



PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

Continue Robust Funding to the International Labor Affairs Bureau's Grant Program

QUICK FACTS

- » 152 million children are engaged in child labor.
- » 4.3 million of these children are forced to work.
- » \$176 billion in potential future wages is lost annually as children engage in hazardous labor rather than completing their education.
- » Since 1995, ILAB has contributed to the reduction of child laborers worldwide by 94 million – roughly equivalent to the entire child population of the United States.

Introduction

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) at the U.S. Department of Labor has worked for over 20 years to reduce hazardous child labor through education. ILAB programs take a holistic approach, including community and government involvement to protect labor rights, support livelihood opportunities for families to meet basic needs, and increase access to education for children. These programs must continue to do the work of protecting children's futures from being stunted by child labor.

Why it matters

Child labor limits children's educational opportunities and can affect their health and development. Thus, as adults, they experience a higher risk of joblessness, low pay, or insecure work in hazardous environments. With minimal prospects for a stable income, they are likely to turn to their own children's income for survival, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and child labor.

As the sole U.S. agency combating exploitative child labor, ILAB has contributed to a global effort that has seen rates of hazardous labor cut in half since 2000. ILAB is critical in turning research into action.

ASK

Congress should fund the Bureau of International Labor Affairs with at least \$100 million to ensure we continue these critical programs.



ABOUT LABOR RIGHTS

In addition to addressing child labor, ILAB works to bolster labor rights through education of the workforce and engagement with government agencies, the private sector, and civil society. Support for labor rights creates an environment of fair wages, benefits, and government programs alleviate the perceived need for child labor to supplement family incomes. This allows children to finish their education and pursue their ambitions for the future.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. ADV10096_0517 © 2019 World Vision, Inc.

Facts

- » 73 million children are engaged in hazardous labor,* preventing them from attending school and harming their physical, mental, and social development. The industries in which these boys and girls work include agriculture, mining, quarrying, fishing, factories, domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation.
- » The U.S., as a global leader in combating human trafficking, can help prevent children from becoming vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor**—including trafficking—by continuing to invest in the preventive efforts of ILAB.
- » Worldwide since 2000, programs funded by ILAB have helped contribute to a child labor reduction of 25 percent among boys and 40 percent among girls.
- » Child labor has doubled in Jordan in the last decade, with the highest prevalence among Syrian refugees. Increased conflict threatens to undo global progress if funding for programs is lost.

IMPACT IN THE PHILIPPINES: ABK3 LEAP

In 2011, almost 3 million children were engaged in hazardous labor in the Philippines—62 percent of them in the agricultural sector. World Vision, through ILAB funding, implemented the ABK3 Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy, and Protection (LEAP) project. The goal was to reduce hazardous child labor connected with the sugarcane industry.

Between 2011 and 2015, the project:

- Reduced child labor by 86 percent in target communities.
- Worked with 130 villages to incorporate child rights issues into community development plans.
- Helped institute programs in 70+ sugar industry institutions and associations to reduce child labor.

**Hazardous labor is work that is likely to harm children's health or well-being and/or expose them to danger. It is among the worst forms of child labor.*

***The worst forms of child labor include slavery and similar issues such as the trafficking of children, debt bondage, and children in armed conflict; sexual exploitation; the involvement of children in illicit activities; and work that is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children.*

Nate Lance
Policy Advisor for Child Protection
nlance@worldvision.org
202.572.6442

World Vision
300 I Street NE
Washington, DC 20002