

**WORK:**

**NO CHILD'S  
BUSINESS**



The impact that the Alliance aims to achieve with this programme is that children and youth are free from child labour and enjoy their rights to quality education and (future) decent work.



# CONTENT

## WORK: NO CHILD'S BUSINESS 05

Our goal 06

Partner countries 07

## SECTORS 08

Relevant sectors per country 09

## STRATEGY 10

Our strategy 10

Pathways of Change 10

Pathway Strategies 10

Approaches 10

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 13

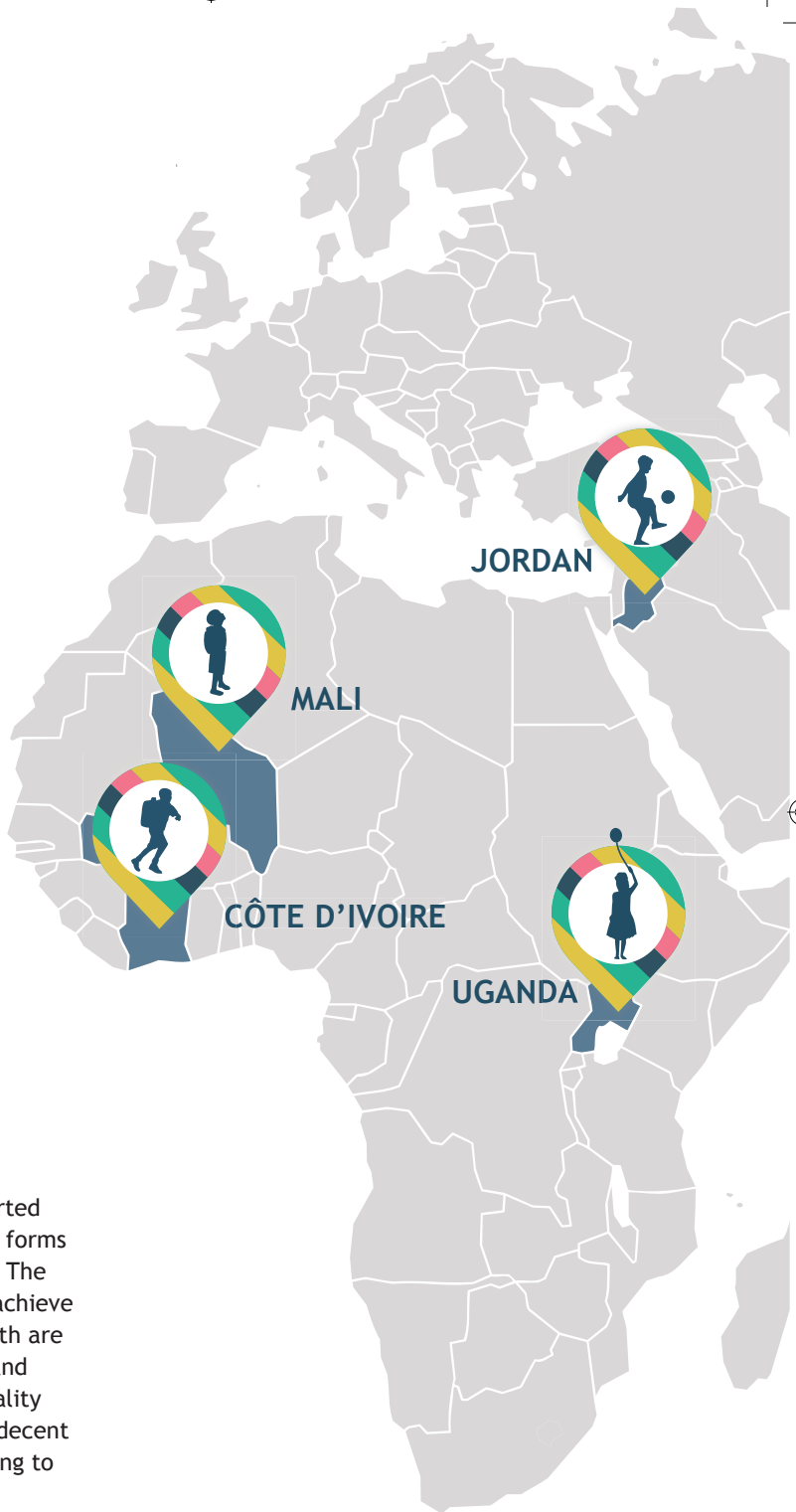


# WORK: NO CHILD'S BUSINESS

Almost one in every ten children between the ages of 5 and 17 years is involved in child labour today. 152 million children are victims of child labour, with almost half of them, 73 million, working in hazardous child labour. Although child labour has declined over the past 15 years, progress has dwindled during the last years. Significant efforts will need to be made in order to reach the SDG Goal 8.7 of eradicating all forms of child labour by 2025.

Therefore, the work of the new Alliance consisting of Save the Children Netherlands, UNICEF Netherlands and Stop Child Labour is crucial to ensure progress on this ambitious goal. Together we join forces, bringing sustainable solutions for all children and their families, reaching the point where child labour has ceased to be.

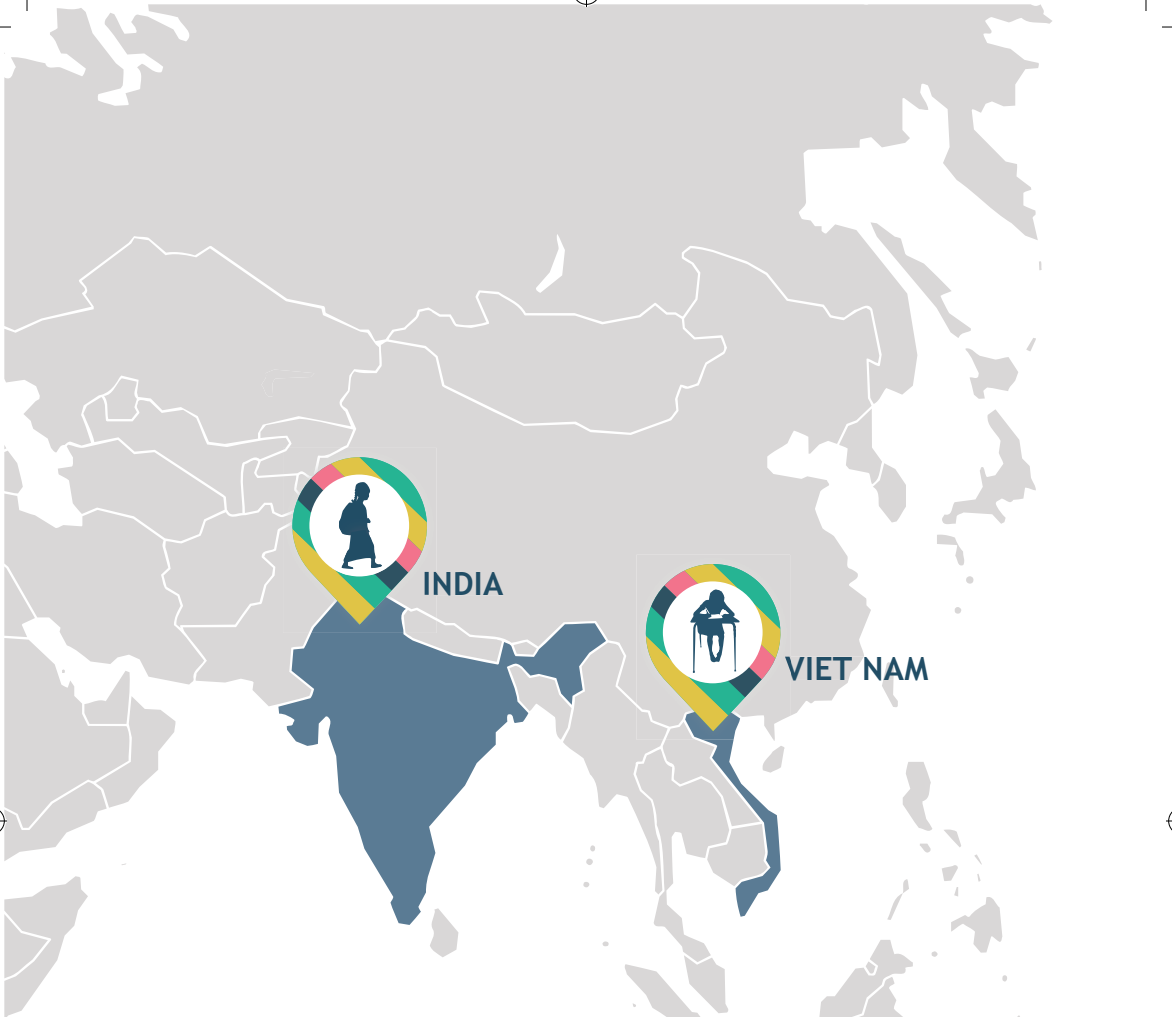




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## OUR GOAL

We contribute to concerted global efforts to end all forms of child labour by 2025. The impact that we aim to achieve is that children and youth are free from child labour and enjoy their rights to quality education and (future) decent work, hereby contributing to SDG 8.7.



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## PARTNER COUNTRIES

We aim to achieve this impact in six countries with a high prevalence of child labour across different supply chains: Côte d'Ivoire, India, Jordan, Mali, Uganda and Viet Nam.



# SECTORS



Garment, textiles & footwear



Informal and/or domestic



Natural stone



Cocoa



Gold/mining





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# RELEVANT SECTORS PER COUNTRY

MALI



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



UGANDA



JORDAN



INDIA



VIET NAM



# STRATEGY

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## OUR STRATEGY

### PATHWAYS OF CHANGE

We aim to achieve change at 4 interacting levels:

- 1 Community Children** are empowered and have improved access to (quality) formal education, bridge or transitional schooling, and youth employment within a supportive family and community environment.
- 2 Government** Governments have enforced relevant child-rights based laws and have implemented policies on child labour, education, youth economic empowerment and social security.
- 3 Private sector** The private sector takes full responsibility for preventing and addressing child labour.
- 4 International level** The EU, Dutch government and international/ multilateral organisations act in support of the elimination of child labour and fulfil their obligation to protect by setting and reinforcing due diligence policies and laws.

### PATHWAY STRATEGIES

Each pathway will be implemented through applying a range of complementary strategies:

**Strategy 1:**

Strengthening child protection systems

**Strategy 2:**

Ensuring quality education

**Strategy 3:**

Youth economic empowerment

**Strategy 4:**

Children's Rights and Business Principles

**Strategy 5:**

Evidence-based lobby and advocacy & responsible business conduct

### APPROACHES

Two approaches cross-cut the different pathways and country programs: the area-based and supply chain approach.

**Area-based approach**

The area-based approach tackles child labour at the root and leads to sustainable change in the communities. It is applied to get children in specific geographic areas out of child labour and (back) into school or decent youth employment. We work from bottom-up with all relevant stakeholders to remove key barriers to the elimination of child labour and to the protection and fulfilment of child rights.



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### Supply chain approach

We also implement a supply chain approach, promoting the Children's Rights and Business Principles to bring about change in sectors with a high incidence of child labour in the intervention areas. To realise the

potential of global supply chains for improving the health, welfare and development of children, business approaches are needed that address the rights and specific vulnerabilities of children and youth.

#### BUDGET



35 million Euro

#### FUNDING AGENCY



Netherlands  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### PROGRAM PERIOD



1 July 2019 -  
30 June 2024

#### CONTACT



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



# 1.

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## WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR AND HOW DO YOU TACKLE THOSE IN THE PROGRAMME?

There is a range of social, political and economic factors responsible for the persistence of child labour in many countries. Contrary to what is often assumed and stated, our many years of involvement with the issue of child labour and education worldwide have made it clear that poverty is often not the decisive factor in pushing children into work. Research shows that children's wages only contribute marginally to the family's income.<sup>1</sup> Our experience has been that social norms and traditions, social exclusion and discrimination, as well as a poor functioning education systems, are key reasons why children are working and not attending school. Furthermore, the lack of decent work for adults, weak laws and/or law enforcement by government, and failing labour inspections also contribute to the persistence of child labour. Finally, for an effective eradication of child labour it is essential to improve labour conditions, including better wages, and ask fair prices for products.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g., ILO-IPEC, "Investing in Every Child, An Economic Study of the Costs and Benefits of Eliminating Child Labour", 2004

# 2.

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## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO WORK IN THESE SIX COUNTRIES SIMULTANEOUSLY?

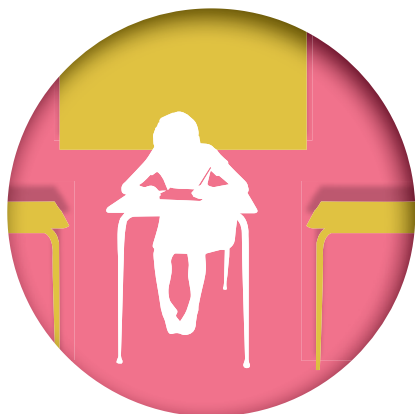
We work in these six countries because of the following considerations:

- Ensuring a broad geographic presence.
- A high prevalence of child labour.
- Presence of sectors that are relevant to the Dutch, EU and the international debate on Children's Rights and Business.
- At least two Alliance partners have ongoing interventions and/or long term (local) presence.
- The potential for scaling up existing initiatives through the collaboration of Alliance partners.
- Underscoring the importance of prioritising child labour within a humanitarian context such as in Jordan.

# 3.

## WHAT IS THE ADDED VALUE OF THE ALLIANCE? WHAT DO THE THREE ORGANISATIONS: SAVE THE CHILDREN, UNICEF AND STOP CHILD LABOUR, BRING TO THE PARTNERSHIP?

By combining our efforts under this Alliance, we strive to increase our impact on the eradication of child labour by bringing together our experiences in supply chain and area-based approaches and related strategies. Together, the Alliance partners have a strong global presence and existing networks of national and local implementing offices and partners, which allows for engagement with supply chain actors beyond the Dutch context, at EU, national, and community levels. Each partner brings to the table a unique set of strategies, experiences and networks that add value to the sum of its parts.



**Save the Children:** adds value through its extensive knowledge and experience applying a comprehensive child rights-based and gender sensitive approach in community programmes and its advocacy towards local, national and international governments for the fulfilment of children’s rights, including their rights to survive, learn and be protected. Save the Children is using community based protection mechanisms (including case management) and promotes decent work for youth through training and programmes.

**UNICEF:** has extensive experience in lobbying, advocating and institutional capacity building with national governments in the Netherlands and worldwide. In addition, to making children’s rights a priority on corporate social responsibility agendas, UNICEF co-developed the Children’s Rights and Business Principles. The CRBP are used to hold private sector actors accountable to support children’s rights in the workplace.

**Stop Child Labour:** has a strong track record in applying an area-based approach, working with local communities and grassroots organisations. By doing so, SCL enables the creation of Child Labour Free Zones: areas where all stakeholders - children, parents, teachers, employers, community leaders and local authorities - work together to realize children’s rights to education and the protection from child labour. SCL also gained extensive experience of combining the area based approach with a supply chain approach, where it involves local companies and private sector actors in the creation of CLFZ to make them part of the solution.

# 4.

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## **WHAT IS THE RELATION BETWEEN YOUR PROGRAMME AND OTHER ANTI-CHILD LABOUR PROGRAMMES LIKE THE ILO, RVO/FBK AND THE SECTOR COVENANTS? WHAT IS THE ADDED VALUE OF THIS PROGRAMME?**

These other initiatives are not always equipped to tackle child labour nestled deeper in supply chains (upstream) or more indirectly linked to supply chains, for example through outsourcing and hidden forms of child labour in the own household or on family farms, or in a migration setting. Furthermore, the supply chain approach of most

companies is top-down and set up in a vertical manner (through the supply chains). In our programme the efforts of companies will be complemented and strengthened by the horizontal (area) and bottom-up approach, directly fighting its root causes. Evidence from bottom-up area-based approaches to tackle all forms of child labour can help to make top-down policies more relevant and to show examples to more downstream supply chain actors. Our joint efforts help companies to be more compliant with and improve human rights and labour standards in their full supply chain.





# 5.

## HOW DO YOU INTEND TO COLLABORATE WITH COMPANIES IN THE TARGET COUNTRIES AND IN THE NETHERLANDS?

We embrace the Children's Rights and Business Principles to work directly with companies and their supply chain actors to place children's rights at the heart of the agenda for Responsible Business Conduct. The Alliance will advocate towards and collaborate with companies to promote and support them in their efforts to prevent, mitigate and remediate child labour in their business activities and throughout their (inter)-national supply chains. This requires companies to focus on labour rights, based on international standards such as the ILO treaties, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD guidelines and the Children's Rights and Business Principles. In doing so, we might be critical but always strive for a constructive dialogue with supply chain actors.

We have already established relations with companies in each of the sectors and countries, which we will further develop. We will deepen our cooperation with Dutch and multinational frontrunner companies and their suppliers to prevent and remediate child labour in specific sourcing and production areas that cater to the domestic and export markets.

### Some key interventions:

- Supporting companies to integrate child protection policies and mechanisms to prevent, mitigate and remediate cases of child labour in their business activities and their supply chain.
- Service provision to sector organisations and companies to help address child rights violation, for instance developing community-based monitoring, development of codes of conduct and child protection plan and how to monitor and implement these.
- Support companies to provide skills training and apprenticeship opportunities for youth.

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES



Source: <https://www.unicef.org/csr/theprinciples.html>

## 6.

### HOW DO YOU COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR?

Across the six focus countries we engage closely with local, district/regional, and national governments or institutions. We work towards improved implementation of relevant policies and enforcement of legislation through evidence-based knowledge sharing with regard to child labour among policy makers, parliamentarians, ministers, informal, traditional and religious leaders, and duty bearers. We promote coordination and collaboration with and between government structures around the National Action Plan on Child Labour.

## 7.

### TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONE APPROACH PART OF THE PROGRAMME?

In some of our focus countries we have incorporated the implementation and/or upscaling of the CLFZ approach. In other countries the approach may be introduced to new partners. Opportunities for exchange visits to learn from existing CLFZs can take place in Uganda, Mali and India. Informative training of local partners in the approach will be introduced in Cote d'Ivoire, Viet Nam and Jordan. Depending on the local situation in the specific programme country, the area-based approach may lead to the creation of Child Labour Free Zones.

# 8.

## HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH FAMILIES WHO LOSE PART OF THEIR INCOME IF THEIR CHILDREN DON'T WORK OR GO BACK TO SCHOOL?

Child labourers are cheap and obedient workers and often those children hardly earn money e.g. when working in households or in family owned farms. That is why they are hired. The low wages of children also keep the wages of adults down. Where child labour is no longer accepted and adults are thus no longer competing with cheap child labour, there is space for adults to get (decently paid) work and contribute to the family income.



# 9.

## WHAT IF THERE ARE NO ALTERNATIVES TO CHILD LABOUR? WILL YOU PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION AND/OR DECENT WORK OPTIONS?

Improving access to quality education as well as improving the quality of education takes centre stage. Providing access to education for all children is one of the most effective strategies for eradicating child labour. If all children are in school, and thus not available as cheap labourers, adult workers will have a better bargaining position with their employers about wages and decent working conditions. Parents who earn more are in a better position to send their children to school.

### Quality education

For children until the age of 15 years, we aim to ensure formal, full time and quality education. Transitional education and other forms of non-formal and remedial education for children who have been taken out of work, is meant to serve as a bridge to (re-)entering formal quality education. We will collaborate with existing structures and advocate that

such transitional options are available for all children. Within the scope of this programme, we do not set up structural parallel structures.

For youth in the age group 15 to 18 years, our objective is to support them to continue formal quality secondary education. Where this is not available or viable, we collaborate with alternative education structures while we advocate for the provision of formal quality education. In these cases, youth will be supported to access existing vocational training, apprenticeships, life skills training, and other non-formal education that support the transition to decent youth employment.

### Decent work

The Alliance supports the economic empowerment of youth by supporting their life skills, technical, financial and employability skills. The aim is to protect

them from being engaged in the worst forms of child labour and support them in their transition to decent work. For the age group between 15 and 18 years the Alliance promotes continued secondary and tertiary education up to 18 years of age on the one hand, and vocational training and technical education and life and employability skills training for successful transition to decent work, on the other.

### Three key interventions:

- Engaging community members to mobilise relevant duty bearers to ensure that youth in the age group 15-18 years are not involved in hazardous labour and can continue secondary education, access vocational training and/or engage in decent youth employment.
- Engaging the private sector to promote the Children's Rights and Business Principles, help define the skills needed

for future jobs of youth and to offer opportunities for job training, internships and youth friendly employment in line with market demands.

- Providing youth with capabilities (skills, attitudes, knowledge and behaviour) and opportunities to transition from harmful to decent, meaningful and rewarding work.
- Families are supported to devise strategies for making a living without the work of their child(ren) and linked to opportunities that promote responsible resource and assets management through appropriate social protection, financial schemes, Village Savings and Loan Associations, income generating activities and vocational training.



# 10.

## HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AFTER THE PROGRAMME?

**Root causes:** We ensure sustainability by addressing the root causes of child labour and remove the key barriers to the elimination of child labour and to the protection of child rights. By building capacities and competencies of relevant stakeholders, we aim to ensure local, long-term and structural solutions to eliminating child labour.

**Engaging companies:** Combatting child labour requires more than removing children from the workplace. We see an important role for the private sector in reaching sustainable solutions and will stimulate and support companies to display responsible business conduct and respect children's rights. Branch organisations and RBC initiatives can also come on board in order to realise more lasting change at a sector wide and supply chain level.

**Lobby & Advocacy:** In addition, significant lobby and advocacy efforts at (inter) national level will encourage governments to play their role to ensure effective child protection mechanisms, legislation concerning child labour and education, and to protect citizens against business-related human rights abuses. To encourage upscaling of our efforts and results, we aim for government authorities to recognise and adopt the area-based approach as a key strategy in their fight against child labour.





Work with us to ensure  
that children and youth  
are free from child  
labour and enjoy their  
rights to quality  
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