

# Protecting Children from Violence and Exploitation

*Continue Robust Funding to the Bureau of International Labor Affairs' Grant Program – a crucial part of the U.S. effort to protect children from exploitation and violence.*

## The Problem

- **85 million children are in hazardous child labor**, preventing them from attending school and harming their physical, mental, and social development. Boys and girls work in many industries, 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. It also limits children's opportunities to receive an **education.**
- 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.

## Progress Through Prevention

- Globally, the number of children in child labor has been **reduced by 30%** since 2000.
- The **Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB)** at the U.S. Department of Labor has worked for 20 years to **reduce exploitative child labor through education and prevention.** 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 U.S., as a global leader in combatting human trafficking, can help prevent children from becoming vulnerable** to the worst forms of child labor – including trafficking – by continuing to invest in the preventative efforts of ILAB.

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## Impact in the Philippines: ABK3 LEAP

*Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy & Protection to Reduce Child Labor in Sugarcane Areas*

**Project Duration:** September 2011 - August 2016

In the Philippines in 2011, 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 ABK3 LEAP project (Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy, and Protection to Reduce Child Labor in Sugarcane Areas) from 2011 to 2015. The project included education interventions for children who are engaged in or at risk of hazardous child labor, including improved education quality to meet the needs of child laborers. The project also included livelihood trainings for families, access to savings and microfinance services, and capacity strengthening of government, communities, and the sugar industry to reduce child labor in the long term.

**In four years, the project:**

- **Reduced child labor by 86 percent** in target communities, 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.
- Helped institute programs in more than 70 sugar industry institutions and associations to **reduce child labor in sugar supply chains**.

**For more information about ABK3, visit:** <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/our-work/projects/abk3leap>

