



OUT OF WORK AND INTO SCHOOL: WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

Key results and best practices from the Stop Child Labour programme 2014 - 2017

The programme 'Out of Work and into School', initiated by the Stop Child Labour Coalition, which ran from May 2014 to April 2017 on four continents, has had remarkable results. To a large extent, this is due to a relatively new pathway towards the ultimate goal of pulling children out of workplaces and getting them into classrooms. This inspiring pathway, called Child Labour Free Zones, is a sensitive, all-inclusive, area-based approach, encompassing not only the entire community of an area but also local organisations and authorities, companies, CSR initiatives, and local NGO's. In this approach, cooperation with local partner organisations is essential.

Objectives

The objectives and results of 'Out of Work and into School' relate to three areas:

- preventing and ending child labour and enabling children to enjoy an education;
- involving companies and CSR initiatives in selected sectors – natural stone, garment and textile, leather/footwear, gold, and coffee/tea – to prevent and remediate child labour and other workers' rights violations in their supply chains;
- involving policy makers and consumers in the Netherlands and abroad to support the elimination of child labour and the development of Child Labour Free Zones.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

SECTOR



TOTAL

20,412 CHILDREN
CHILDREN PREVENTED
AND WITHDRAWN FROM
CHILD LABOUR¹

NICARAGUA



60 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND
WITHDRAWN FROM
CHILD LABOUR

83 teachers have been trained on communication skills, techniques of negotiation and the importance of leadership as a teacher. Awareness raising activities on the importance of education have taken place

MALI



12,064 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND
WITHDRAWN FROM
CHILD LABOUR

SECTOR



UGANDA



3,705 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND
WITHDRAWN FROM
CHILD LABOUR

SECTOR



NETHERLANDS

INTERNATIONAL

5 MoUs signed between SCL and companies in the sectors Coffee, Footwear, Natural Stone and Textile (2x)

11 (international en national) companies and 4 CSR initiatives have included the area-based approach in their intervention strategies in the sectors gold, natural stone, coffee and footwear

9 research reports published on child labour in the sectors natural stone (2), gold (2), garment (3) and seeds (2)

Active involvement in 3 Covenants (Textile, Gold and Natural Stone) and **lead on child labour in Covenant on Textile and Garment**

Multi stakeholder meetings and dialogue with **at least 80 companies and 11 CSR initiatives**

Substantial contribution on Child Labour Due Diligence Law via internal and external lobby, advocacy and communication

Millions of citizens/consumers reached through media

ZIMBABWE



286 CHILDREN PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN FROM CHILD LABOUR

SECTOR



TURKEY



Awareness raising activities conducted with teachers on child rights and child labour. Dialogues have taken place with companies and CSR initiatives in the hazelnut and cotton (including agreement with 7 companies) sectors

SECTOR



INDIA



4,297 CHILDREN PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN FROM CHILD LABOUR

SECTOR





BUDHPURA, INDIA

COBBLE STONES

417 CHILDREN PREVENTED FROM CHILD LABOUR
815 CHILDREN WITHDRAWN FROM CHILD LABOUR
219 CHILDREN IN BRIDGE SCHOOLS

FROM **47.9 %** TO **80.7 %** CHILDREN IN SCHOOL
 IN THE CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONE

EVIDENCE OF CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN
 LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

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Context: informal setting

Budhpura, in Rajasthan, is a major source of cobbles, also for export to the Belgian, French and Dutch markets. The sector is largely unorganised; production takes place mostly in front of houses, involving whole families. The quarry areas are informal and associated with a multitude of problems, including low wages, lack of quality education, child labour, diseases (especially silicosis), premature deaths, alcoholism, domestic violence, environmental damage and non-functioning governmental systems.

Mobilizing communities

A Child Labour Free Zone (CLFZ) has been established in Budhpura in 2013 by Manjari, a local NGO. The CLFZ extends over nine villages with a population of 6,972, with roughly 25 % of the people between 6 and 18 years old. Many are migrants. Manjari's work covered most aspects of the area-based approach: awareness raising; community mobilisation, involving teachers and local businesses, linking families to social schemes like health insurance, pensions and widows' benefits; strengthening government services through advocacy and engagement; improving quality of and access to healthcare and education. Manjari has given skills training in order to provide alternative sources of income. The NGO has built community structures like women's self-help groups for collective saving and access to credit. Last but not least, it has engaged with the local business community, with local and district level governmental bodies, and with the multi-stakeholder platform State Forum on Natural Stone.

Involving traders and companies

As part of creating the CLFZ, local traders, organised in the Cobble Traders Union and aware of the negative image that child labour gives to their merchandise, had prohibited it in their cobble yards. This however was only effectively enforced after Manjari convinced the traders to fine members still making use of child labour, to demarcate stockyards with 'No Child Labour'-billboards and install camera surveillance.

International companies Beltrami and London Stone have been involved in the programme for several years now. They visit the area regularly, support the project financially, help to raise awareness by posting blogs on nochildleftbehind.co.uk and convince other stakeholders to join.

Combining bottom-up and top-down approaches

Manjari's role in this respect is innovative. By positioning itself as supply chain partner for businesses and offering access to the grassroot level of workers and their families, Manjari helps businesses to increase transparency in supply chains, necessary for complying with social and environmental norms. It facilitates communication between top and bottom, thus sensitising companies and authorities to the needs on the ground.



ERUSSI, WEST NILE REGION, UGANDA

COFFEE

988 CHILDREN PREVENTED FROM CHILD LABOUR
1,640 CHILDREN WITHDRAWN FROM CHILD LABOUR

FROM **79.8 %** TO **97.8 %** CHILDREN IN SCHOOL
 IN THE CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONE

EVIDENCE OF STRONG COPYING AND REPLICATION OF
 PROGRAMME ASPECTS IN SURROUNDING AREAS

© Gerdien ten Cate

Context: informal setting

This project encompasses 13 remote villages with a population of 10,244 in Erussi sub-county, a coffee growing area with pronounced child labour. Causes are persistent: migration of parents looking for work and leaving children behind; child marriages; alcoholism among adults and youth alike; HIV leading to orphaned children; single mother-families. The area has a high population growth rate.

Joint efforts

A Child Labour Free Zone was established in 2015, in cooperation with teachers union UNATU, local NGO CEFORD, a local coffee company and the international certification standard UTZ. Local, sub-county and district government have been supportive. CEFORD mobilises communities by establishing child labour committees in the villages to spot and remediate child labour, by introducing savings and loans systems in close collaboration with the coffee company field staff, and by organising trainings on agricultural practices and income generating activities, with a special focus on gender aspects. UNATU sensitises school teachers to child labour issues, and organises improvements in schools. The police makes sure that people know child labour is illegal.

Continuous improvement

Since 2014, the local coffee company works with all 483 coffee producers in the area. It trains member producers how to comply with the UTZ standard of certified coffee, including measures to address child labour. The UTZ child labour guidelines have an approach of continuous improvement that aims at prevention, identification and remediation in cooperation with communities, rather than sanctioning, exclusion or de-certification. Immediate banning of child labour is not considered a realistic goal, and would only drive child labourers into hiding. Therefore, the partners in the CLFZ adopt a more comprehensive approach, aimed at child labour eradication and lasting solutions by tackling root causes and providing viable alternatives.

Sustainable change

The CLFZ continues to bring about positive change for the children and their families. A byelaw is being prepared that will provide adaptation of national law on child labour to local needs. Coffee production has increased spectacularly and there is qualitative evidence of overall improvement of incomes, community cohesion and empowerment of children and parents. Awareness of the havoc wreaked by child labour has grown, attitudes have changed. The coffee company and UTZ are now expanding the CLFZ approach towards other areas, in cooperation with CEFORD, UNATU and SCL, and are exploring possibilities for a less intensive and more cost-effective approach for further upscaling.

External evaluation

At the end of 2016, an external evaluation report concluded that the 'Out of Work and into School' programme has been very successful in improving the lives of (former) child labourers and the communities around them, rural as well as urban. The programme has managed to address the root causes of child labour, and there is ample evidence of replication and spin-off effects. Local organisations involved in setting up and supporting Child Labour Free Zones were evaluated as being highly capable, motivated and effective.

The evaluation confirms that Stop Child Labour has contributed to companies and CSR initiatives adopting policies and improving their practices with regard to eliminating child labour. These actors have proven themselves to be frontrunners, committed to long-term investment not only in banning child labour but also in supporting school enrolment.

Similarly, it was confirmed that lobby and advocacy activities in southern countries have been effective, specifically at local level, to enhance local ownership, sustainability and the potential for scaling up Child Labour Free Zones. In policy bodies in the Netherlands and at international level, the expertise of the Stop Child Labour Coalition and its partners has gained recognition and appreciation.

What next?

The external evaluation produced a series of recommendations under four headings:

- Upscaling: Expanding the strategies that will enable the Coalition and its partners to reach out to entire supply chains and cover hot-spot areas for companies. To facilitate partnerships with companies, communication and promotion materials should be structured as 'investment propositions', linking costs to results.
- Synergy: Improved exchange of experiences and information between local and international level of the programme; between community workers, supply chain actors and policy workers; and between existing and new local partners.
- Capacity building: Skills improvement of local partners in working with companies, policy analysis and research, working with teachers and in lobby and advocacy, especially on a national level.
- Deepening: Further improvement of systematic data collection should enable finetuning of existing monitoring, evaluation and assessment of the cost-effectiveness of the Child Labour Free Zone approach. A systematic distinction between phases of a project should improve prognoses and help determine the resources required.

The Stop Child Labour coalition will work towards implementation of these recommendations.

Colophon

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Full report Out of Work and into School, Joint efforts towards Child Labour Free Zones:

<http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/>

[final-report-out-of-work-and-into-school/](#)

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'Stop Child Labour - School is the best place to work' is a coalition coordinated by Hivos.

The coalition consists of the Algemene Onderwijsbond (AOB), Mondiaal FNV, Hivos, the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN), ICCO Cooperation and Kerk in Actie, Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland and local organisations in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

www.stopchildlabour.org / www.stopkinderarbeid.nl