

Round table meeting on child labour

12 December, 2016

Humanity House, The Hague

Programme for round table meeting on child labour Monday 12 December, 2016, Humanity House¹, The Hague

13.00-13.30	Arrival of participants for round table meeting and viewing the # ONCE photo exhibition of Jimmy Nelson.	
13.30-13.45	Welcome, introduction of participants and explanation of programme.	Facilitator, Janice Reul
13.45-14.00	Welcome and introduction of Stop Child Labour Programme (convener of the meeting). Where do we come from as SCL and how have we reached where we are now. The common ground/vision on child labour: ILO Conventions, UNCRC, SDGs.	SCL Programme Manager, Sofie Ovaa
14.00-14.15	Summary of inputs from the different organisations: what are common points and what are discussion points.	Facilitator
14.15-15.15	Discussion on 3 points according to the papers: 1. Child labour and local communities 2. Child labour and companies/CSR initiatives 3. Child labour and politics	Facilitator
15.15-15.30	Tea/coffee break	
15.30-16.00	Summary of discussions and vision on scaling up different child labour interventions; the cohesion between the supply chain and an area based approach; possibilities for collaboration on child labour issues. Advice on the way forward and what we can do here from The Netherlands (at a political and business level for example)?	MVF India, Venkat Reddy
16.00-16.45	Discussion on the points raised by Venkat: do we agree and what do we see different? How do we take it forward?	Facilitator
16.45-17.00	Wrap-up, closing of the programme and invitation for the drinks.	SCL
17.00-18.00	Drinks and bites	

¹ Adres Humanity House

Prinsegracht 8

2512 GA Den Haag

Voor bereikbaarheid zie: <https://www.humanityhouse.org/kom-langs/praktische-informatie/>

Participating Organisations for the Round Table Meeting

1. Stop Child Labour (Hivos, Algemene Onderwijsbond (AOB), Mondiaal FNV, the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN), Kerk in Actie & ICCO Cooperation and Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland)
2. Global Campaign for Education
3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. UNICEF
5. HR&W
6. Terre des Hommes
7. Save the Children
8. SOS Kinderdorpen
9. UTZ Certified
10. Solidaridad
11. SOMO
12. MV Foundation
13. Education International
14. Amnesty
15. RVO (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland) / Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Contributions of organisations

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10. Education International
11. SOMO
12. RVO (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland) / Netherlands Enterprise Agency
13. Global March



Round table on child labour, 12 Dec 2016: Stop Child Labour Programme

What is Stop Child Labour (SCL)?

A coalition of the Algemene Onderwijsbond (AOB), Mondiaal FNV, Hivos, the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN), Kerk in Actie & ICCO Cooperation and Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland. The coalition is coordinated by Hivos and cooperates closely with local organisations in Asia, Africa and Latin-America with the common aim to eradicate all forms of child labour (based on ILO Conventions).

Child labour and the community based approach

Children's rights are universal. Every child has the right to education and protection against child labour. To achieve this, SCL advocates an area-based approach involving all children who live in a certain area. Focusing only on children who work in certain sectors or on the worst forms of child labour does not bring lasting change. As long as some forms of child labour are accepted, children will continue to work and they will continue to be denied the right to education. Through the area-based approach, child labour free zones (CLFZ) can be created. In these areas (e.g. villages or plantations) the focus is on all forms of child labour that hinders education, health and development. The people living in these areas agree with the norm that all children should go to school and so they work together to make that happen. Experience shows that where children no longer perform labour, adults can negotiate better wages and working conditions. Furthermore, adults in the child labour free zones learn to become more conscious of their income and expenditure. SCL partners also engage with local, district and sometimes national governments to further promote the CLFZ and other policies that are pro-education and anti-child labour.

CSR (business & human rights) and child labour

The responsibility of companies to respect human rights and to undertake due diligence to identify, prevent and mitigate their impact, as described in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, form the basis of SCL's strategies on CSR. SCL expects from companies to: undertake proper HR due diligence in their full supply chain (beyond their first tier); not withdraw orders or end contracts when problems are encountered, but to take responsibility; engage with local stakeholders like unions, local government authorities, NGOs and communities; communicate and be transparent about their supply chain, measures taken and improvements. SCL takes different roles regarding companies. 1) **Giving insight**: conducting research into the risks and issues of child labour linked to specific sectors and/or companies e.g. in the garment, natural stone and gold sector. Public reports also serve as instrument to motivate companies to take measures against child labour. 2) **Watchdog**: in several sectors SCL is monitoring companies' efforts to improve their policies and practices related to child labour and other labour rights, e.g. in footwear and garments 3) **Individual engagement**: providing feedback and advice to companies on their child labour policies and practices in all mentioned sectors (no consultancy services) 4) **Collective efforts**: cooperation with companies and multi-stakeholder initiatives in creating CLFZ (active involvement through supply chain leverage) and stakeholder engagement with companies in the CLFZ intervention areas e.g. in the coffee, natural stone and garment/textile sector.

Child labour and political decision makers

Policy makers, both nationally, regionally and internationally have a very important role to play to make sure that children go to school and not to work. Governments have the duty to protect children.

Both SCL partners in The Netherlands as well as their partners in various countries engage with their own national and/or district government to develop and implement policies against child labour (see also above). In The Netherlands SCL engages with MP's and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on strengthening policies against child labour. A few examples: we are closely involved in developing and since recently implementing (in the case of garments) so-called International CSR Convenants in the areas of garments/textiles, natural stone, food and gold, also – in a multi-stakeholder setting - with trade unions, sector associations and companies. We are also working with an MP on a (as strong as possible) so-called *Child Labour Due Diligence Law* which demands from companies to tackle and ultimately eradicate child labour in their full supply chain. Public 'child labour free' procurement is another issue we are focusing on. SCL has also successfully argued for raising child labour issues during trade missions and reporting this to Parliament. And of course we have also politically raised the CLFZ approach, which has been embraced quite strongly by Minister Ploumen. SCL also engages at the international level e.g. the ILO (it is a member of the Child Labour Platform), the European Union (e.g. on the Council Conclusions on Child Labour and the garment industry) and the OECD. Regarding the ILO and the OECD we have e.g. contributed to the ILO-IOE Child Labour Guidance Tool for Business and the new OECD Guidance on the Garment and Footwear Sector.

The Global Campaign for Education Netherlands

Input Round Table discussion on Child Labour 12 December 2016

The Global Campaign for Education is the largest civil society movement for the right to education. Founded in 1999, it now consists of coalitions in about 100 countries, regional bodies and INGO-members. The Dutch coalition, GCE-NL, consists of development NGO's and labour unions. GCE-NL mobilises Dutch public and political support for the right to education.

GCE-NL, as well as the international movement, doesn't address child labour as a separate issue, but acknowledges that it's closely interlinked with the right to education. In fact, the GCE-movement was co-established by Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi who devoted his life to combat child labour. The initiative stems from his awareness that advancements with poverty, child labour and the right to education could only be achieved if tackled jointly.

In situations of poverty (i.e. the complex cycles of unemployment, lack of living wages, unequal access to resources, rights and information, health problems, low status etc) many parents see no better alternative than to keep their children out of school and send them into work. In turn, exclusion from education leads to sustained and growing poverty, inequality and deprivation. In combatting child labour, isolated consumer boycotts and campaigns directed towards companies do not offer a solution for parents who feel forced to send their child out to work: they will turn to find other jobs for their children to make ends meet. Integrated measures are needed, involving different stakeholders and different levels. Core of the issue: parents need to have an alternative choice.

The GCE addresses one of the most fundamental elements in this chain: where children have no access to free, public, quality education, there *is* no alternative. Which is currently the case for 263 million children worldwide: 61 million children of primary school age, 60 million of 12-14 years, 142 million of 15-17 years. This refers to access to education alone. Where education is available, this is sometimes of too poor quality or too expensive to provide a viable alternative to poor parents.

The Education for All-agenda, the work programme of the GCE-movement, has been succeeded last year by the Education 2030-agenda. Education 2030 translates into UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 and other education related SDGs.

These education goals and targets address education holistically: from pre-schools to adult literacy, from the supply of qualified teachers to single sex sanitation facilities at schools. Stemming from the awareness that a too narrow focus on one element will not solve the underlying problems. E.g.: if analysis shows that in a particular region employment opportunities are low because TVET provision is not aligned to the local labour market, improvement of TVET may need to be supported by investments in teachers training and basic education.

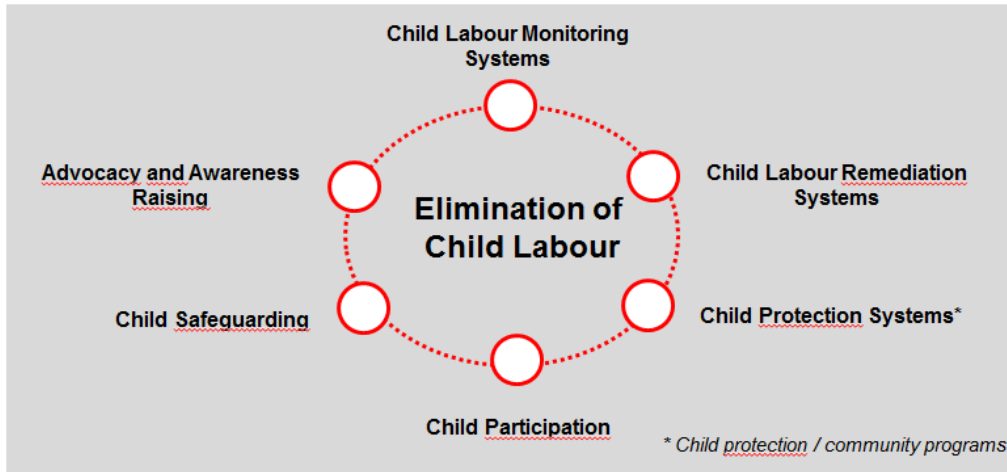
This holistic approach applies to the entire SDG-agenda: no goal can be achieved unless all other goals are addressed. As the Netherlands adopted the SDG-agenda and as the government as well as various institutions and organisations are currently looking for ways to link up to this agenda: in discussing how to upscale child labour initiatives and to find new partners, it might be a good starting point to check which goals and targets apply to child labour.

GCE-international: www.campaignforeducation.org | GCE-NL: www.globalcampaignforeducation.nl

Workplace

Marketplace

Community



prevention

remediation

monitoring

Child labour - Solidaridad

School is the best place to work.

World community has committed itself to the eradication of child labour, starting with 'the elimination of all worst forms of child labour by 2016'. Reality is that over the last decades hardly any progress had been made. The problem of child labour is linked to other forms of inhuman working conditions, like slavery, bonded labour and forced labour, conforming the bottom of the labour markets, that are characterised by wide spread substandard and exploitative working conditions.

In her programmes Solidaridad is confronted with child labour, in the **agricultural sector** as well as in the **mining sector** and **garment industry**. From child migrants, as an invisible group of children deprived of all rights, working on cocoa farms in Ivory Coast to child factory workers in India or Bangladesh with long daily working hours. From slavery to bonded labour, like the sugar workers in the Dominican Republic who have no freedom of movement because their identity papers are withheld from them or because they are bound with fraudulent debts from which they cannot escape.

It is easy to make pictures of children working in the field. But this is often **child work, not child labour**. School holidays are geared to harvest periods because all hands are needed on the farm. No problem when the working load is acceptable and the working hours reasonable. The real problem is linked to **future destroying child labour**. Work instead of education and a workload overstressing the physical capacities of children.

The so called **rights-based approach** emphasises the immoral and political aspects of the problem. It is more than justified, but has not been very effective up to now. In **weak states** with a low enforcing capacity the prohibition of child labour does not directly change the reality of child life.

A precondition for the eradication of child labour is the creation of **alternatives: education** for work and a living income for **parents** instead of a marginal income for children.

For Solidaridad a flanking policy to give children access to school is needed and requires permanent pressure on governments and cooperation with CSO's like Unicef or Edukans, which have a focus on education.

A more specific contribution Solidaridad could make is an **economic** answer allowing to abolish inhuman forms of labour. Can we create an economic dynamic which is supportive to a political solution and could be successful in a more direct way?

Substandard working conditions are often related to **unskilled** and **unproductive** agricultural and industrial processes. Cheap labour reflects low productivity, low margins and low levels of mechanization. Work processes which require higher levels of education, skills and experience are per definition adult labour. **Modernisation** of a sector will support the creation of more decent conditions and the programming of this process of modernisation could be linked directly to the out-facing of child labour and other forms of bonded labour.



**SOS
KINDERDORPEN**
Elk kind een familie

SOS Children's Villages the Netherlands (SOS CV NL) and Child Labour

Mieke Hartveld

SOS Children's Villages defends the rights of children and youth who have either lost parental care or of children and youth that are at risk of losing it.

SOS CV recognises that child rights are often violated as children and youth are forced to work in harmful and dangerous conditions during long periods of time so that children and youth are deprived of emotional security, leisure, rest, education, health, etc..

SOS CV NL fights (together with other SOS CV member associations) child labour through awareness raising programmes and programmes to promote quality of education and school enrolment:

Promotion of quality education / school enrolment

- In its community and family strengthening programmes, education is a major topic. SOS CV implements programmes on awareness raising among parents and local opinion leaders regarding the importance of education, programmes to support public schools (and the surrounding communities) so that the education offered by these schools is improved. Programmes are implemented in Accra / Kumasi Ghana, Canchungo Guinea Bissau and Yamoussoukro Côte d'Ivoire.

Promotion of decent work

- In its programmes for youth employment, efforts are made to ensure that work (paid jobs and auto-employment) responds to standards related to payment, working conditions, length of the working day, labour rights, personnel development perspectives, in short all criteria that determine whether work can be qualified as decent (according to the ILO definition). Youth employment programmes are implemented in Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Mali, Somalia, Ghana.

Eradication of bonded child labour

- SOS CV has also programmes to fight bonded child labour. For instance, SOS CV runs the programme *Tantis Bagage* in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. The programme denounces the exploitation and abuse of young girls that are trapped in bonded labour as market carriers, after they have been given away by their poor families to market vendors, who let them work for clients who do their shopping on the market. The programme aims to change attitudes and practices of both poor families, market vendors and the public in general, also by claiming compliance with the law. In addition, it builds on an alternative way of living for the girls in question.



CHILD LABOUR AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

UNICEF'S WORK ON CHILD LABOUR IN PRODUCTION COUNTRIES

UNICEF works with national governments and partner organisations to prevent child labour and support the victims of child labour through:

- Strengthening the application of national laws and regulating the working conditions of children old enough to work.
- The establishment of an integrated child protection system, with a focus on access to protective services for the victims of child rights violations, including (former) child labourers.
- Access to nurseries, quality education and vocational education.
- Supporting communities in changing their cultural acceptance of child labour. UNICEF works with parents, education personnel, religious and community leaders to raise awareness about the harmful consequences of child labour, the importance of education, and child rights in general.
- The development of supporting strategies and programming to provide alternative income to families.
- Supporting policies aimed at providing support to child workers; the promotion of decent youth employment; the inclusion of child labour concerns in national education plans.

UNICEF'S WORK ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

UNICEF works with business to embed children's rights considerations across their activities, operations and relationships. UNICEF influences business behaviour directly and through key industry associations, using their networks and channels of influence to take action on child rights.

In 2012, UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children launched the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP). These global guidelines were developed with the involvement of various stakeholders. The ten principles relate to the workplace, marketplace, community and environment. The guidelines aim to make entrepreneurs aware of the impact of their business on children around the world and create an opening for dialogue.

UNICEF'S WORK WITH THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT

Together with the Dutch government, Dutch businesses and partner NGO's, UNICEF is closely involved in the negotiations and implementations of Corporate Social Responsibility covenants. The ultimate goal of these covenants is to ensure that human rights and the rights of the child are respected and supported throughout the entire value chain of industry sectors and individual companies. At this moment UNICEF is engaged in the garment and textile, food and beverages, and gold sector covenants.

Three examples of initiatives that UNICEF Nederland supports/takes part in:

1. **Bangladesh Garment Initiative:** UNICEF is bringing together global leading retailers, the Bangladeshi Government, suppliers, industry bodies, worker organisations & NGOs to influence long-term policy and sector-wide change and harness the power of the garment sector to improve the well-being of children and their families in Bangladesh, through: support for national laws and policies that protect workers and children's rights, research and monitoring of situation, awareness creation and information provision for business

managers, creating positive change in the workplaces towards family friendly working conditions and investing in the communities in which businesses and supply chains operate.

2. **Turkey Cotton Chain Project:** Action oriented mapping of the cotton supply chain with the aim of creating a more sustainable Dutch textile sector.
3. **Cote d'Ivoire – prevention of child labour in the cocoa industry** through: The development of systemic, community-based interventions that strengthen the protective environment for children in selected cocoa growing communities in Cote d'Ivoire. The engagement of the private sector in Cote d'Ivoire, especially the cocoa sector, to increase awareness of holistic approaches to children's rights, and to increase action to respect and support children's rights in cocoa growing and processing.

UTZ Approach in Tackling Child Labor

UTZ is a sustainability program driving sector wide change in the cocoa, coffee, tea and hazelnut sectors. The eradication of Child Labor in agriculture is an important step in UTZ mission to achieve a world where sustainable farming is the norm.

Certification is one of the key tools to contribute to this mission, but UTZ also recognizes that some problems that farmers face cannot be addressed by certification alone. Different issues touched upon as part of the UTZ Code are deep-rooted and have causes beyond the farm and need to be addressed at a sector level.

UTZ therefore complements certification efforts by supporting and working with local organizations, government and industry aimed at improving the enabling environment and driving sector change around key themes including Child Labor.

The UTZ Code of Conduct includes explicit requirements for members that are based on the main ILO Conventions. All UTZ certified groups are audited to this code by third-party Certification Bodies. UTZ provides training, guidance and support to their members to strengthen the implementation of the UTZ requirements (e.g. through their Internal Management Systems).

It is important to state that although UTZ takes action to prevent and eliminate Child Labor, it is impossible for any viable system to provide a 100% guarantee that there is no Child Labor on any certified farm at any time throughout the year. To fully eradicate Child Labor, a powerful coalition of many different stakeholders is needed, including local communities, civil society organizations, companies and governments, while at the same time fine-tuning our own policies.

The Code of Conduct and the processes around certification provide a framework to jointly prevent Child Labor from occurring.

The UTZ Code of Conduct requires members to conduct annual Child Labor risk assessments whether there is a likelihood of Child Labor issues. If the risk assessment shows a risk of Child Labor, child labor liaisons should be appointed and the producer groups have to address the risk through the development of prevention, identification and remediation plans (in the best interest of children). The Code requires producer groups to reach out to local authorities and NGOs to jointly address Child Labor and improve the access to education.

It is important to mention that Child Labor is prohibited in all areas of the farm, including the household. This includes children working in food crop production, in the household or on tasks such as cattle herding. This means producer groups have to resolve all cases of Child Labor, and cannot move the problem to a different non-certified part of the farm.

Actually, UTZ is aiming to work with many actors that need to play a substantive role in addressing the problem of Child Labor. The focus will be on the development of training, methodologies and tools for farmer groups, estates and their public and private partner on implementing the due diligence approach and to organise adequate response and remediation, together with governmental offices, local authorities and NGOs.

Moreover, UTZ participates in sector partnerships, roundtables and multi-stakeholder initiatives to promote the sustainability agenda, including Child Labor issues.

Through the Sector Partnerships Program funded by the Dutch government, we support civil society organizations in the producing countries to strengthen capacities, build experience and evidence for effective lobby and advocacy and to engage with public and private sector initiatives.

M V Foundation

Child labour and the community based approach

M V Foundation's approach is based on a firm conviction that no child works and that all children attend full time formal day schools. It follows an 'area-based approach'. The core of MVF's activities includes a process of social mobilization involving the community to establish a social norm in favor of children's right to education against the existing social norm that tolerates child labour. It created a youth corps of child defenders, formed Child Rights Protection Forums in every village, built capacities of gram panchayats to monitor child rights. MVF prepared the society to stand by children through these forums. Simultaneously their capacities were built to engage with the system and resolve issues relating to lack of teachers, inadequate infrastructure, tracking missing children and so on. Thus child labour free zones are created to demonstrate that it is possible to abolish child labour.

CSR (business & human rights) and child labour

MVF has experience in working on the issues of child labour with the cotton seed companies in Rangareddy and Kurnool districts of the then Andhra Pradesh state. Child labour especially girls comprised majority of the labour force in the cottonseed industry for cross pollination work. MVF conducted awareness campaigns in the villages and conducted surveys of children working on cottonseed farms of respective companies. MVF presented the data giving details of company wise working children on their respective production farms. It solicited the support of the MNCs to prohibit the use of child labour in the process of production. Joint review meetings with the representatives of the seed companies, community members and NGO representatives were held. As a result of all these activities several children were withdrawn from work who were imparted residential bridge courses for mainstreaming them into age appropriate classes.

MNCs owned up responsibility as principal /primary employers and accepted that they are part of the problem. Some MNCs have developed their own programs to work on the issue of child labour in their supply chains. They kept a clause in their agreements with the farmers that no farmer will be employing child labour on their farms. Further incentives were announced to farmers who declared their farms as child labour free. Though these changes are visible in some parts of the production sites, there is still a long way to go by the companies in their respective production areas globally. The wholehearted intent and implementation of the companies for zero tolerance of child labour is still a distant reality.

Child labour and political decision makers

MVF has worked as an advocacy organization for making policy level changes at the state and national level by constantly engaging with the bureaucracy and law makers. Consequently MVF has succeeded in changing policies to be child friendly which had a wide-ranging impact. For instance, admission of children into schools during any time of the academic year, provision of bridge courses for older children (former child labour) in the RTE Act, 2009, transformation of night schools into full time day centres or bridge centres across the nation, amendment of "The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986" for abolition of all forms of child labour below the age of fourteen years.



Terre des Hommes believes that in the long run all child labour should be abolished for all children under the minimum working age and that no children under the age of 18 years should be involved in hazardous and exploitative forms of child labour. The mission of Terre des Hommes is that the rights of vulnerable children and their families are respected, so that these children can properly develop their potential in a safe environment. Terre des Hommes works to create a world in which all children can have a humane existence and can grow up to be independent adults.

Terre des Hommes also makes a distinction between child labour and child work. Work is reality for millions of girls and boys. Child work is not per se exploitative. Girls and boys support their parents and at home they learn the basic skills of house-keeping; by helping out in their parents' business they learn different mechanical skills or farming techniques. Assisting and working helps to impart important social values, e.g. cooperation and community commitment. Work can be a means for self-realisation and can satisfy material and social needs. When children are involved in housework and farming, according to their age and abilities, they obtain self-esteem and learn to be productive for society.

Terre des Hommes is aware of the fact that a total ban on all child labour is not realistic in a short to intermediate term. Therefore Terre des Hommes gives top priority to addressing the worst forms of child labour which jeopardize a child's physical, mental, educational or social development. Hazardous child labour should be prohibited for all children under the age of 18, in line with Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour. Child labour in dangerous jobs, such as with toxics and dangerous substances, in prostitution and bonded labour should be directly eliminated.

Our Approach: the Theory of Change

Terre des Hommes fights child labour with an integrated approach consisting of policy influencing activities, awareness-raising and prevention-like education, health care and social economic development and direct assistance to victims of child labour and exploitation. This integrated approach focuses upon children, families and communities, the private sector, governments, law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs). Our four key intervention-strategies: **prevention, promotion, provision and prosecution** are applied in order to bring about the behavioural changes of the key actors. Participation and partnership are also incorporated in order to increase our impact.

In our approach to partner with the private sector to eradicate child labour, Terre des Hommes keeps in mind one of the basic principles of the Sustainable Development Goals: 'leave no one behind'. The more companies introduce human rights and children's rights to their policy, the more children will be freed from child labour and other forms of exploitation.

Terre des Hommes will try to stimulate as many companies as possible to work on child rights due diligence for which **dialogue** is key. Through initial dialogues with the private sector Terre des Hommes wants to address children's rights and evaluate companies current CSR policy and implementation thereof. By sharing expertise Terre des Hommes wants to sensitise companies for child rights violations. Besides, Terre des Hommes wants to ensure that companies define an improvement of children's welfare and respect children's rights among companies goals, and implement it actively.

In order to ensure that Terre des Hommes always stays close to its mission and vision, Terre des Hommes developed Engagement Criteria for Private Sector Partners. The framework for the selection is generally based on the ASN Bank's human rights policy model and specifically on the Children's Rights and Business Principles developed by the UN Global Compact, UNICEF and Save the children. The guidelines suggest that Terre des Hommes does not want to cooperate with companies which are not willing to respect human rights and children's rights as well as natural environment. Furthermore, companies with which Terre des Hommes wants to cooperate must express at the Board level the intention of CSR due diligence as set down in UNGP, particularly focused on exclusion of child labour and other forms of exploitation.

Education International

Education International is a federation of 396 associations and unions in 171 countries and territories, it represents some 32.5 million educators and support professionals in education institutions from early childhood to university. For EI, the issue of child labour is closely linked to the concepts of rule of law, decent work, the right to education, and more specifically to the struggle for a free quality public education for all, girls and boys alike. The ability to respect the rights of children to education and to treat them with dignity is not determined by the level of social and economic development of a country. It is a matter of decency and of moral standing. We should not need more meetings or international conferences to reaffirm the key principle that children should be learning, not working. The fight against poverty starts in the class room. Child labour and education are like communicating vessels. When education is rising, child labour diminishes. When education is poor, child labour increases.

Child labour and the community based approach

For years, education unions have been involved in projects aiming at the creation of child labour free zones through the community/area based approach in Albania, Mali, Morocco, Nicaragua, Senegal, Uganda, Zimbabwe. In the most marginalised regions of these countries, after appropriate training, teachers have used their influence to reduce substantially and sometimes eradicate child labour, mostly through awareness raising. Once well trained, teachers are in a key position to influence communities. They interact with children every day, they often know about their family situations and through their daily work, they are in a key position to encourage pupils to stay at school. They are also often very well regarded by the families, which helps them to influence parents in favour of the education of their children instead of exploitation through labour. The projects would not have been so successful if education unions had not involved and partnered with significant stakeholders. It is the joint mobilization of teachers, pupils, parents, local authorities, religious leaders, NGOs, and media that make child labour free zones a sustainable success.

CSR (business & human rights) and child labour

Increasingly, global unions and NGOs act with companies and investors to find ways to eradicate child labour in global supply chains. Multinationals have developed complex and costly corporate social responsibility (CSR) approaches to trace and eradicate child labour from their chains of production. By respecting freedom of association, and allowing the presence of unions in their supply chains, these multinational would have been more effective: trade unions not only change the power and work relationship in the workplace, they are also the best guarantee against the use of child labour. This is the case for a variety of reasons including the institutionalisation of work relationships, the implementation of labour laws, and a greater income for families that are a consequence of trade union action. Unions also fight for decent work for adults, which is a key in reducing poverty and therefore child labour.

Child labour and political decision makers

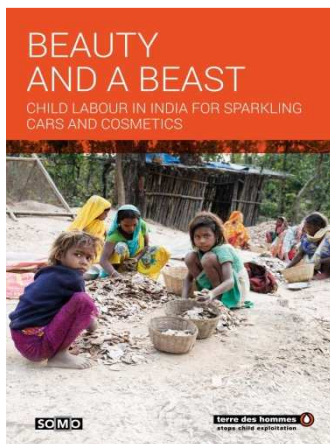
Child labour and the absence of education of decent quality are closely linked. Education is more than just bringing as many children as possible into a classroom. Trying to eradicate child labour without investing in quality education makes no sense. This is why education unions lobby and bargain with the authorities everywhere to put in place the three essential elements of a quality education: universal and free access to quality teaching; quality teaching tools and resources; and supportive, safe and secure environments for teaching and learning. With its affiliates, EI is advocating the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 4 and other education related SDGs.

Moving children from work to school means including them into national education systems. This requires strengthening and improving the public school systems rather than establishing private schools or privatising public schools. Privatisation and commercialisation are major global challenges. This is a serious threat for public education systems, as well as for their ability to promote social cohesion and equity.

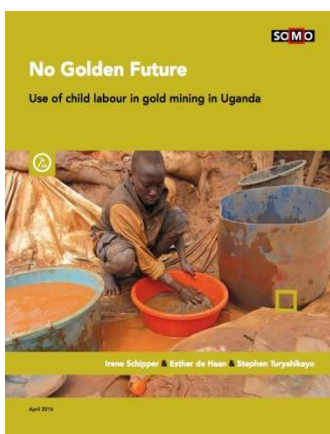
SOMO's work on child labour

As a research organization we have not developed specific activities on child labour in local communities but have focused our activities on researching (supply chains of) MNC's. In the last year SOMO has researched several supply chains for campaigns of CSOs in the Netherlands.

For Terre des Hommes SOMO researched severe human rights violation (child labour) deep in the supply chain, in mica, and connected this to well-known end-users. The report focused on child labour in Jharkhand/Bihar for mica mining and processing, and the role of Dutch companies and main manufacturers of pearlescent pigments globally. Philips and Terre des Hommes, with support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs have initiated a 'Mica Working Group' to address child labor issues in the supply chain of mica.



SOMO researched child labour in gold mining, with field research conducted in Mali and Uganda. The objective of SOMO's research was to determine the use and magnitude of child labour in the artisanal gold mining in Mali and Uganda; and second, to provide insight into the supply chain from the mines to the point of export, and establish supply chain linkages with the electronics sector. SOMO also made a score card, based on a questionnaire and public available documents, in which electronics companies were assessed on their policy and practice on banning child labour from their supply chains, specifically in mining.



RVO (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland) / Netherlands Enterprise Agency

RVO (The Netherlands Enterprise Agency) is a Governmental Agency. We execute different programs based on Governmental policies. Our clients are mainly the Dutch Ministries or the EU. Our target group are mainly companies.

We execute a Fund that aims at combating Child Labor. We focus on companies and support company due diligence and support the cooperation with NGOs through Multi Stakeholder Initiatives. For more information, please see www.rvo.nl/fbk

Child labor and the community based approach

Important, when aimed at the root causes of child labor. Especially important to prevent that children will be taken out of one production chain and will be put to work somewhere else.

CSR (business & human rights) and child labor

No company wants to have child labor in their production chains. But in practice we found that companies do not know enough about the issues in their own chain beyond the ' first tier '. As a consequence they give not enough priority to child labor and the internal knowledge and capacity around this problem is low. There is still a substantial risk that the internal management processes unintentionally contribute to child labor, but this is not how the company evaluates this. Also, we found that companies are 'scared' to work on knowledge beyond their first tier for reputation damage and 'fear' to be swallowed in long, confusing and, above all, expensive process to fight child labor. Companies are supposed to do due diligence on child labor, but also on human rights and on their wide impact in general (according to the OECD guidelines). Due Diligence is required in order to manage potential or actual negative impact (prevent or reduce) as companies are accountable on their actions.

Child labor and political decision makers

As we are a Governmental Agency we follow the policy and actions of our Minister (based on the long term policy and instructions/additions etc. from Dutch Parliament).



Child labour in local communities:

Global March's vision is to create a child friendly society, where all children are free from exploitation and receive free and quality education. To this end, Global March seeks a holistic solution to eliminate the crime of child labour. Global March is actively involved at many levels- from working on the ground with communities to advocating for policy change at the decision-making level. Since its inception, Global March has always spoken out and campaigned for the total elimination of child labour.

We feel that an integrated area based approach is the answer to combatting child labour within the communities. The child friendly villages program of our sister organization Bachpan Bachao Andolan is an example of a successful integrated area based approach, but also other organizations are demonstrating that such an approach is successful in ending child labour.

Objectives of an integrated area based approach:

- Identification and withdrawal of child labourers from the community
- Mainstreaming of all children in Schools
- All children are enrolled in schools and ensure that each and every child in the Village goes to school regularly, so that the overall emphasis is on quality of Education.
- Involvement of children from the community
- Employment for the marginalized people of the community
- Create social and economic development
- Make the community self-sustaining and able bodied.
- Create safe and meaningful jobs for young adults.

An integrated area based approach is able to address the interlinked issues, child labour, education and poverty.

Business and child labour

Global March Against Child Labour has been instrumental in shaping the ethical trade mechanism on child labour free goods – in sporting goods industry through the Global March's World Cup Campaigns of 2002, 2006 and 2010. As well as Global March initiated action with the industry on the employment of child labour in Cocoa farms through the Global March's Cocoa Campaign in 2003 , leading to the International Cocoa Initiative.

Global March's intervention "Not Made by Children" programme is aimed towards strengthening the efforts against child labour and trafficking for forced labour through improvement of inspection and monitoring processes in international supply chains, providing comprehensive remediation of victims and promoting decent work for adults, through the five key objectives:

- Strengthening "Multi-stakeholder Initiatives on Child Labour".
- Sensitization and capacity enhancement of the Labour Inspectorate's to inspect and monitor violations of child labour in international supply chains.
- Generate awareness of core labour standards across supply chains through outreach initiatives and dialogue with workers and sub-contractors.

- Remediation/withdrawal of child labourers from supply chains.
- Take responsibility for using cheap labour and understand the risks.
- Development of a comprehensive toolkit based on the learning's for approaches for sustainable solutions to eliminate child labour, forced labour and promoting decent work.

Government and child labour

Governments play an essential role to protect their children, without the support of the government it is not possible to end child labour before 2025 as stated in the SDG's. Many countries still have outdated legislation on child labour only addressing the worst forms of child labour. Also child labour is culturally imbedded in society which puts child labour of the political table. Needless to say that good legislation and enforcement is an essential start to eliminate child labour but it governments need to approach the problem in a broader manner.

One key element is that governments have to take up their responsibilities and make ending child labour a priority. Many developing countries still have their focus on cheap labour which is pushed by the demand of companies. The demand for cheap labour is a pull factor for child labour. Many of the industries in developing countries are relying on a cheap labour force to maximize profits this demand for cheap labour increases the risk of child labour. Governments should be aware that their responsibility is not only in creating jobs but also creating jobs that have a meaningful impact on the social and economic growth of a country. Education of children will bring more economic growth.