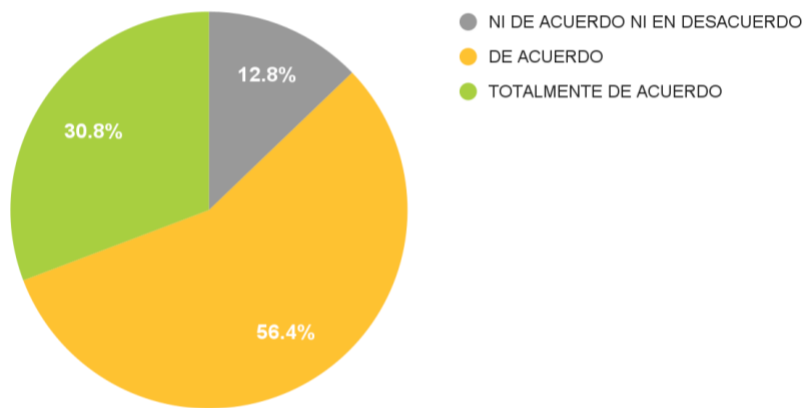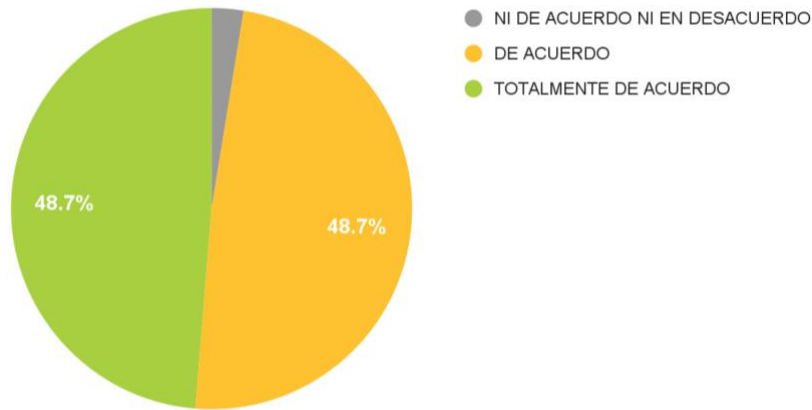

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Totalmente en desacuerdo / Completely Disagree	0%	0
En desacuerdo / Disagree	0%	0
Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo / Neither agree nor disagree	12.82%	5
De acuerdo / Agree	56.41%	22
Totalmente de acuerdo / Completely Agree	30.77%	12
N/A	0%	0
Total	100%	39

Q7 La información proporcionada por el Proyecto EvA estuvo alineada con las necesidades de información y las prioridades nacionales - The information provided by the EvA Project was aligned with information needs and national priorities
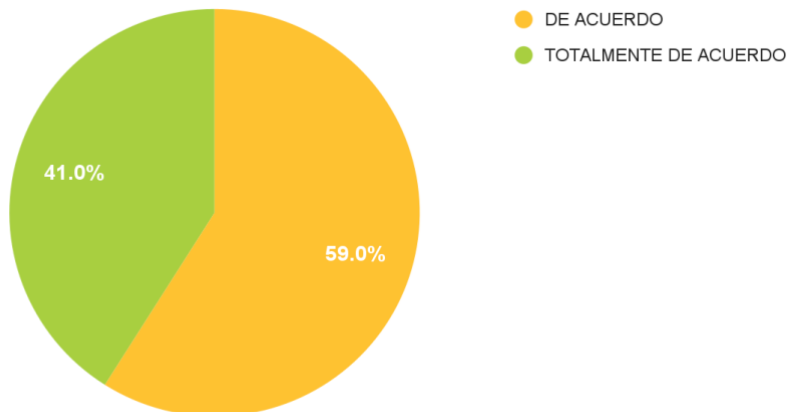

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Totalmente en desacuerdo / Completely Disagree	0%	0
En desacuerdo / Disagree	2.56%	1
Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo / Neither agree nor disagree	12.82%	5
De acuerdo / Agree	43.59%	17
Totalmente de acuerdo / Completely Agree	41.03%	16
N/A	0%	0
Total	100%	39

Q8 La investigación del Proyecto EvA sobre el trabajo forzoso y la trata de personas en la industria de la confección proporciona información útil y de calidad - The EvA Project's research on forced labor and human trafficking in the garment industry provides useful and quality information
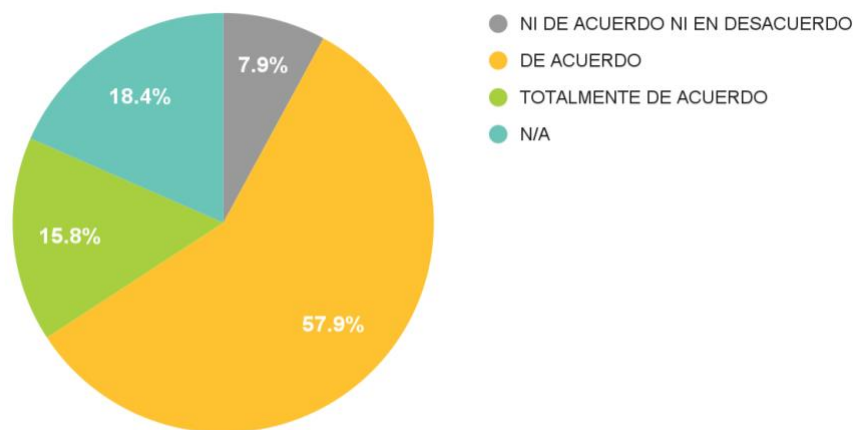
Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Totalmente en desacuerdo / Completely Disagree	0%	0
En desacuerdo / Disagree	0%	0
Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo / Neither agree nor disagree	2.56%	1
De acuerdo/ Agree	48.72%	19
Totalmente de acuerdo / Completely Agree	48.72%	19
N/A	0%	0
Total	100%	39

Q9 La información proporcionada por el Proyecto EvA fue de fácil comprensión - The information provided by the EvA Project was easy to understand

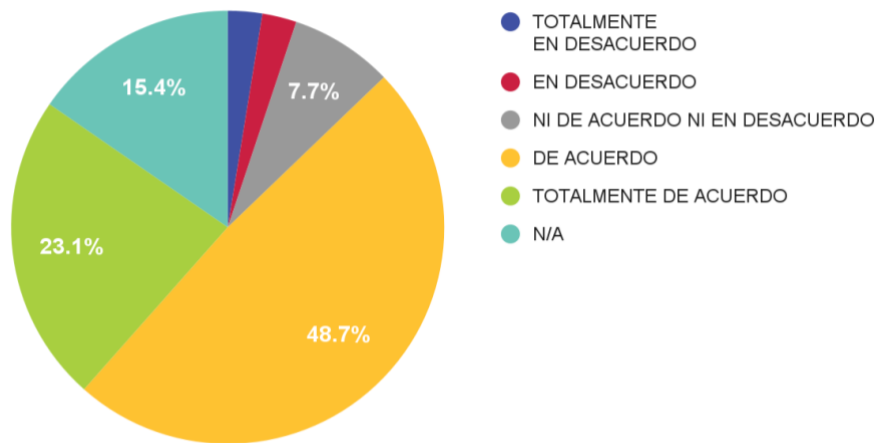| Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Totalmente en desacuerdo / Completely Disagree	0%	0
En desacuerdo / Disagree	0%	0
Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo / Neither agree nor disagree	0%	0
De acuerdo/ Agree	58.97%	23
Totalmente de acuerdo/ Completely Agree	41.03%	16
N/A	0%	0
Total	100%	39

Q10 Tengo la intención de utilizar la información del Proyecto EvA sobre el trabajo forzoso y la trata de personas en la industria de la confección en futuros procesos de toma de decisiones - I intend to use the information from the EvA Project on forced labor and human trafficking in the garment industry in future decision-making processes

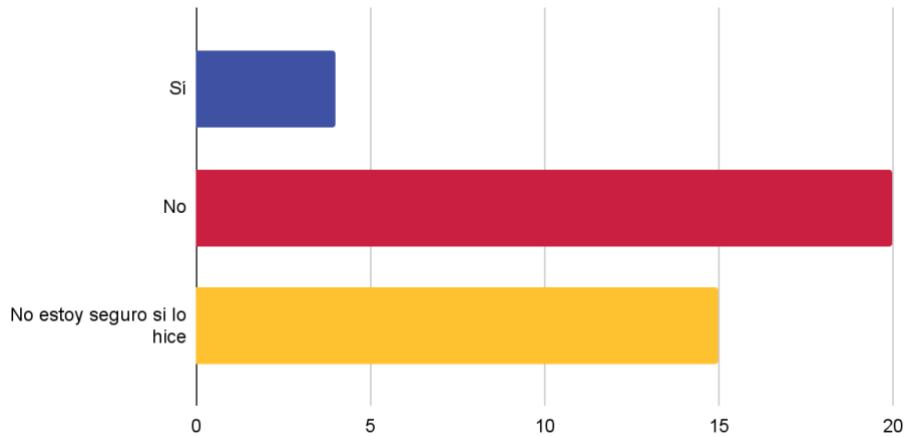| Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Totalmente en desacuerdo / Completely Disagree	0%	0
En desacuerdo / Disagree	0%	0
Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo / Neither agree nor disagree	7.89%	3
De acuerdo/ Agree	57.89%	22

Totalmente de acuerdo / Completely Agree	15.79%	6
N/A	18.42%	7
Total	100%	39

Q11 La información proporcionada por el Proyecto EvA en términos de recomendaciones y asesoramiento técnico fue de fácil comprensión y se tradujo en la formulación de políticas - The information provided by the EvA Project in terms of recommendations and technical advice was easy to understand and translated into policy formulation

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Totalmente en desacuerdo / Completely Disagree	2.56%	1
En desacuerdo / Disagree	2.56%	1
Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo / Neither agree nor disagree	7.69%	3
De acuerdo/ Agree	48.72%	19
Totalmente de acuerdo / Completely Agree	23.08%	9
N/A	15.38%	6
Total	100%	39

Q12 ¿Utilizó algún producto del Proyecto EvA como fuente de información en su trabajo? - Did you use any product from the EvA Project as an information source in your work?

Response Option	Responses %	Responses No.
Sí	10.26%	4
No	51.28%	20
No estoy seguro si lo hice	38.46%	15
Total	100%	39

Q13 Si respondió sí en la pregunta anterior, proporcione una breve explicación sobre qué producto se utilizó y cómo se utilizó - If you answered yes to the previous question, please provide a brief explanation of what product was used and how it was used.

Number	Responses	Date
1	Nos sirve de insumo para la formualción de un proyecto regional de cooperación internacional sobre economía circular y equidad de género para el sector textil - indumentaria	6/5/2024 9:39 AM
2	Desde el lugar de área de control, todas las herramientas o productos que provee el proyecto EVA son de suma importancia para nuestra tarea, desde la detección y seguimiento de los casos, hasta la implementación de acciones para mitigar, prevenir y porqué no aspirar a una erradicación de la problemática del sector textil. La practicidad o la habilidad de los disertantes integrantes del proyecto, hace que la tarea de interrelación sea mucho más posible y fructífera, por lo que destacó más	5/21/2024 10:34 PM

	allá de la valoración del material bajado a terreno, la capacidad de las personas encargadas de llegar de la mejor manera a quienes receptamos la información . Muchas gracias.	
3	Me interesan los datos estadísticos y la herramienta de autoevaluación.	5/21/2024 3:03 PM
4	En Argentina el Proyecto EvA nos marcòla gran importancia de no demorar màs en trabajar las Cadenas de suministros de todo el sector sindical que somos autoridades nacionales que cubre todas activ. del sector las Cadenas de Suministros a nivel nacional e internacional donde si encontramos trabajos Forzoso y de Sometimiento y las brechas ,para promover mediante un seria y profunda investigaciòn los standares y costos nacionacionales e internacionales que nos permitirà ser competitivos en el mercado de suministro con las mejores herramientas en la nacional y cadenas de suministros internacionales que movilizarà nuestra poderosa industria de forma inclusiva con standares y costos competitivos generando innovaciòn que nuestro mercado necesita.Asi Proyecto Eva habrà dado ,con OIT y Veritè ,mà\n\ntodos nuestros equipos una respuesta tanto locaoca Argentina y por efecto de lo que despertò nuestra preocupaciòn que debiamos dar respuesta tambièn en lo Regional y Global como es nuestro alcace como sector y con las herramientas que vuestra investigaciòn se podrà entrar\n\nen la seria problemàtica del trabajo forzoso y Trata que dentro de las Cadenas de SUMINISTO SI ENCONTRAMOS , por el sometimiento que sufren las/os trabajadores. focalizar en cadenas de suministro ,standares,costos ,movilizarà nuestra Industria Nacional,propuesto, por nuestra parte , a los actores tripartitos locales quienes coincidieron. Forsozo y E	4/2/2024 11:14 PM
5	Ninguno	3/24/2024 10:55 PM
6	No es fácil llegar a las personas afectadas en la trata, justamente por su situación en casos ni tienen acceso a un teléfono y tienen mucho miedo de ser más maltratadas	3/18/2024 3:16 PM

ANNEX H. LIST OF RESEARCH SEED GRANTS FOR THE R2A PROJECT

First Name	Last Name	Paper title	Affiliation	Notes
Natalie	Bau	Globalization and Child Labour	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	Fellow
Hasna Hena	Sara	Informal child labor in Dhaka City: Exploring the pull factors and health sufferings of children involved in waste management	Senior Research Associate, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University.	Fellow
Isabela	Warioba	Child marriage as a form of human trafficking in Tanzania: A human rights perspective	Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Mzumbe University.	Fellow
Samuel	Kembou	Child labor and learning outcomes in agricultural households in Côte d'Ivoire	Junior Lecturer, Graduate School of Public Administration, Lausanne University.	Fellow
Elyssa	Schroeder	Using the Past to Inform the Future: Archival Data Analysis to Improve Evidence for Policy and Practice for Child Labor Trafficking Survivors in Sierra Leone	PhD Student, School of Social Work, University of Georgia	Seed grant
Naomi	Lott	Advancing a Child Rights Informed Approach to Antislavery Policy and Practice	Visiting Fellow in Law and Children's Rights, Rights Lab, University of Nottingham	Seed grant
Alhassan	Abdullah	Unravelling the Normative Underpinnings of Child Labor in Ghana: A Bottom-Up Study Among Hotspot Communities	PhD Candidate, Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong.	Seed grant
Tigre	Robson	Preventing forced labor: causal evidence from both government and non-governmental interventions in Brazil	Professor, Department of Economics, Universidade Católica de Brasília	Seed grant
Barreto	Yuri		PhD Student, Department of Economics,	

			Universidade Federal de Pernambuco	
Bayma	Guilherme		PhD Student, Department of Economics, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco	
de Castro	Danny		PhD, Department of Economics, Universidade Católica de Brasília	
Holly Howell	Koogler	Social Relationships and Child Labor Migration from Karamoja, Uganda: An Exploratory Study	PhD Student, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University.	Seed grant
Ana Cecilia	MONTES VINAS	The effect of longer school days on crime: Are kids the victims or the perpetrators?	xtra-mural research fellow at Department of Economics and Management, University of Luxembourg	Seed grant
David Leone	Suber	The risk of forced labour and exploitation that migrants and migrant workers face whilst on their undocumented journeys to Europe	Doctoral Researcher, Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science, University College London	Seed grant
De Stone	Roshan		Investigative Reporter, Brush & Bow	
Audrey	Lumley-Sapanski	Points of inflection: Analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on the vulnerabilities Eritrean refugees face to human trafficking in Sudan	Research Fellow in Migration and Integration, Rights Lab, University of Nottingham	Seed grant
AyeThiri	Kyaw	Opening the 'black box' of protection and reintegration interventions for trafficking survivors in Myanmar: A realist evaluation of World Vision's Anti-Trafficking in Persons (A/TIP) program	PhD student, Gender Violence and Health Centre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)	Seed grant

Charline	Sempere	[Women and Forced Labour: Evidence from the Southern French Agriculture Sector](#)	PhD Student, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sheffield	Seed grant
Hanna	Wang	[School, Work or Marriage? Gender Gaps in Child Development](#)	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Seed grant
Prachi	Bansal	[Modern Forms of Debt-Bondage in Indian Agriculture](#)	PhD Student, Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.	Seed grant