

Protecting Children from Violence and Exploitation: Continue Robust Funding to the International Labor Affairs Bureau's Grant Program

- 85 million children are hazardous child labor, preventing them from attending school and harming their physical, mental, and social development. Boys and girls work in many places including agriculture, mining, quarrying, fishing, factories, domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation. 5.5 million children are in forced labor.
- Child labor can affect a child's health by exposing them to heavy loads, dangerous chemicals, heavy machinery, and poor working conditions and limits children's opportunities to receive an education.
- The International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) at the Department of Labor has worked for 20 years to reduce exploitative child labor through education. Since 1995 they have worked with partners to withdraw nearly 2 million children from the worst forms of child labor, including trafficking. ILAB programs take a holistic approach, including community and government involvement to increase access to education for children and support livelihood opportunities for families to meet basic needs.
- The economic costs of child labor amount to 2.4-6.6 percent of the world's gross national income annually. The global income lost by children out of school and instead engaged in hazardous work amounts to \$176 billion annually.
- The number of children in child labor has been reduced by one-third globally since 2000. ILAB is a global leader in the effort to end child labor. At a time when the U.S. is a leader in combatting human trafficking, the U.S. can help prevent children from becoming vulnerable to worst forms of child labor, including trafficking.

In 2011 the Philippines almost 3 million children were in hazardous labor, of which 62 percent were in the agricultural sector. Working in sugarcane fields children carry heavy loads, work long hours in the sun, are exposed to chemicals through fertilizers and pesticides, and use dangerous tools. World Vision, through funding from the Bureau for International Labor Affairs, implemented the ABK3 Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy, and Protection to Reduce Child labor in Sugarcane Areas (ABK3 LEAP) project from 2011 to 2015. The project included education interventions for children who are engaged in or at risk of hazardous child labor, including improved quality to meet education needs of child laborers; livelihood trainings for families and access to savings and microfinance services; and strengthening the capacity of government, communities, and the sugar industry to reduce child labor in the long term. At the end of four years, the project had

- Reduced child labor in target communities by 86 percent while providing education opportunities and necessary resources for families to keep children out of hazardous forms of work.
- Worked with 130 villages to incorporate child labor and other children's issues into annual community development plans.
- More than 70 sugar industry institutions and associations instituted programs to reduce child labor in sugar supply chains through this project.

Ask: Call your Senators and Member of Congress to ask them to continue funding of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, a crucial part of the U.S. effort to protect children from exploitation and violence.

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