

# MEASUREMENT, AWARENESS-RAISING, AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR (THE MAP 16 PROJECT)

## Global and Research Activity Findings

Grantee: International Labour Organization (ILO) | Project Duration: December 2016 – June 2024



### PROJECT DETAILS

**Award:** Total funding as of Fiscal Year 2023, \$23,945,000.

**Goal:** Help build and apply the critical knowledge needed to inform policy choices to combat child labor and forced labor and to support measures to address these challenges in key countries, regions, and sectors.

**Countries and Regions:**<sup>1</sup> Global, Argentina, Colombia, Fiji, India, Jordan, Kosovo,<sup>2</sup> Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Niger, Serbia, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste.<sup>3</sup>

### EVALUATION OBJECTIVE

Assess achievement of project objectives, challenges encountered, intended and unintended effects, lessons learned, emerging good practices, and project sustainability.

### EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The mixed-methods evaluation consisted of extensive document review, **190 key informant interviews**, **7 focus group discussions**, and an **online perception survey with 198 training participants**.

Evaluation fieldwork was conducted from August 2023 to November 2023, in person for Argentina, India, and Kosovo and remotely for Fiji, Niger, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and the global and research components.<sup>4</sup>

Respondents included project staff, key partners, trainees, representatives of national statistical offices, labor ministries, academic institutions, trade unions, and employers' organizations. Interviews were also conducted with the ILO Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour (RILAC) technical secretariat representatives in Peru and Costa Rica, ILO staff in Argentina, and a key government stakeholder in Mexico to assess the RILAC child labor risk model.

### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW OUTCOMES

ACHIEVEMENT

SUSTAINABILITY

**Outcome 1** – Improved knowledge base on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.



Above Moderate



Moderate

**Outcome 2** – Improved application of knowledge in support of efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor.



Moderate



Moderate

**Outcome 3** – Strengthened policies and improved capacity of governments, national authorities, employers' and workers' organizations, and other relevant entities to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through national, regional, and global initiatives.



Above Moderate



Moderate

**Outcome 4** – Strengthened partnerships to accelerate progress in combating child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.



Above Moderate



Moderate

<sup>1</sup> A second evaluation brief with information on the 8 MAP 16 countries covered in this evaluation is available here: [https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/evaluation\\_type/final\\_evaluation/ILAB-MAP-16-Final-Evaluation-Country-Findings-Brief.pdf](https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/evaluation_type/final_evaluation/ILAB-MAP-16-Final-Evaluation-Country-Findings-Brief.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

<sup>3</sup> The evaluation did not cover all priority capacity-building countries under MAP 16 because some country components had been closed for more than a year at the time of the evaluation.

<sup>4</sup> While evaluation results reflect project progress as of November 2023, MAP 16 activities continued to June 2024.

## EVALUATION LIMITATIONS

**Most country components were already closed** by the time the evaluation started, which made it challenging to coordinate fieldwork logistics and reach all stakeholders.

**Challenges in remote data collection** due to poor phone reception and internet connectivity.

Training participant lists for the online survey had **incomplete contact information** or were often too large, so survey participants had to be sampled.

**Lower response rate** (11 percent) for the online survey of training participants, due possibly to the large time lag between training implementation and survey dissemination.



## KEY PROMISING PRACTICES

1. **Human impact stories**, which are factual accounts of life experiences told by individuals, are effective mechanisms to communicate messages to broad audiences.

2. The integration of **child labor modules and questions** within ongoing national household surveys, such as labor force surveys, creates efficiency and ensures sustainability of data collection efforts.

3. **International advisory boards**, consisting of academic institutions, international research specialists, representatives of international organizations, and relevant national stakeholders serve as important platforms for research cooperation and dialogue on child labor and forced labor issues.

4. The project **maintained sufficient flexibility** to allow for constant adaptations and adjustments to changes in the operating environment.

5. **Involving key stakeholders**, such as national statistical office personnel, in the

*Training on child labor with Centers for Social Work professionals held on 18 October 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia.*

development of data collection and other research tools builds capacity and ownership while ensuring the tools meet country needs.

6. **Internal capacity-building** activities not only build capacity but also create cohesion among project team members. MAP 16 created the **“Master of Arts MAP 16”** series of internal learning events to identify project team learning needs and develop events to meet them.

7. The **Child Labor Risk Identification Model (CLRISK)**, which uses existing rather than new data, is an efficient and effective mechanism to help countries identify regions where there are higher probabilities of child labor. In this way, countries can determine the most relevant multisectoral actions to address child labor.

8. **Building on existing initiatives** rather than developing new ones creates efficiency and helps ensure success because it does not generate more work for stakeholders.

## RILAC ACHIEVEMENTS



In Argentina, the CLRISK model was used to **reorient the Buena Cosecha program**, which provides care and support to children of rural workers, to target territories at risk of child labor.



In Mexico, the CLRISK model **identified indigenous populations at high risk** for child labor and targeted social services for these communities in four municipalities.



Regional exchange between RILAC and the Africa Initiative promoted South-South Cooperation and **piloting of the CLRISK model in Malawi and Côte d’Ivoire.**

## RESEARCH COUNTRY ACHIEVEMENTS

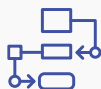


MONGOLIA

Conducted a stand-alone **national child labor survey**.



Integrated **forced labor module** into labor force survey, including a section on military conscripts.



Supported mixed-methods research in prisons to determine compliance of **prisoners' working conditions** with ILO conventions and a qualitative study on **military conscripts and members of the armed forces** to complement results from the forced labor survey.



NIGERIA

Conducted a stand-alone **national child labor survey** with a module on forced labor co-funded by the ILO accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa (ACCEL Africa) project.



Considered feasibility of incorporating **child labor questions** into the national labor force survey.



*Group discussion on child labour survey format of the government held in Chhattisgarh, India.*

## LESSONS LEARNED

1. Projects with research objectives and activities in **multiple countries require expert technical support to ensure high-quality research** and world-class research reports.
2. Projects with both child labor and forced labor research and policy objectives require **participation from both researchers and policy decision-makers** in implementation countries to ensure research is used to develop or improve policies.
3. It is important to **include diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility principles** in the original project design, so they are well articulated, coherent, and built into the monitoring and evaluation system and work plans.
4. It is critical to **develop strategies to address political unwillingness** in approving and acting on child labor and forced labor policies, which might include shifting resources to other outcomes.
5. To maximize project impact, a project's **main components should be linked to create synergies**.
6. Large global projects require **adequate financial resources and sufficiently long**

**implementation timelines** to achieve impacts in each country in which the projects are implemented.

7. Large and complex projects like MAP 16 require a **full-time monitoring and evaluation officer**, preferably designated as key personnel, to effectively manage information and reporting systems and identify lessons needed to make strategic adjustments.

8. Large global projects can be more effectively monitored and reported on if the **number of indicators are limited** to most essential-to-document achievements at the outcome level, helping managers focus on implementing key changes.

9. It is critical to conduct an assessment prior to beginning activities in countries to **determine the need for the proposed interventions** and whether government and non-government stakeholders are interested in these interventions.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Overall

1. Project designs should have compelling **cause and effect logic** built into the theory of change and results framework and strong strategic linkages between main outcomes to ensure overall project objectives are achieved.
2. Large global projects should have **full-time monitoring and evaluation officers** to manage the system of assessing their efficiency, function, and impact.
3. Large and complex projects with a significant number of outcomes and outputs should **limit the number of indicators** to those essential to measure project performance in achieving outcomes and making decisions.
4. The Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan process should be **streamlined** so that the project document is approved in a reasonable amount of time (six to nine months).
5. **Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility principles** should be built into project designs so they are well

articulated, coherent, and embedded in project document, results framework, monitoring system, and work plans from the beginning of the project.

6. Projects should develop a **process to identify challenges** that impede achievement of outcomes and develop strategies to address those challenges.

### For the International Labor Organization

1. The ILO should use its presence and influence to encourage governments to **finalize and approve** important policies, plans, and tools developed under MAP 16 so they have the intended impact on child labor and forced labor, such as in Fiji, Niger, Serbia, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste.
2. Global research projects implemented in multiple countries should include **specific strategies and budgets** that provide technical support and, when necessary, **oversight** to the research activities in implementation countries. These practices will ensure high-quality research and research reports.

### For the United States Department of Labor

1. Ensure projects have **adequate resources** and **sufficiently long implementation periods** to achieve the intended impact.
2. Conduct a thorough **problem analysis** to lay the foundation for choosing project interventions and developing a logically strong theory of change and results framework.
3. Conduct **regular Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan reviews** to assess project performance, discuss key lessons learned including challenges in the operating environment, and use this information to adjust project outcomes, outputs, and strategies.
4. Assess the interest, willingness, and ability of governments and other social partners to **participate in a project before initiating project activities** in a country.

*From top: SCREAM and Youth@Work trainers certification ceremony, Kosovo; rally in Bihar, India to create awareness on child labor; workshop on the findings of the Rapid Sector Appraisal in the forestry sector, Misiones Province, Argentina.*



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