

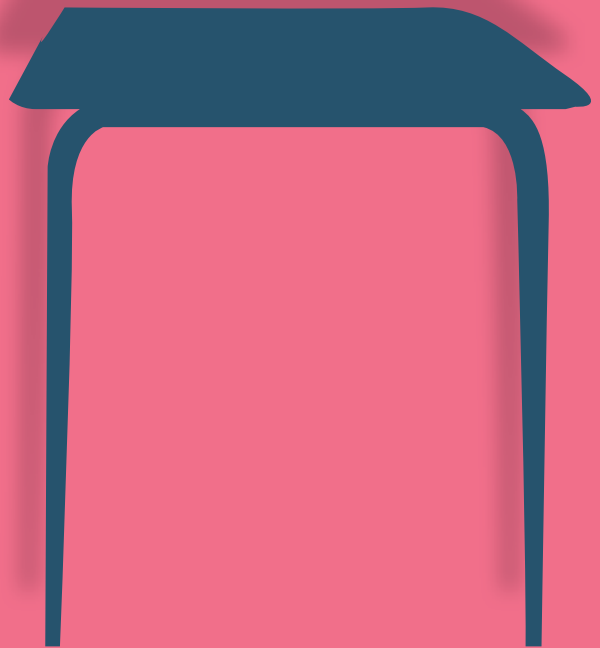
WORK:



**NO CHILD'S
BUSINESS**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2020**

**JOINING FORCES TO SCALE UP ACTION
AGAINST CHILD LABOUR**



CONTENT

Content	1
List of Abbreviations	2
General Information	4
1 Introduction	5
2. Programme developments	7
2.1 The status of child labour in 2020	7
2.2 The impact of COVID on our programme context in 2020	7
2.3 Progress of our working plan	9
2.4 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning	10
Quantitative Baseline data collection: Household Survey	11
Qualitative Baseline data collection: Sensemaker	11
Monitoring the effectiveness of our programme	11
2.5 Programme expenditure	11
Outlook for 2021	11
3 WNCB'S pathways to change	13
3.1 Partnership-building, stakeholder alignment and capacity development through proven approaches	14
Child protection	14
The Child Labour Free Zone approach of the Stop Child Labour Coalition	14
Supporting children's education	14
Child Rights and Responsible Business Conduct	15
3.2 India	16
Community engagement, capacity development & stakeholder alignment	17
Outcome 1a Children are empowered and supported	18
Outcome 1b Increased enrolment and retention	18
Outcome 2 Government implement policies and enforce child rights laws	19
Outcome 3 Private sector takes full responsibility	20
3.3 Ivory Coast	20
Community engagement, capacity development & stakeholder alignment	20
Outcome 1a Children are empowered and supported	21
Outcome 1b Increased enrolment and retention	21
3.4 Jordan	22
Capacity development & stakeholder alignment	22
Outcome 1a Children are empowered and supported	23
Outcome 1b Increased enrolment and retention	23
3.5 Mali	23
Community engagement, capacity development and stakeholder alignment	23
Outcome 1a Children are empowered and supported	24
Outcome 1b Increased enrolment and retention	25
3.6 Uganda	25
Community engagement, capacity development & stakeholder alignment	26
Outcome 1a Children are empowered and supported	27
Outcome 1b Increased enrolment and retention	28
Outcome 2 Government implement policies and enforce child rights laws	28
Outcome 3 Private sector takes full responsibility	28

3.7 Vietnam	28
Capacity development & stakeholder alignment	29
Outcome 1a Children are empowered and supported	29
Outcome 2 Government implement policies and enforce child rights laws	30
Outcome 3 Private sector takes full responsibility	30
3.8 The Netherlands	30
Lobby, advocacy and communication	31
Stakeholder alignment in the Netherlands	31
Public sector collaborations	31
Private Sector collaborations	32
International collaborations	32
Outcomes of Netherlands based work	32
Outcome 3 Private sector takes full responsibility	32
Outcome 4 The EU and the Dutch government act in support of the elimination of child labour	32
4. Validating our ToC	34
4.1 Good practices and lessons learned	34
4.2 TOC adaptations	34
Partnership-building, stakeholder alignment and capacity development	35
4.3 Sustainability of our approach	35
Financial sustainability	36
Institutional sustainability	36
Environmental sustainability	36
Technical sustainability	36
Social sustainability	36
4.4 Inclusiveness, Gender Equality and Equity	37
5. Conclusion	38

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CLFZ	Child Labour Free Zone
CRBP	Children's Rights and Business Principles
CPC	Child Protection Committees
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGOS	International Non-Governmental Organisations
KPIs	Key Programme Indicators
L&A	Lobby and Advocacy
L&L	Linking and Learning
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MVO	<i>Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Ondernemen</i> (Responsible Business Conduct)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RBC	Responsible Business Conduct
RVO/FBK	<i>Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland/Fonds Bestrijding Kinderarbeid</i>
SCI	Save the Children International (=Save the Children Country Offices)
SCNL	Save the Children Netherlands
SMC	School Management Committee
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SYNADEEPCI	<i>Syndicat National des Enseignants d'Education Permanente (Côte d'Ivoire)</i>
ToC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WNCB	Work: No Child's Business

GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME OF THE PROGRAMME:

Work: No Child's Business

NAME LEAD:

Hivos

ALLIANCE PARTNERS:

Stop Child Labour Coalition
Save the Children Netherlands
UNICEF Netherlands

CONTACT PERSON:

Sofie Ovaa, Programme Manager

CONTACT DETAILS:

HIVOS

Attn. Sofie Ovaa
Grote Marktstraat 47a
2511BH The Hague
The Netherlands
+31 70-3765500
sovaa@hivos.org

BUDGET:

34,995,822 EUR

START DATE:

1 July 2019

END DATE:

30 June 2024

PROGRAMME PERIOD IN MONTHS:

5 years (60 months)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the main activities, results and learnings of the WNCB programme in 2020. The year 2020 can generally be characterised by the challenges that the global COVID-19 pandemic has presented in our partner countries, and the subsequent adaptations to the programme's implementation.

While in Ivory Coast, and Uganda and the government measures effectively reduced the first COVID-19 wave, Jordan and India were already dealing with second waves or coping with outbreak clusters. Mali and Vietnam have been relatively successful in managing the second outbreak within their borders, but lockdown measures have impacted our target communities in all our partner countries.

Beside the global pandemic, all countries had additional and/or interrelated challenges to

deal with such as the negative effects of natural phenomena such as droughts and/or floods, leading to limited access to the programme's beneficiaries as well as full or partial loss of livelihood in the target communities. Conflict or political tensions in Mali, Ivory Coast and Uganda due to for example elections, increased tension due to scarcity and civil strikes, further contributed to delays in or adjustments to the implementation of activities in our target communities. The effects these might have on a possible increase of child labour will be monitored throughout the programme.

The country teams and working groups have demonstrated increased collaboration within the Alliance as well as with external organisations and programmes. The programme is continuously learning and trying to adapt to make both

Support for village school and quality education (Mali)



governance and communication more effective. The programme's priorities in the last year have been community mobilisation and awareness-raising campaigns focused on children's rights, capacity strengthening of Community Based Organisations, and the economic empowerment of parents. Furthermore, there has been effective engagement and collaboration with government institutions and private sector actors on child rights, child labour and responsible business conduct.

The country teams and working groups have adopted a new way of working remotely with and within countries. One of the learnings that has emerged from this is that, despite limited direct access to the target communities, we have an opportunity for enhanced outreach and to engage with wider audiences. This new modality of working will be explored further from 2021 onwards.

Considering the highly dynamic and challenging contexts in which the country teams implement the programme, we would like to recognise and commend the Alliance partners on their activities and results, and their creativity and flexibility in supporting our beneficiaries, governments and

private sector stakeholders towards achieving our joint goals and our objective of eliminating child labour.

This annual report is divided into four sections. The first section describes the overall programme developments and the significant changes within our target geographies and context of operation that have influenced our programme in the countries. The next section focuses on the description of the programme's effectiveness and reviews the ways that the Alliance partners have collaborated in the countries. It also gives an overview of the results of the programme aligned with the four outcomes, as stated in our Theory of Change. As an analysis and review of our Theory of Change, in section 3 we provide the key learning points that have been identified for each country, as well as how these key lessons will be used for the programme's improvement and increased effectiveness. This section includes a focus on the programme's sustainability, gender equality and inclusiveness. In the last section we provide a brief summary of key findings and ways forward that will guide the implementation of the programme in 2021.

School children during kick-off WNCB programme in Moroto (Uganda)



2. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 THE STATUS OF CHILD LABOUR IN 2020

In 2020, the WNCB Alliance partners joined forces on their long-term commitment to abolish child labour by addressing the root causes of child labour as well as the immediate needs of children and youth resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic¹. In the context in which WNCB partners are working it is clear that the risk of child labour has risen since the pandemic. Therefore, it is even more urgent than before to improve children's self-efficacy with regard to be out of child labour, as well as helping them to enjoy their rights and decent living standards in enabling environments.

To help children out of child labour - and then to keep them out - it is essential to gear funds towards communities' ability to bounce back from the crisis. To do this, the Alliance has determined that it will be essential to help families survive, assist children with returning to school after school closures, and address the increased gender inequalities that are a consequence of lockdown measures. The Alliance will continue to monitor and research the pandemic's effects on child labour to ensure that it can mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19.

Advocacy against child labour in gold mining (Uganda)



2.2 THE IMPACT OF COVID ON OUR PROGRAMME CONTEXT IN 2020

Our partner countries observe that, in all of our communities, the root causes of child labour have worsened. Both community savings and individual **household savings have been depleted, decreased or fallen away** as a result of the pandemic. Our partners have reported that in many households, child labour is viewed as a coping mechanism enabling families to earn income to survive the pandemic.

It is often not possible to organise group meetings, skills training and community meetings aimed at empowering people, increasing children's self-efficacy to stop working, and parents' ability to help them do so. Partners report that efforts are ongoing and that they are picking up their work plans as soon as lockdown measures ease. Nonetheless, many efforts were further delayed in the second half of 2020, in particular strategies to increase people's opportunities to earn income or start working at alternative livelihoods.

The pandemic has had a huge impact on important preconditions for people to be able to send their children to school and keep them out of child labour. In virtually all communities, **access to quality education has been reduced significantly** as schools have been closed for long periods. In communities where schools have reopened, partners report that not all children are returning to school.

It is also reported that due to lockdown measures, **gender inequality** has worsened. In many of our communities, gender equality is not a priority. It is expected that it will be harder to get girls to return to school and improve their prospects for a good future. There are reports of an increase in child marriage because of the pandemic. There have also been reports from our partners from for instance India and Uganda, that violence against girls and women due to lockdown measures has increased.

¹ Study by ILO and UNICEF: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_747421.pdf?mc_cid=17b84c35d9&mc_eid=\[45cb23437d\]](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_747421.pdf?mc_cid=17b84c35d9&mc_eid=[45cb23437d])
Study by Save the Children International: [https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/17871/pdf/save_our_education_0.pdf?mc_cid=2e184f2f7d&mc_eid=\[45cb23437d\]](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/17871/pdf/save_our_education_0.pdf?mc_cid=2e184f2f7d&mc_eid=[45cb23437d])

Partners report that more children are working in the household or some other forms of informal work. In most contexts, partners also report that children have become more active in the private sector. In multiple countries it is reported that private sector companies need children in order to survive and to make up for time lost during lockdowns.

In some contexts, partners report that the lockdowns and reduced focus of governments on child rights in the form of an increase in child labour. The enforcement of existing policies has been less effective due to reduced capacity at government agencies and the need to focus on other aspects of the crisis. The development of improved policies has often been delayed or stalled too as a result.

Gold mining site in Barila (Mali)



Table 3: Overview of affected supply chain

Commodity	Challenges
GOLD	Despite current high gold prices on international markets, the buying price of gold at ASGM sites is crashing as a result of the restrictions needed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Numerous mining activities were suspended, leaving workers unpaid and sometimes unable to return home. This in turn results in increases in illegal financing in order to make ends meet. The Artisanal Gold Council found that, because ASGM communities already tend to be marginalised and underserved by governments, they are particularly vulnerable to the economic problems resulting from COVID-19. Despite economic hardship in ASGM communities, COVID-19's impact on the global economy might push more people into the informal sector, including the ASM sector. Additionally, child and youth labour might be on the rise in some affected countries as a means of helping with household income or to replace ill or deceased household members at an ASGM site.
TEXTILES	Due to reduced demand and logistics supply issues for raw materials, garment factories in production countries have suspended production, resulting in workers being laid off or temporarily suspended. In some cases brands didn't pay the orders already produced. Where work continues, social distancing is often impossible and factories often lack appropriate health and safety measures. Many workers are without proper insurance. For those who lose their jobs, this could leave them without pay to support their families, especially as many workers have no savings and few remaining opportunities for generating income. Those searching for alternative forms of income may move into other sectors which have fewer labour protections and higher risks. Women and girls are often the most heavily impacted, with adverse impacts on their education, food security and nutrition, health, livelihoods, and protections. Millions of women working in the garment sector face an increased burden of unpaid care work and an increased risk of gender-based violence. Where women face a burden of unpaid care work, men might face extra working hours or take on increasingly precarious work in order to continue supporting the family.
NATURAL STONE	The natural stone sector is expected to decline from US \$9.2 billion in 2019 to \$8.1 billion in 2020 at a compound annual growth rate of -12.6%. This decline is mostly due to the measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. At least one million children worldwide work in mining and quarrying. The children perform hazardous work and do not usually attend school. Although COVID-19's impact on child labour in the industry is not well known, the expected loss of income together with school closures is likely to result in an increase in child labour.
COCOA	A steep dive in cocoa demand worldwide and the closure of ports and borders negatively impacts cocoa farmers' incomes. At a household level, farmer illness, higher food prices, lack of access to school food for children, and possible disruptions to the supply of fertilisers and pesticides all place increasing pressure on farmers' incomes. When household income decreases, child labour tends to increase, and with the closing of schools during lockdowns, children are often put to work to supplement family incomes. Data from ICI's Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems found an increase in child labour identification from 16% to 19% in the two-month period from 17 March to 15 May, representing a 21.5% increase. Quarantine and school closures have been shown to exacerbate other child protection risks. Broadly speaking, there is a strong evidence base linking economic stress to higher prevalence of violence against women and children. Ebola, for example, caused reported increases in violence against children (including instances of sexual violence), psychosocial distress, teenage pregnancy, and early marriage.

2.3 PROGRESS OF OUR WORKING PLAN

The WNCB annual plan for 2020 includes a list of key achievements. The table below gives a summary of the extent to which these planned outputs were achieved.

	Key achievement planned in 2020	Achieved	Not fully achieved	
1	Baseline studies have been conducted and used for the validation of country plans and strategies; 2) Community-based structures have been set up and/or strengthened.		X	Due to the pandemic, it was difficult for our partner countries to gather primary baseline data. Both the quantitatively baseline study (HH survey) and the qualitative baseline study have been considerably delayed in nearly all of our partner countries. Despite this, all country teams have started validating their country plans with available data. Data collection is still ongoing in Uganda and Jordan as these programmes have increased the scope and size of their target geographies.
2	Community-based structures have been set up and/or strengthened.	X		Despite the difficulties of working directly in communities during lockdown periods, our partner countries report that community-based structures have largely been set up, albeit some communities have been added at a later stage in the programme.
3	Awareness activities and/or trainings on WNCB thematic areas (children's rights and business principles, gender, access to education, responsible business conduct, child protection) and/or on local child-rights-based law provisions have taken place with key stakeholders including government officials and businesses.	X		Partner countries report that despite the pandemic they have been able to kick-start the programme by collaborating and aligning with relevant stakeholders in WNCB thematic areas. Some business sectors have been greatly affected by the pandemic. Schools have been closed for long periods of time and protecting children or improving child protection systems has been given less attention by governments in some countries during the pandemic. This means that addressing child labour issues has become an ongoing process in which partner countries are constantly adapting to new realities.
4	Alliance partners have provided technical support to businesses with regard to their supply chains and children's rights.	X		This process began in 2020 and many countries report that the process has started successfully.
5	Research agenda has been created for 2020 - 2024.		X	Due to the pandemic and the fact that a lot of capacity had to be geared towards delayed activities, country teams found it difficult to come up with a common research agenda. As the ToC is being reviewed the expectation is that research will be geared towards the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on child labour.
6	WNCB Lobby and Advocacy work plan developed at EU level.	X		WNCB Lobby and Advocacy plan at EU level is integrated into the annual plan of the Lobby, Advocacy and Responsible Business Conduct Working Group.
7	WNCB website launched and functioning.	X		WNCB also launched a Teams platform
8	Linking and Learning strategy validated and implemented.	X		Strategy has been developed and adopted. Implementation is an ongoing process throughout the WNCB programme management cycle.
9	Effective and efficient governance and internal communication structure in place.	X		Both governance and internal communication structures are in place. The programme is continuously learning and trying to adapt to increase the effectiveness of both governance and communication.

2.4 MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND LEARNING

WNCB's MEAL protocol included three methods that would help the country partners and programme as a whole, to monitor, evaluate and learn about root causes of child labour and key assumptions in the programme's Theory of Change. The two empirical methods that are used to measure progress are 'Sensemaker' and a representative household survey using mobile devices with a preference for the Kobo application. Both methods require a baseline, mid-term and end-line data collection to be able to identify changes within the community in relation to the programme's long-term outcomes. Additionally, the programme relies on the 'Outcome Harvesting' method to identify early outcomes and key changes within the communities to which we contributed. Besides these three methods that allow us to triangulate data about key achievements, some in-country partners have chosen to gather additional qualitative data to better understand the root causes of child labour in specific contexts, such as focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

QUANTITATIVE BASELINE DATA COLLECTION: HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

To be able to measure most of our KPI's, a household survey is conducted in all our partner countries. The objective of these household surveys is twofold. On the one hand the survey should allow us to monitor progress when the mid-term evaluation and end line evaluation is conducted through identical representative samples. Besides this, the baseline will give insight in the scale of child labour among girls, boys and selected age groups in targeted communities. This in turn allows programme staff to carefully choose how to influence the policies and practices of key stakeholders that are involved in child protection systems or private sector value chains.

In 2020 it has proven to be difficult to collect and analyse survey data. Delays have occurred due to the difficulties in data collection, as it was harder to get government approval, develop clear survey approaches, hire consultants, and organize the logistics of a survey. Some in-country partners identified certain target areas later (partly due to the pandemic) which also led to delays of data collection.

WNCB partners have made a conscious choice not to standardize the survey for the programme. It was expected that the great variance of partner

countries and communities would make it impossible to properly design such a programme wide approach. It was also expected that in many countries, partners would already have data or capacity in place to measure the programme's KPI's. This however delayed the baseline further as it is proving quite difficult for our partner countries to collect, analyse and aggregate data that has been operationalized in different ways. This means that not all indicators have unified baseline data and that each country indicator value needs to be understood within its own context.

- In Jordan the initial baseline did not cover the complete programme location and data collection was finalized only mid-April. Analysis is ongoing and will be finalized in the first week of May 2021.
- In India some partners collected data prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 in India, while others had to postpone their data collection until after the first COVID-19 wave. It proves to be difficult to aggregate the data as the programme partners that work in three different states, where not able to align their survey methodology. The partners have therefore used this opportunity to better align their data.
- In Mali & Ivory Coast the baseline study has been finalized. There are still some minor questions on the data as presented in the indicator tracking protocol.
- In Vietnam it was not possible to conduct a representative baseline study. Community leaders have been engaged in the selection of households, which means that they followed a purposive selection rather than a random selection of households. The programme will however work with this baseline study to understand the status of child labour within specifically marginalized groups in targeted geographies.
- In Uganda the baseline scope had to be clarified after the initial baseline findings showed that some children were targeted by multiple partners in the country plans of some partners. The programme partners have now better aligned their work and have upscaled the work under outcome 1 to a wider community. The team will conduct a rapid assessment with a wider scope than the initial baseline study. Data for the rapid assessment will be collected by the end of May 2021. Analysis should be finalized mid-June 2021.

The last data for the WNCB baseline will be available in June 2021. WNCB programme management will thereafter finalize the full overview of the programme indicators early July



2021. The PMU and MEAL working group will reflect on the process of the baseline and ensure that follow-up studies (e.g. mid-line and end-line) will offer relevant data for progress assessment.

QUALITATIVE BASELINE DATA COLLECTION: SENSEMAKER

Despite the difficulties put forward by the pandemic, the programme moved forward to hire a team of consultants to build capacity in the usage and implementation of Sensemaker. This method relies on the collection of stories about child labour and relating topics amongst community members and key stakeholders. Although the MEAL focal points have already been able to use findings of Sensemaker in programme design, the finalisation of the Sensemaker report is planned mid-June 2021.

Selected MEAL focal points in five countries¹ have been trained remotely in data collection and analysis by using Sensemaker. Although the method has been quite time consuming, partner countries report that they particularly valued the way they were able to engage with community

members. Because community members are also asked to 'make sense' of their stories they help the researchers to better understand the value of the stories.

MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR PROGRAMME

The programme uses outcome harvesting as a method to learn and report about the expected effectiveness of our programme. The method particularly helps in-country partners to focus on the effectiveness of their annual plan and identify early outcomes that are essential to assess further. The type of outcome that is identified through outcome harvesting is often the starting point of a larger change to come in the achievement of more generic and long-term outcomes.

2.5 PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

At the end of 2019, the planned budgets were distributed to the Alliance partners. Many ongoing activities from the inception phase were planned to be finalised in 2020. The budget for 2020 was thus drawn up from the annual plans for 2020 in which

¹ Data collection in Vietnam through this method was not possible due to a number of contextual restrictions.

we included the underexpenditure (carry-over) from the inception phase in 2019. In total we planned to spend € 8,681,357 in 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic and consequent restrictions in early 2020 posed a big challenge for the programme. In some countries we report additional external barriers for programme implementation, such as hazards, conflict, and political tensions. In India, the introduction of FCRA regulations meant that Alliance partners were not able to transfer the funding to the local implementing partners in full and in a timely manner.

As a result, there has been underexpenditure in many partner countries. New activities were unable to begin on time and ongoing activities have been delayed, mostly as a result of the pandemic. This is particularly true of community-based activities in the intervention areas in which preventive measures were put in place. For example, the education unions' activities in schools and with teachers could not be implemented as planned as schools were closed, and it was not possible to collaborate with teachers during the school closures. Nonetheless, WNCB partners managed to spend the largest part of their budgets. Overall the WNCB programme was

able to spend around 75% of the planned budget for 2020.

A more detailed account for the WNCB will be presented with the audited financial report, which will be available on 1 August 2021.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021

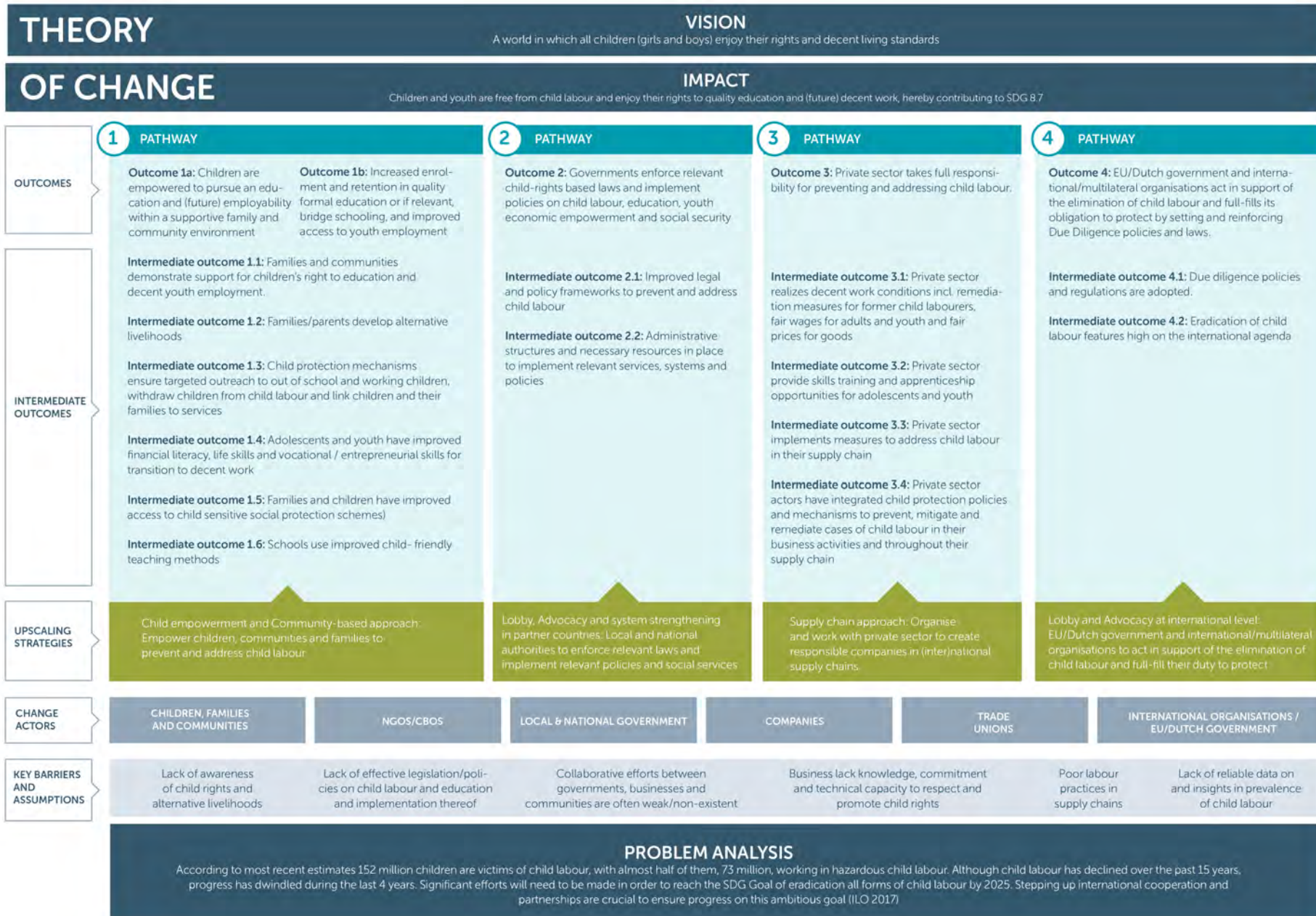
In the annual planning process for 2021, it was expected that community-based activities and other activities cancelled in 2020 would be implemented in 2021, assuming that the situation allows us to resume work at speed. As a result, the implementation of some of 2020's activities has been moved to 2021. The planned budget for 2021 will be €9,678,707. This budget will include the expected carry-over from 2020.

The WNCB programme team continues to plan activities at the same pace and is working to finalise the delayed activities in 2021. We have not downsized our ambitions; on the contrary, we see that the issue of child labour is more urgent than before and that more efforts are needed to get children (back) into school. We are constantly working to find ways to implement activities that fall within the scope of this programme and help to maximise results.

School children in Kampala (Uganda)



3. WNCB'S PATHWAYS TO CHANGE





3.1 PARTNERSHIP-BUILDING, STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PROVEN APPROACHES

In 2020 further progress was made in collaboration between partners. This led to a better understanding of each other's approaches and tools, and more insight into the way partners complement each other at local, national and international level. As will be described more comprehensively in the next chapter, WNCB partners are starting to identify added value through linking and learning opportunities. An overview of the main approaches in which the partners reinforce each other is given below.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF country offices have extensive experience in child protection and education programmes and focused their contribution in 2020 on awareness-raising campaigns, advocacy and technical support for strengthened child protection, improvement of (suitable) education and access to alternative income.

Save the Children brings a comparative advantage to the WNCB programme through their approach in strengthening (community-based) child protection systems. In 2020, all Save the Children Country Offices made a solid start with the establishment of child protection systems, according to Save the Children International's 'Steps to Protect' common approach. 'Steps to Protect' is an evidence-based approach that builds on existing international guidance, standards, tools and practice in case management, promoting a systematic step-by-step process to working with individual girls in cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. This structured and systematic approach, including case management, helps improve outcomes for

children and their families and strengthens the protective environment around children. In all WNCB countries, Save the Children Country Offices have either established new, community-based child protection committees, or strengthened existing child protection structures. Members of child protection committees have been trained on topics such as children's rights, the risks of child labour and the importance of education, as well as on the roles and responsibilities of the child protection committees. Through the engagement of social workers and/or para-social workers, cases of children in labour are identified and referred to appropriate services, which can include referral to bridge classes or vocational training, support in re-enrolling in formal education, and centres for a holistic range of support services (such as the Multi-Purpose Activity Centres in India and the Talent Hubs in Jordan).

THE CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONE APPROACH OF THE STOP CHILD LABOUR COALITION

In general, it is observed that the Stop Child Labour coalition's on-the-ground knowledge and expertise is being more recognised by the other WNCB Alliance partners. SCL is asked to contribute this expertise during meetings and webinars. The CLFZ approach works specifically on empowering communities and norm change. This is an important contribution that the SCL Coalition makes to the programme. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, SCL partners continued working in the communities and found alternative ways to continue with education and engaging the communities.

In India, Save the Children has a great amount of knowledge about the legislation related to child labour, child protection and youth empowerment. SCL partner MV Foundation asked Save the Children India to support the training of the community mobilisers. In addition, Fakirana Sisters' Society invited the MV Foundation to share their experience on the Child Labour Free Zone approach.

Stop Child Labour coalition partners have contributed their experience to the WNCB programme. The expertise on the ground with community mobilisation and empowerment is one of SCL's particular strengths. Key aspects are linking child labour with education, stating that every child who is not in school is a (potential) child labourer, and therefore focusing efforts on involving teachers, children, school management committees, parent-teacher associations and parents in the actions against child labour.

All stakeholders are involved, including community leaders, government officials and local businesses. It is only through the behavioural changes of all partners that we can have real impact with regard to child labour and child protection. The on-the-ground efforts are combined with advocacy at regional, national and international level, so that regulations, legislation and practices also support the community-based work. At the same time, the dialogue with businesses at the international level further supports the work, aiming to address child labour and human rights risks in their supply chain.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Save the Children plays an important role within WNCB in supporting children to access education. Ultimately the aim is to support children to re-enrol in full-time, formal education.

However, in situations where this is not immediately possible, Save the Children provides children with the opportunity to attend bridge classes or vocational training. Other interventions to support children's education are aimed at removing bureaucratic barriers to school attendance (e.g., by obtaining birth certificates, done in Mali) and improving the pedagogical environment in schools (Viet Nam).

CHILD RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

UNICEF NL contributes to the Alliance with its knowledge on RBC, its experience in lobby and advocacy (NL + EU + in-country) and the connection to UNICEF country offices and UNICEF worldwide, which have extensive experience in working on protecting children's rights. UNICEF NL aims to strengthen governing systems in order to ensure

School class in Ouroun (Mali)



In Ivory Coast, bridge classes aim to support children in catching up in terms of literacy and numeracy skills, in preparation for re-enrolment in regular schools. In Uganda, a vocational training programme has enabled youth (15-17) with the opportunity to learn practical skills such as tailoring, welding, masonry and carpentry, to support these youths finding decent work as adults. In India and Jordan, Save the Children offers special centres where children who have been removed from child labour or who are at risk of child labour, are provided with a holistic range of support services, including in the Multi-Purpose Activity Centres in India (mental) health and nutrition support, and in Talent Hubs in Jordan the opportunity for children to engage in art and drama activities as well as participate in 'life skills' trainings, and positive parenting sessions for parents

sustainable change at national and international level and so to increase impact and reach.

UNICEF NL's Children's Rights and Business unit focuses on the garment, mining and cocoa sector in WNCB. It seeks to establish links with Dutch and international companies, bringing in knowledge of the Child Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) and implementation of responsible business conduct throughout the value chain. UNICEF NL connects WNCB to existing advocacy work in the Dutch RBC covenants and sector agreements, which provide a connection to potential brands, factories and implementation projects as well as a network in which to share knowledge and from which to learn. UNICEF NL leads the CRBP working group and helps to develop a community of practice in which country focal points exchange experiences on how to work with companies.

Table 1: Overview of WNCB Partners (Lead Partner in Bold)

PARTNER COUNTRIES	PARTNERS BASED IN THE NETHERLANDS	COUNTRY OFFICES AND PARTNERS
MALI	Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland (SCL) Save the Children Netherlands	Save the Children Mali ENDA Mali SNEC GRAADECOM UNICEF Mali Country Office
IVORY COAST	UNICEF NL Save the Children Netherlands AOB/Education International (SCL)	UNICEF Ivory Coast Office Save the Children Ivory Coast AEJT CI ANADER DRENET SYNADEEPCI
JORDAN	UNICEF NL Save the Children Netherlands	UNICEF Jordan office Save the Children Jordan Office JOHUD Social Support Centre
INDIA	Arisa (SCL) Save the Children Netherlands	Save the Children India Fakirana Sisters Society MV Foundation Nav Jagriti AIPTF ICCSPL/ICCO India Arisa Manjari ARAVALI
UGANDA	Hivos (SCL) Save the Children Netherlands	NASCENT EWAD UNATU Save the Children Uganda Hivos in Uganda
VIETNAM	UNICEF NL Save the Children Netherlands	UNICEF Vietnam office Save the Children Vietnam The Centre for child rights and business

3.2 INDIA

2020 has been an impactful year, with the pandemic affecting people's work, lives and wellbeing. Two significant changes that influenced the implementation of the WNCB programme in India in 2020 were the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic across the country and the amendment of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

The COVID-19-induced lockdown led to country-wide reverse migration in which millions of migrant workers set out for their home states on foot. The WNCB intervention areas in Bihar were faced with large numbers of returned migrants from different parts of India, who found themselves in a difficult situation without work and often with limited or no access to government support schemes. They also faced stigmatisation from their home communities due to the fear of COVID-19 infection. With school closures, hunger, unemployment and other effects, all of our communities in three

regions - Bihar, Rajasthan and NCR/Delhi - were adversely impacted. The children were exposed to multifaceted vulnerabilities, with the UN declaring the pandemic a child rights crisis.

A steep increase in cases of child labour and child marriage at country level meant an urgent need to protect children, making the WNCB India programme even more important. Several reports from in-country partners to the lead partner state that COVID-19 has had a particular negative impact on girls, both in terms of education and in terms of child labour and child marriage. This will be further addressed in the WNCB India programme.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) Amendment towards the end of Sept 2020 impacted our Alliance partner Save the Children India as they had to end partnership with four implementing NGOs (3 in Bihar and 1 in Delhi) due to the inability to sub-grant.



Aside from the pandemic, Bihar faced a situation in which State Assembly elections were due to be held towards the end of 2020, which led to the Election Commission announcing a Code of Conduct. This posed some problems for programme implementation. At the same time, the elections presented some advocacy opportunities for addressing the issue of child rights and child labour with political parties. Bihar faced the additional challenge of devastating floods that put lives in danger.

Most challenges have been overcome by identifying alternative strategies to combat child labour. In particular, the inclusion of education stakeholders in the programme posed a big challenge in 2020. The 'sequencing' of various interrelated activities was also affected.

Other challenges have been overcome through the identification of alternative strategies to combat child labour. The focus shifted to providing relief measures in the communities that were impacted adversely by the pandemic, to stay in touch with the target communities, earn their trust and monitor the situation with respect to child labour. Efforts were made to reach out to the households and linking them with various government relief schemes. Starting from the third quarter (July), the program gradually started getting back to normality, with the last quarter gearing up in full swing.

However, increased use of social media platforms helped WNCB India Partners to improve their outreach, enabling them to reach a larger audience in less time. Close co-ordination with stakeholders also helped with facilitating COVID-19 relief programmes and facilitating access relief and government support that is provided to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT

SCL partners have increased community engagement by including the complete community in their household survey to gather data on the programme's KPIs.

The MV Foundation (MVF) organises recurring meetings with representatives of local government, school management committees, parents, teachers, youth, Block Level Officers and District Education Officers, Jeevika members, Tola Sevaks, adolescent girls, Child Rights Protection Forums and child protection committees. In these meetings, child rights and the legal implications of child marriages and child labour are discussed as a first step towards positively influencing community perceptions of these issues.

SCL partners ensure engagement of the complete community in their surveys. The MV Foundation, for example, included all households in 76 Gram Panchayats in five programme blocks in five districts of Bihar State. Through this they learned that almost 50% of children - 30,000 in total - are in child labour within their target communities. Although the elaborate approach led to some differences in the baseline methodology - which made analysis of baseline data quite difficult - the partners believe that it was important to reach out to each household in the targeted area directly.

In Rajasthan, Manjari organised visits and meetings with critical stakeholders like Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI - local self-government), local businesses, and service providers to bring greater synergy and co-ordination between stakeholders and to ensure that stakeholders are more aware of the need for protection of children's rights. Seventeen meetings were organised with local businesses (yard owners), and two meetings were organised with the Yard Owners' Association in Budhpura. An additional 20 meetings were organised with key stakeholders such as PRI representatives, schools and Anganwadi centres.

In 2020 ICCSPL/ICCO India ensured that the community-based organisations (CBOs) are working with layered efforts to combat child labour from a livelihood perspective, through a comprehensive package of capacity development activities. This helps marginalised families to increase their income which is essential for children to pursue an education. Additionally, CBOs' capacities

to support young people on their path towards future decent employment have been improved. As a result, partners and grassroots partners have enhanced livelihood approaches and implement relevant livelihood approaches such as farm-based livelihoods (such as goat-keeping) within the targeted communities of Musahars in Bihar.

AITPF (teachers' union) has engaged teachers in our target communities while at the same time creating teacher awareness of child rights and the importance of schooling in relation to child labour and decent future work.

OUTCOME 1A CHILDREN ARE EMPOWERED AND SUPPORTED

Specifically, during the lengthy lockdown period, the partners' collaboration to help people survive and keep people at work proved to be essential for our target communities in Rajasthan, Bihar and Delhi. Achievements include:

- **ARAVALI** advocated at the state level for job opportunities for our target communities under the MNREGA act².
- **Manjari** worked with local Panchayats and communities to ensure that people have daily wage opportunities, and organised health and COVID awareness and screening activities at the work sites. This helped more than 3,093³ families from the most disadvantaged communities (daily wage mining workers) to access employment opportunities during the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, 4,964⁴ families were assisted in accessing food rations from the Public Distribution System.
- In response to the pandemic, **MVF** mobilisers identified families who did not hold ration cards and as a result were unable to access government social security measures. A total of 1,012 families were supported with ration cards (social security cards) thanks to MVF's advocacy work.
- 124 families were supported by Save the Children with entrepreneurship development toolkits to help them with livelihood options and indirectly prevent their children entering child labour and early marriage.
- During the lockdown, the **FSS** organised a mobilisation campaign on government

² Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), people have a right to employment opportunities and decent wages

³ The data 1 & 2 represents all families living in Budhpura, Sukhpura, Dhaneshwar and Gopal Pura Panchayats. WNCB works directly with 2,422 families in these areas. However, our efforts during the COVID lockdown also helped other families to access rights-based entitlements. This is why the number appears higher than the actual number of WNCB-participating families.

⁴ As above.

Support for children's education during lock-down (India)



entitlements for marginalised people in remote areas. As a result, 725 people without resources were included in the government's relief programme and received parcels providing basic needs. FSS also contributed to COVID-19 prevention activities such as hygiene campaigns. This led to improved COVID-19 prevention behaviour within our targeted communities, which in turn contributes to bringing an end to the negative impact of the pandemic as quickly as possible.

- Similarly, **SC India** has helped 115 families to access social protection schemes. This was particularly important during the pandemic but is also an important starting point for families in improving their household economies and enrolling their children in school.
- The **Fakirana Sisters' Society (FSS)** contributed to the formation of 18 Livelihood Promotion Groups (LPGs) in our targeted communities in Bihar. In 2020, 228 women started saving through these groups.
- **MVF** assisted 497 girls aged from 11-18 years across 43 communities in organising committees to create awareness of health and hygiene, stamp out 'Eve-teasing' (street harassment and assault of women by men), and assist in identifying and stopping planned child marriages.

OUTCOME 1B INCREASED ENROLMENT AND RETENTION

Together with other stakeholders, teachers and AITPF assessed why and how access to education is a major challenge for children in child labour in certain areas. AITPF reports that teachers are motivated to contribute to the programme objectives. A first observation is that the requirements for school enrolment have been eased

for marginalised groups such as migrant children (who do not always have documents). These proved to be most successful in Bihar where various partners report school enrolment (albeit before the lockdown).

- **MVF** reports that 7,787 children have been admitted to government schools thanks to improved admission policies to which they contributed, and which have been developed in consultation with block level and district level officers, local governments, teachers, community members and school management committee members.
- **Nav Jagriti** also addressed the admission barrier, resulting in the enrolment of 32 former school dropouts working in the brick kiln industry.
- **SC India** helped 17 children to enrol in government schools following a meeting with the Block Education Officer of the Government of Bihar.
- **FSS** society contributed to children's education by organising an awareness-raising campaign and specific sensitisation activities for child labourers, parents and caretakers regarding the risks of child labour and the importance of education and future decent employment. Following these activities, the admission registers of schools in targeted areas showed that 254 out-of-school children (125 boys and 129 girls) had enrolled in schools.

Helping children to return to school is particularly important during the pandemic.

- **FSS** contributed to setting up a bridge education centre for former child labourers. From March 2020 onwards, 289 former child laborers (115 girls & 174 boys) attended the bridge education centres.
- **MVF** runs 145 remedial teaching centres with the support of local youth, Gram Panchayaths, SMCs and parents. 3,668 children aged 6-14 in the MVF-supported communities (1,658 boys and 1,880 girls) have been (re)nourished and have kept up school rhythm and learning through these centres.
- **Nav Jagriti** identified 1,082 out-of-school children within their target communities in Bihar. All these children have access to various workshops and trainings to improve their self-efficacy to pursue an education and decent future employment.

OUTCOME 2 GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND ENFORCE CHILD RIGHTS LAWS

Dialogue with stakeholders at national and state levels helps to address the realities that WNCB partners work with on the ground. An important

contribution to this dialogue is ICCSPL's circulation of a newsletter that aims to initiate a country-wide child labour discussion by disseminating relevant information on child labour to relevant stakeholders. ICCSPL highlights the newsletters in which best practices from Child Labour Free Zones are documented by well-respected journalists Usha Rai and Pamela Philipose and academics such as Surjit Thokchom & Neetu Sharma. These are used to create common understanding and start a constructive dialogue on how important policymakers in key state departments can address and help to prevent and eradicate child labour. On 12 June, ICCSPL held a consultation with media, civil society and others to ground the discourse on child labour.

Our local partner in Rajasthan, **ARAVALI**, organised eight webinars in which it disseminated information on three rapid studies that gave important insights into the root causes of child labour and the pandemic's impact on child labour and access to education. At the end of 2020, the Rajasthan State Government's Department of Child Rights recognised the seriousness of child labour in different supply chains and formed a high-powered committee to identify actions to abolish child labour in all business processes.

The Livelihood Promotion Groups (LPGs) that were set up by **FSS** contributed to WNCB's advocacy strategy by raising child labour issues at the local level, such as the Dalal (county mediator), landlords, teachers, and school management bodies. LPGs were particularly successful in addressing increased enrolment issues for marginalised children and discussing the need to find alternatives for the bidi rolling income (which is work that children often do).

MVF reports that they have supported other NGOs - as well as local government officials such as the block president, the block development officer and the labour officer - to form a committee of community members that monitors child labour. At a higher level, **MVF** notes that one political party's election manifesto included important children's issues in an informed way. As the political party mentions specific child labour topics such as child marriage, improved facilities in schools, and the importance of learning and quality education, it is believed that the letters that **MVF** sent to the four major political parties were what motivated the party to include this issue in their manifesto.

SC India addressed the exploitative conditions in orchestras and musical groups in which children were working in the East Chaparan district. They report that the Government of Bihar's Minister of Art, Culture and Youth Affairs subsequently issued a letter that aimed to curb the practice of children working in the orchestras.

OUTCOME 3 PRIVATE SECTOR TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY

Arisa and ARAVALI addressed child rights and responsible business conduct with a German national stone company that has a large operation in the targeted areas. During this dialogue, the company opened an occupational health and safety centre next to their suppliers' premises in Rajasthan. This is viewed as an important step in further addressing child rights and business principles in the community.

By addressing child rights and the need for more socially-responsible business conduct in the cobblestone industry, ARAVALI contributed to an improved supply chain approach in which cobblestone suppliers, local cobble traders and stone aggregators have taken responsibility for

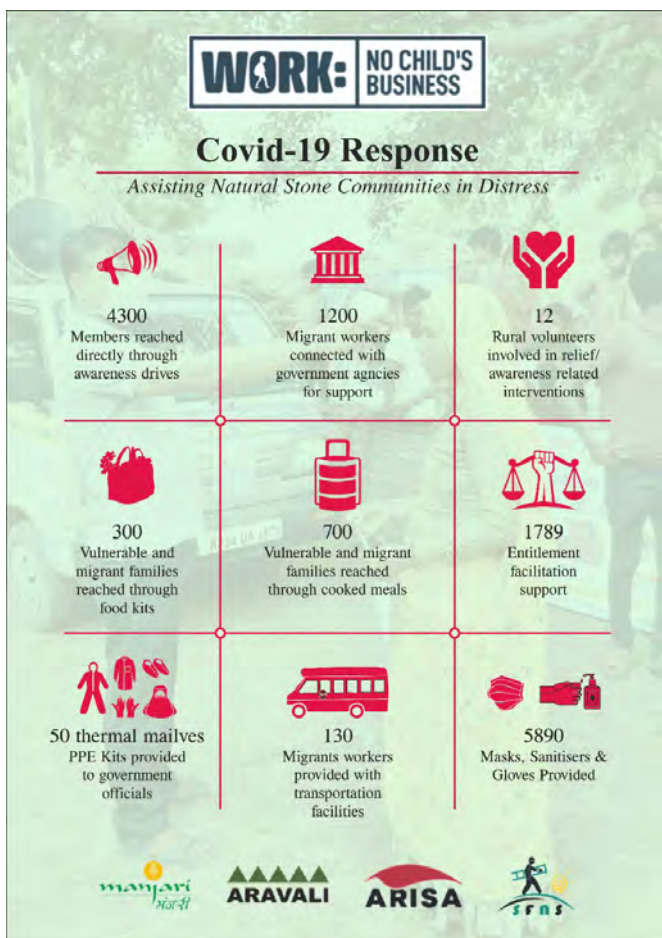
addressing child labour under the TruStone Initiative⁵. In 2020 it was observed that cobble yards around targeted communities are now child labour free. In addition, several yards now provide basic facilities that benefit workers, such as safe spaces for children to play and learn. It is expected that the improved working conditions at the yards will also lead to more steady income for households, with reduced risks.

In Bihar, MVF and FSS worked with local SMEs such as hotels, beedi contractors, shopkeepers, garages, landlords, big farmers, and brick kilns, and addressed child rights and responsible business conduct. An initial observation made by FSS was that ten of the targeted businesses, and specifically employers in the informal sector, stopped working with children. FSS and the businesses will be erecting signs to publicise businesses' commitment to stopping child labour. MVF reports that at least 36 Brick Kilns 'released' 45 children from their employment.

3.3 IVORY COAST

The tensions surrounding the 2020 presidential election and the COVID-19 pandemic, along with subsequent measures to limit contact and travel and the need to adopt new measures to curb the spread of the virus, have had an impact on the lives and social organisation of the programme's target communities. In line with global trends, school closures have led to increased violence and to children being involved in various types of work both within and outside the family.

Nonetheless, the WNCB Alliance partners in Ivory Coast were to a large extent able to continue their work and had regular exchanges, mutual consultations, and physical and virtual meetings. A co-ordination framework has been put in place to enable discussion of progress made and challenges encountered in the programme's implementation. Thanks to this framework, the Alliance partners agreed on priorities, areas of intervention, and norms and standards of services offered to the communities, meaning that the programme's interventions were harmonised. In addition, a framework of synergy between WNCB and the ILO ACCEL Africa programme has been put in place for greater efficiency and better management of resources.



⁵ In the TruStone Initiative, "Dutch and Flemish companies in the natural stone sector have joined the governments of the Netherlands and Flanders, NGOs and trade unions in agreeing to make substantial improvements to social, working and environmental conditions in high-risk areas within three- to five-year period."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT
2020 was the year in which the WNCB programme in Ivory Coast actually started. As such, the Alliance partners have stepped up their efforts to ensure that the programme is effectively included in the national policy documents that outlines how the government of Ivory Coast combats child labour.

WNCB has therefore received the support and endorsement of the main government entities, namely the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection (MEPS), the Ministry of Women, Family and Children (MFFE), the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Fight against Trafficking, the National Committee for the Monitoring of Actions against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour (CNS), the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM), the National Programme of Social Nets, and the National Institute of Statistics (INS).

In view of the leading role they play, the cocoa industry and workers' and employers' organisations have been targeted in the presentation and planning of programme activities.

At the local level the prefectural authorities of **Guéyo, Buyo and Soubré**, regional directors of social affairs and education, civil society organisations, community leaders and communities took part in WNCB programme presentation and planning sessions. Better still, these regional directors and their teams have been working at the heart of the activities to set up bridging classes and to identify at-risk children and vulnerable households based on the criteria established by the national Social Nets programme, as well as to train teachers and those involved with child protection platforms.

Frontline actors such as the directors of local schools and social centres have facilitated the implementation of the activities as they have thorough knowledge of the communities, actors and children's problems in the **Nawa region**, particularly **Guéyo, Buyo and Soubré**. For greater efficiency, local authorities, the diaspora, traditional chiefs and community leaders were mobilised to support these professionals' efforts. More concretely, these actors have taken part in information and awareness-raising sessions in the communities while facilitating the identification of households and children with specific needs.

Farmer training about rights and child labour (Ivory Coast)



In addition, UNICEF contributed technical guidance to discussions on social sustainability in the framework of the European Union dialogue on sustainable cocoa in Ivory Coast and Ghana.

ANADER, the WNCB implementing partner that is mandated to work towards farmers' economic empowerment, has a system of focal persons within the cocoa-producing communities themselves. This proximity to the communities, coupled with the subjects of interest that ANADER agents work on with these farmers, will be used for changing attitudes and practices towards children, including the involvement of children in hazardous work.

OUTCOME 1A CHILDREN ARE EMPOWERED AND SUPPORTED

ANADER has started to progressively integrate child protection in all its interventions. **ANADER** has organised training sessions with around 1,500 farmers in groups or co-operatives using a toolkit to raise awareness on child protection issues, including child labour in cocoa production.

OUTCOME 1B INCREASED ENROLMENT AND RETENTION

In 2020 **SYNADEEPCI** (the teachers' union) reached out to 80 primary, preschool and continuing education teachers in our communities of implementation on the issue of child labour, children's rights, and national, regional and international legal texts relating to child labour in Soubré. These training activities aim to make teachers more aware of children's rights and child labour.

329 children in Buyo de Guéyo and Soubré who are out of school and are currently working in high

risk and hazardous jobs now have increased access to non-formal education as bridge schooling is gradually being offered through the opening of 14 bridging classes for the school year 2020 - 2021. This bridge schooling is provided by local stakeholders who have set up the classes with the support of SC Ivory Coast.

3.4 JORDAN

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the resulting enforcement of the defence laws⁶, including movement restrictions, were the most significant challenges related to the implementation of the WNCB programme in Jordan. With complete and partial lockdowns in 2020, Jordan's government ordered the closure of all schools throughout the country. The situation places children at increased risk of child labour.

Although COVID-19 restrictions are largely still in place, the team was able to return to work in September 2020 and the programme rollout has continued since then. The COVID-19 situation disrupted the planned timeline for implementing activities. However, SC Jordan and UNICEF continued to find alternative modalities in coordination with Child Protection Sub Working Group (CRBP).

SC Jordan adjusted the work plan and executed adapted activities including the remote delivery of sessions for children and their parents, meetings with child protection committee members, and the provision of remote case management services and referrals in accordance with the CPSWG remote case management guidelines during COVID-19.

Co-ordination between UNICEF and SC Jordan improved significantly in 2020 with new staff joining both organisations. The monthly co-ordination meetings provided opportunities to discuss progress, lessons and challenges, and mitigation measures.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT

In Jordan it is reported that not all relevant stakeholders are aligned according to the project's strategies and objective. The WNCB partners need the ministries to set national standards to address child labour and ensure clear follow-up on the implementation of SOPs to enforce child labour laws. The inclusion of important government ministries such as the MOSD and MoL into the project is a significant precondition for change that requires further work and support.

UNICEF plans to provide government staff with training on the final version of by-laws and Standard Operating Procedures, but the finalisation of the SOP was delayed as the key ministries were closed for long periods during the lockdowns. In addition, UNICEF and SC Jordan have involved other child protection agencies that are working to eliminate child labour (for example ILO) to discuss service mapping and the referral pathway.

OUTCOME 1A CHILDREN ARE EMPOWERED AND SUPPORTED

SC Jordan reports that they contributed to improved parenting skills and self-efficacy of parents, child labourers and children at risk of child labour by rolling out a number of Common Approaches⁷ which, in Jordanian context, can address negative coping mechanisms that lead to dropout and child labour.

In Zar'qa, a number of families with working children were burdened by bank loans. UNICEF partner Rowad started to use revolving funds that helped 27 families to cope with these bank loans. The revolving funds decreased the financial burden and improved families' economic positions, which for these children is a starting point in stopping work.

Sessions for children on children's rights and child labour (Jordan)



⁶Defence laws: laws that empower the government to activate special powers or legislation during a crisis but impose certain procedural formalities when invoking such powers. The nature of such laws is temporary, for the duration of the crisis.

OUTCOME 1B INCREASED ENROLMENT AND RETENTION

WNCB allocated resources and technical capacities to improve access to community-based child protection services, respond to child protection concerns including child labour, and contribute to the reduction of child labour incidences while keeping children in school. The Child Protection Committee (CPC), established with support of SC Jordan, created a community-based prevention and response mechanism in Q4 of 2020 in East Amman. The Child Protection Committee were able to safely refer cases of child labour to the programme's caseworkers and contribute to increasing the number of parents attending parenting sessions. The Child Protection Committee were able to do this using the skills they acquired in the CPC training package and the awareness-raising activities they rolled out at community level, which empowered them to carry out first level child protection interventions.

3.5 MALI

The 20 communities in two regions, Sikasso and Segou, have been impacted by the security crisis in Mali and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Malian government has taken a series of measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Schools were also closed intermittently, not only due to lockdowns, but teachers' strikes also had a negative impact on children's education in 2020.

Although 2020 was the first year of effective implementation of the programme in Mali, many planned outputs were achieved. The unforeseen changes to the annual plan were mainly related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a change in implementation strategies. The programme relied more on local radio stations for awareness-raising and information activities, and proceeded to purchase health kits related to the pandemic and to make community members more aware of COVID-19 prevention measures.

The partners were nonetheless able to implement their annual plan in a timely manner in consultation with their stakeholders, respecting the detailed schedule and coping with the barriers created by

COVID-19. The Rapid analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 in Mali, conducted by the UN, estimates that 3.8 million children have been deprived of education (pre-school, primary and secondary). Within the chosen communities, men and women work in gold-panning and agricultural activities in a context of increased poverty.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT

In order to ensure the effective, timely and consistent implementation of activities, it was important to involve all stakeholders and community members.

To effectively implement work packages under strategic pathway 1, the programme has identified and established teams and focal points within the community. The programme also works in close collaboration with the communities in all its intervention zones by means of children's clubs, protection committees such as socio-community organisations, and local authorities. Nothing is done without the knowledge of the local and administrative authorities and the communities themselves, as evidenced by the existence of various organisations in the schools and villages ranging from clubs, government organisations, watch committees and protection committees.

Activities are made as relevant as possible via community meetings that allow community members to influence the activities. These meetings also aid in monitoring and evaluating the programme in collaboration with community members. Women's needs are taken into account equally, and women are able to choose support and

Women's group meeting (Mali)



⁷ SC Jordan (as well as other Save the Children Country Offices) is using a set of Common Approaches (CA) as part of implementing the WNCB interventions. Common Approaches are Save the Children International's evidenced-based understandings of how best to address particular problems facing children, which can be adapted to work in multiple contexts. SC Jordan is using the following Common Approaches as part of the WNCB programme: Safe Schools, Parenting without Violence, Steps to Protect, and Life Skills for Success.

training in the income-generating strategies that best suit them. Women are also supported in raising awareness on the importance of education for girls and the risks of early marriage.

The programme also seeks to engage with women directly in order to give shape to activities. For example, as part of our activities that aim to increase and secure income generation for households in which children have to work or are at risk of child labour, we speak with women to determine what suits them best and what type of opportunities they have identified.

In preparation for the rollout of work packages under strategic pathway 2, the programme began a collaboration with the National Unit for the Fight against Child Labour (CNLTE). Key stakeholders are participating in the various workshops to develop and finalise a strategy in which we advocate for the application of laws promoting the elimination of child labour. With regard to strategic pathway 3, relating to the private sector, the involvement of key players in this sector showed no results in this first year because the actions undertaken were limited to contacting stakeholders.

OUTCOME 1A: CHILDREN ARE EMPOWERED AND SUPPORTED

600 mothers have received support through 20 community women's groups set up and supported by Enda and Save the Children Mali. The women's groups help to empower families and parents, particularly mothers, to finance their children's

education through income-generating activities. The programme provides tailor-made training based on the needs of mothers.

The programme partners in Mali report a change in community attitudes and behaviour towards child rights, the risks of child labour and the importance of education, as a consequence of an awareness-raising campaign organised by Enda, SNEC and SC Mali that reached thousands of people in our target regions. People have been reached through village assemblies, while radio broadcasts and spots have reached thousands of people. Women's groups have been set up and are also engaged in raising awareness on girls' education and the risks and harms of early marriage.

With the support of Enda and SC Mali, the communities have set up 153 Child Watch Committees and five dialogue spaces have been created. These child watch communities serve as a source of information for parents and villages, communal and administrative authorities, and help to ensure that child rights are respected within the communities.

A significant decline in child labour has already been observed in the 20 communities in which the programme is currently rolled out. Specifically, 1,102 children have been assisted to stop working. Of these 1,102 children, 438 children are protected and monitored through child protection systems. Two children have been sent back to their village of origin.

Vocational training (Mali)



Additionally, 70 adolescent and young people have been helped to leave hazardous (child) labour and are being provided with financial and technical support to develop their professional skills through apprenticeships, short-cycle skills training, and entrepreneurship training.

OUTCOME 1B: INCREASED ENROLMENT AND RETENTION

Many planned outputs in Mali have been achieved despite the pandemic. The unforeseen changes in the annual plan were mainly related to the COVID-19 pandemic which led to adapting implementation strategies. For example, the program relied more on local radio stations for awareness raising and information activities and proceeded to purchase health kits related to the pandemic. The project also contributed to raising awareness amongst community members in COVID-19 prevention measures.

Of the 1,102 children who have been assisted to stop working, 100 are now enrolled in formal education and 562 out of school children are attending the bridge schools that have been set up through the combined efforts of the programme partners and other relevant stakeholders.

3.6 UGANDA

Programme implementation in Uganda was affected by various external factors, including the impact of COVID-19. Uganda declared a total lockdown from March to June 2020, which affected a number of economic, social and political activities nationwide as well as programme activities. The lockdown resulted in the closure of schools, institutions, mining companies and non-essential services (including the inspection of mining areas). With mines and mining areas no longer inspected, it was project staff observed that increasing numbers of children were working in the targeted villages.

The COVID-19 lockdown also led to increased Violence Against Children (VAC), increased teenage pregnancy, child marriage and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) due to the lax response to VAC by formal and informal child protection structures, which in turn resulted from government-imposed restrictions on movement.

The security context in the region was not always stable; it is believed that the crisis might have induced or at least aggravated cattle raids (characterised by gunfights between raiders and livestock owners, and even loss of life with reports that three children were killed by stray bullets). This caused additional ethnic tensions, displacement of the local population of Nakabaat including our target population.

The political campaigns (in preparation for the presidential election in January 2021) heightened the tension in the communities. This affected the implementation of certain key activities such as the intersectoral dialogue, which required the participation of both the political wing and technocrats of government.

A long rainy season with heavy rainfall in the region caused flash floods and destroyed bridges, making some areas difficult to access. This caused further delays in implementing activities, particularly in Nakabaat and Nandyidik. It also meant delays in reaching beneficiaries, a lack of regular programme monitoring due to lack of access, increased transportation costs and high vehicle maintenance costs. Agriculture was also affected by the high rainfall and fields flooding led to poor harvests despite the long rains. In addition, a locust invasion in Karamoja caused fear and uncertainty among the population.

Although there are numerous issues to report, the Uganda partners were able to conduct an impressive number of activities.

Child friendly spaces in Acherer and Nandyidik being constructed (Uganda)



The COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting national lockdown in March stalled the implementation plan for three months. Schools were closed and school-based activities came to a halt. This had a negative impact on the teachers' and children's motivation, and it was difficult to conduct activities or to monitor the children's attendance and follow up on those who had dropped out of school. For partners such as Save the Children Uganda and Nascent whose activities were in the communities, some activities stayed on track while others were delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the lockdown. These activities included financial and technical support for the drafting of by-laws, policies on child labour and implementation plans, the simplification of child labour laws, engaging with national government in the discourse on developing Child Protection systems, taking part in action research to compare and analyse different child protection strategies and unify them in a single approach, and the graduation of children enrolled in vocational training.

One notable programme activity that was negatively affected is the programme's baseline, which was in part due to the fact that it became hard to conduct a baseline during and after conflicts and tensions in which people sometimes fled our target locations. The Uganda team is currently in the process of sharpening the scope and scale of the programme and will conduct a rapid assessment to provide insight into the programme's KPIs. This rapid assessment will take into account a wider project scope ensuring that the impact of the complete work package is assessed in the sub-districts adjacent to the geographical scope of the CLFZ approach.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT

In March 2020, WNCB partners organised a national-level meeting that was attended by high-level officials from the line ministries of Gender Labour & Social Development, Agriculture, Federation of Uganda Employers, ILO and CSOs. The Director of Labour opened the meeting, which was chaired by the Commissioner for Labour. The Mining Bill was shared and WNCB has given input; an inter-ministerial committee was set to work with a lead expert to harmonise some of the key policies (for example the age of compulsory education aligned to the Education Act). Actions were taken to launch the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour - the launch of which is years overdue.

In a bid to strengthen child protection systems in the two districts, SC Uganda conducted capacity-building and retooling (by providing casework documentation books) of formal and informal child protection structures. It also supported case management, supported the conduct districts and sub-counties child protection co-ordination meetings, supported the popularisation of the 116 toll-free line for reporting child abuse cases (SAUTI), supported Maurita sub-county in Nakapiripirit district in coming up with the sub-county by-law on child labour and child protection, conducted an intersectoral dialogue meeting with key district actors to address child labour and child protection issues, supported the districts to commemorate the Day of the African Child as well as the World Day Against Child Labour, and trained mining companies on CRBP and enabled them to come up with their own code of conduct.

Training for parents and teachers in Moroto (Uganda)



Vocational training for boys in Naoi (Uganda)



UNATU (teachers' union) and other WNCB partners, in partnership with the Education Department, are ready to roll out the mass campaign to mobilise children to go to school and to provide support in conducting activities to motivate teachers.

OUTCOME 1A CHILDREN ARE EMPOWERED AND SUPPORTED

Community para-social workers have been trained by SC Uganda and are better aligned and capable of assisting households and children out of child labour and protecting children (specifically children at risk of violence and child marriage too). Four child-friendly spaces have been set up. Children from the village of Acherer, for example, have access to a 'child-safe space' set up by SC Uganda and 15 para-social workers from Acherer. They constructed two shelters, meaning that the space can accommodate up to 50 children. The safe space supports the registration and enrolment of children previously engaged in child labour, and local play materials for children. Various activities are organised at specific times, for example psychosocial support services, learning sessions for Early Childhood Care and Development, and mentoring sessions for children, including discussion on issues of safety within their communities. In combination, the activities promote children's access to education and reduce their vulnerability to child labour.

After taking part in various awareness-raising activities and following visits to households and to

children in the mines (by UNATU, SC Uganda and Nascent) to discuss their rights, parents, caretakers and children are better aware of the dangers of child labour and how to protect themselves from abuse. In all the villages it was recorded that in the month of November 236 children (116 boys & 120 girls) attended activities in the four established child-friendly spaces across the four villages in Nakapiripirit, at times when they would otherwise be working.

UNATU, in partnership with SC Uganda and Nascent, organised a meeting that was attended by 90 (70 male & 20 female) senior management committee members to train them in creating awareness of child labour as well as their responsibilities and potential contributions towards eliminating child labour. As a result and in relation to these meetings, the Senior Management Committees (SMCs) and the Teachers' and Parents' Associations (PTAs) conducted various community parent-teacher meetings in sub-county in Moroto respectively, in order to sensitise them to their responsibility to contribute to and monitor school enrolments and progress. The partners report that 291 child labourers have been helped to stop working and are now protected through formal government and informal community child protection structures. Also, vulnerable children who are at risk of violence and child marriage are protected through these formal and informal structures.

Community dialogue on the value of education in Nanyidik (Uganda)



OUTCOME 1B INCREASED ENROLMENT AND RETENTION

SC Uganda, UNATU and Nascent organised a meeting for government heads of departments and sub-county staff to strategize and develop actions aimed at eliminating child labour and increasing the motivation of teachers in the programme communities. The stakeholders created a co-ordination team that will monitor the programme sites. Stakeholders also allocated funds at the district level for conducting 'Go to School' campaigns in which communities are encouraged to embrace children's education. In addition, two education monitoring teams were formed by the district stakeholders and community members. The teams are conducting 'Go back to School' campaigns that have already reached about 700 households in Acherer and Hutut in Moruita, Kakomongole in Nakapiripirit, and Nanyidik and Nakabaat in Rupa sub-county in Moroto district.

OUTCOME 2 GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND ENFORCE CHILD RIGHTS LAWS

The partners Hivos, SC Uganda, UNATU & Nascent engaged the essential government structures during the period January to June. Representatives of these different structures have shown commitment to support the implementation of WNCB programme. The National Higher and Lower local governments (Department of community-based services, District Commercial office, District labour office and Sector Command in-charge mineral exploration in Karamoja Sub region) provided important support to WNCB implementation in 2020. This support ranged from technical, mobilisation of communities for activities as well as physical participation in the activities.

Hivos organised a high-level meeting for stakeholders from the line Ministries and Civil Society Organisations. One of the action points was to set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee. In March 2020, the Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development set up an inter-ministerial task team of 8 persons to harmonise the child rights laws. The Inter-ministerial Committee comprises technical persons from the Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development, Ministry of minerals and Energy development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs.

OUTCOME 3 PRIVATE SECTOR TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY

SC Uganda trained companies and local artisan mines on child rights, business principles and

corporate social responsibility. In collaboration with Save the Children the mines developed their own Code of Conduct (CoC). These codes are regulations that protects children in the mining environment. It's a summary of provision on the CRBP. It was observed that the three mining companies (Sunbelt, - Mororoto Rhino & Angaro of Nakapiripirit) actively created awareness of the newly developed CoC that the companies and that the companies displayed the CoC on all company buildings.

3.7 VIETNAM

In Vietnam, school closures disrupted the education of more than 21 million children. The number of children returning to school dropped and families' income was reduced, resulting in an increase in child labour. Online learning and interaction entailed other threats for children. The unprecedented floods, severe droughts, and saltwater intrusion put millions of families at risk too, exacerbating children's pre-existing vulnerabilities to abuse and exploitation and diverting the government's priorities and efforts.

The ongoing public administration reform downsizing civil servants further influenced the social service workforce. In addition, more restrictive measures on the civil freedom of CSOs and the sensitive nature of child labour created challenges, and the government recorded an increase in cases of violence against children. In this context, the Alliance consulted with local partners to adapt the workplan and reprioritise activities for 2020, including COVID-19 adaptations.

UNICEF's Rapid Assessment of the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on children and families in Vietnam showed that the Vietnam

School children (Vietnam)



Women's Union has reported double the usual number of newcomers to Peace House, a shelter for domestic violence and abuse victims, since the outbreak began.⁸

COVID-19 and local staff turnover caused significant delays in programme implementation. In response, the Alliance partners worked closely with each other and supported the government with a certain flexibility in order to cope with the negative effects of COVID-19. Anecdotal reports support the theory that the crisis resulted in an increase in child labourers.

Several meetings and workshops moved to online mode, while others were postponed as the government reprioritised its efforts to support families and children in order to deal with the immediate socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. The kick-off meeting was significantly delayed but was eventually organised as a strategic event laying the foundation for programme implementation. Alliance partners also worked successfully with the government on policy advocacy to address child labour and strengthen local child protection systems.

The prolonged programme approval procedure led to a domino effect in the commission of the baseline in the last quarter of 2020 as, without approval, work on the ground could not commence. In the meantime, SC Vietnam diligently supported HCMC Department of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) to develop and obtain approval for the Guidelines on Support and Responding to Cases of Child Abuse and Child Labour, which helped build government buy-in and trust. Since their approval, SC Vietnam has supported DOLISA in applying the Guidelines

to all districts in HCMC, including four target districts for WNCB.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT

UNICEF supported strengthening CPS in Dong Thap to respond to child labour and other child protection concerns. All remaining planned activities on capacity-building and empowerment for children, adolescents and families will be implemented in 2021 with budget adjustment.

The prolonged procedure of obtaining programme approval from the HCMC, primarily due to the sensitivity of child labour and tighter scrutiny of INGOs' work, caused delays in programme implementation. Furthermore, local staff turnover presented another challenge as project partners had to rebuild their capacity. Despite this, SC Vietnam ensured that key joint activities were implemented, including the baseline survey and initial capacity-building activities in HCMC.

OUTCOME 1A CHILDREN ARE EMPOWERED AND SUPPORTED

UNICEF supported the operationalisation of community-based Child Protection Systems at the provincial, district and commune levels in Dong Thap and HCMC. UNICEF also supported the development of a training programme on child protection. Eighty teachers and child protection staff in schools in Dong Thap and HCMC were equipped with child protection knowledge and skills in responding to all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation, including child labour. UNICEF engaged stakeholders in broadening the approach to address child labour through the lens of child-protection-system strengthening. This combined activity has resulted in enhanced local child protection systems that allows stakeholders to respond to child labour and other child protection concerns. A functioning child protection system will be able to prevent and respond to child labour and various vulnerabilities and their interconnectedness, with enhanced skills in screening, detecting and reporting child labourers and children at high risk of engaging in labour, and providing timely support.

SC Vietnam has organised awareness-raising workshops on eliminating child labour and supporting children at risk. In addition, they have held trainings on children's rights and child protection, and case management of child labour

Dialogue with the Vietnam Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Vietnam)



⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/reports/rapid-assessment-social-and-economic-impacts-covid-19-children-and-families-viet-nam>

and child exploitation for a number of relevant stakeholders. This had the effect of making local authorities, programme management boards, child protection boards, teachers and community volunteers respond to, and support children and cases of child labour faster and more effectively. They are also better able to identify child labour, children at risk, and the eligible age groups for working, and to differentiate forms of labour.

OUTCOME 2 GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND ENFORCE CHILD RIGHTS LAWS

In 2020, UNICEF supported the timely organisation of high-level consultation/advocacy workshops on the development of the Circular on Minor Labourers, and the development of the National Programme on Child Labour Prevention and Elimination 2021 - 2025. Through this process, UNICEF has advocated for a more comprehensive and holistic approach in addressing child labour. Thereafter the government endorsed legal provisions⁹ on minor labourers and specifically child labour that is hazardous, promoting the idea that they be better aligned with international child labour law standards for the protection of minor labourers and promotion of decent work. Child labour was increasingly recognised by the National Assembly and reflected in its first-ever Resolution on Violence against Children, through which the National Assembly directed the government to develop the National Programme on Child Labour Prevention and Elimination 2021 - 2025, with a vision to 2030. Following the revision of the Labour Code in 2019, the development of the sub-laws and policies on Minor Labourers and the new National Programme on Child Labour Prevention and Elimination 2021-2025, the National Programme on Child Protection 2021-2025 is an opportunity to further articulate the rights of minors with regard to their participation in the workforce along with protection for them in compliance with the relevant international conventions and treaties.

OUTCOME 3 PRIVATE SECTOR TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY

UNICEF, as part of its advocacy work, provided inputs to the Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI) by Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) and Vietnam Chambers of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). UNICEF, in collaboration with VCCI, held consultations with key organisations working with businesses on business and human rights/child rights issues in order to discuss key issues, existing training sessions and gaps in training. In 2020 these actions have led to

increased commitment, respect and support to child rights from key business and stakeholders in our communities of implementation in **Dong Thap** and **HCMC**. Specifically the work package to address child rights according to the CRBP approach proved to be relevant and the team has worked according to this approach. Child labour prevention, young worker protection and other family-friendly workplace criteria are being integrated in policies and practices of business and stakeholders.

Through the partnership between **SC Vietnam** and **The Centre for Child Rights and Business**, three factories in the target communities participated in trainings on child labour prevention, remediation and good parenting. Selected factories are engaged and invested in our WNCB programme and have committed themselves to respecting children's rights including a zero tolerance for child labour and support for decent work.

3.8 THE NETHERLANDS

LOBBY, ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

In the Netherlands, the Lobby & Advocacy/ Responsible Business Conduct (L&A/RBC) and communication working groups have worked on specific activities towards achieving outcomes 3 and 4.

Keeping in touch and sharing experiences became even more important during the pandemic. Through a programme newsletter, regular input from country partners, and a platform for sharing information, WNCB partners and staff are kept better-informed of what is happening within the Alliance at all levels and in all countries. WNCB partners have agreed on uniform communication about key concepts and ambitions of the WNCB programme. This will allow for a more focused contribution to lobby & advocacy efforts (at different governance levels). WNCB partners, both in the Netherlands and in partner countries, are increasingly using uniform messages in their work and communication.

In the Dutch and EU media we have seen a focus on COVID-19 related problems in the Netherlands and the broader European Union. It has proven more difficult to gain media attention for child labour and WNCB-related themes in our partner countries. It was only in the last two months of 2020 that

⁹ The Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs promulgated Circular 09/2020/TT-BLDTBXH dated 12 November 2020. The Circular has 13 articles and six annexed templates on legal provisions and regulations for employing minors under the age of 13 and minors under the age of 15; a list of light work that minors aged 13-15 can perform; a list of work and workplaces that have a detrimental impact on physical, cognitive and emotional development; a list of work minors aged 15-18 can perform at night.

articles related to the impact of COVID-19 on child labour appeared in the Dutch and international media.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also influenced the agenda of our L&A and RBC work. In general lobbying has proven more difficult, as we were unable to conduct face-to-face meetings with the main stakeholders (whether public or private stakeholders). Virtual meetings were organised instead, but these did not provide real opportunities to talk with public and private stakeholders bilaterally; in addition, meetings and conferences on RBC were postponed and eventually cancelled. In that sense the partners in the Netherlands missed out on opportunities for engagement and profiling.

STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS

Public sector collaborations

In order to advocate for children's rights in the Netherlands, WNCB partners have collaborated in the L&A and RBC working group. This has resulted in a number of joint actions by WNCB partners. Collectively, these actions aim to align stakeholders around children's rights and responsible business conduct.

- As an active member of the MVO Platform, the WNCB's Alliance Partners worked on different lobby activities ahead of and after the government's publication of a future CSR policy.
- SCL and Trade Union FNV co-organised a webinar on labour laws in India. SCL reached out to 83 municipalities to create awareness of the impacts

of the natural stone sector; three of these municipalities have already become members of the RBC TruStone Initiative.

- Contacts with the MVO Platform towards the end of 2020 led to the new Module on Public Procurement; MVO Platform will co-ordinate lobbying activities for a sustainable public procurement policy, to begin in 2021, to which WNCB will bring in its expertise.
- Input was given to Parliament in view of debates on CSR and draft legislation (Invest International), and engagement with Invest International on their Policy Framework.
- Considering the Dutch government's reporting obligation on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Alliance Partners (in co-operation with other CSOs) prepared comments on the Dutch State Report. This will continue in 2021.
- Several lobby letters were sent, e.g. to Parliament, on the shrinking space for civil society and to the EC on mandatory due diligence legislation.
- The circumstances of the pandemic, combined with school closures, led to an increase of child labour in different sectors/areas. The Alliance Partners made a plea to Western companies that CSR obligations should be met even in times of economic downturn. Additionally, a manifesto to 'build back better', sent to the national government and Parliament, was supported. The government's financial support to the private sector, aimed at mitigating the impact of the lockdown, gave reason for the WG to plead for CSR criteria to be a precondition of this funding.

Cobble yard in Budphura (India)



Private Sector collaborations

COVID-19 has had a big impact on production processes globally. In that sense, the crisis exposed the structural flaws in the global trade system. European companies cancelled their orders and lockdowns interrupted supply chains, with huge consequences for the livelihoods of workers and their families in production countries. Within this context:

- WNCB played an active role in the International Conference on Child Labour, organised by the Dutch government and FBK (Fund against Child Labour); the WG organised a well-attended breakout session on the WNCB approach to addressing child labour.
- WNCB participated in several conferences/webinars, e.g. February's OECD Garment and Footwear Conference.
- On the International Day against Child Labour, the WG co-organised a webinar on child labour, mainly for the business sector, to create awareness, interest, and opportunities for the business sector to collaborate.
- WNCB's expertise and overall approach to child labour and the Alliance Partners' work in the several Covenants has shown a valuable synergy; in the different Covenants, the work of local partners on the ground, presented as a best practice, is convincing and provides companies with practical examples of how to operationalise due diligence requirements in their business and operating models. In addition, our local partners see opportunities to explore value chains downstream towards end products.
- Research on sandstone conducted by SKA has led to profound dialogues with different companies.
- In September 2020, a webinar on child labour was organised for the entire financial sector; the webinar was a valuable starting point for further lobbying activities directed at the financial sector in 2021.
- The Alliance Partners continued their regular engagement with VNO-NCW, advocating to strengthen the collaboration to support companies in their due diligence efforts, particularly with regard to child labour and other related risks in their supply chains; our efforts resulted in a common agenda for 2021, linked to IYECL.

International collaborations

- 2020 was a starting point for research on the gold sector, being a sector focus in Ivory Coast, Mali and Uganda. Several studies were initiated and will be continued in 2021, based on which possible

gaps and interventions will be determined.

- The Alliance Partners have had regular contact with their offices in Brussels to plan for future input given this EU development.
- The Alliance Partners provided input to the future EU Trade Policy, to the consultation on children's rights in the EU, and to the Directive Non-Financial Reporting.
- The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP) Working Group started the initiative UNGPs 10+, referring to the tenth anniversary of the UNGPs, with a request to all stakeholders worldwide to give their perspectives on business and human rights for the coming ten years. The Alliance Partners shared their experiences, based in part on the work in the Dutch covenants. They also expressed their ideas for the future, with a special focus on children's rights and child labour.
- In the light of 2021 being the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour (IYECL), the WG has developed a Workplan for IYECL in collaboration with the WNCB Programme Management Unit.

OUTCOMES OF NETHERLANDS BASED WORK

Outcome 3 Private sector takes full responsibility

Both UNICEF NL and Save the Children Netherlands have taken an active role in the multi-stakeholder discussions for the Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (DISCO). Both organisations provided valuable input to draft texts. This resulted in the official launch of DISCO in Q4 of 2020. Activities will continue in 2021. Both organisations will be represented in the WG Child Labour. Current business practices on Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) will be critically evaluated and the need for prevention and additional area-based approaches will be emphasised.

The financial sector has a due diligence obligation, with increased opportunities for leveraging responsible business conduct through investments and loans. A series of webinars on child labour and due diligence with the financial sector led to increased financial sector stakeholder engagement in addressing child labour. This was apparent in their participation in the webinars and active interest in discussions on due diligence risk assessments of their investment decisions.

Outcome 4 The EU and the Dutch government act in support of the elimination of child labour
WNCB believes that, without mandatory regulation,

businesses will not sufficiently address child labour. Support of a great variety of stakeholders is needed to influence the political landscape in favour of due diligence law. For this reason, WNCB partners took part in the Campaign WG within the MVO Platform. Through active participation, WNCB has contributed to the launch of the 'Sustainable Responsible Business Initiative' or *Initiatief Duurzaam Verantwoord Ondernemen* (IDVO) Platform, in which companies, CSOs, other organisations, academics, and others can express their support for a Dutch due diligence law. Outcomes to which WNCB has contributed from a child rights perspective include the *initiatiefnota* ('Initiative Memorandum') for mandatory due diligence legislation, and the *Wet Zorgplicht Kinderarbeid* (Child Labour Duty of Care Act).

In addition to these developments, WNCB wants to place an emphasis on its wider efforts to engage and align public sector stakeholders in our work to put child rights on the agenda. In order to do so, WNCB is building dialogue with Members of Parliament and has shared our Indian partners'

local perspectives on due diligence legislation. These combined actions contributed to the development and adoption of plans for mandatory due diligence regulation from the Netherlands MoFA and the Cabinet.

In April 2020, the European Commission announced the initiative for future sustainable corporate governance rules at EU level. WNCB partners, in collaboration with Terre des Hommes, sent suggestions for amendments to Lara Wolters' EP report to the European Parliament, thus contributing to references to children's rights and business principles in this report.

School in Diassolon (Mali)



4. VALIDATING OUR TOC

Through the WNCB Theory of Change (ToC) we aim to explore how the programme activities undertaken in the countries contribute to a chain of results that lead to the intended or observed impacts. As such it provides us with a coherent narrative about how the programme contributes to the overall objective, and it helps to identify what are appropriate contextualised adaptations of the programme and quality implementation.

In this chapter we describe how the internal review of the WNCB ToC has provided us with valuable lessons learned, how this learning can be translated into adjustments and/or adaptations of the pathways of change and underlying assumptions, how to ensure adequate inclusivity of stakeholders' perspectives and values and to what extent approaches take into account sustainability.

4.1 GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Through a continuous process of dialogue with country teams and working groups we facilitate the exchange and generation of knowledge and information within the programme, thus ensuring the identification of local and shared challenges and opportunities for effective programme implementation. The review of the key main barriers, strategies and outcomes in our ToC has provided us with key lessons learned and good practices for 2020.

An overall challenge that has been identified in all the countries pertains to the COVID-19 pandemic; shifting from a face-to-face way of working to a more digital and virtual modality, with online meetings, virtual training sessions, etc. This new way of working offers opportunities to interact and reach out to a wider set of stakeholders and/or beneficiaries. In addition, this remote way of working aligns with the bottom-up approach of the WNCB programme, as it facilitates a decentralised decision-making process, increases accountability and ensures wider distribution of roles and responsibilities.

Within the WNCB countries, we have identified a multitude of local and contextualised lessons learned, leading to country-specific learning

questions. These will be addressed throughout the programme's life cycle in order to ensure adequate alignment with the ToC, as well as to cater for local solutions and opportunities for successful programme implementation. Alongside the contextualised learning, we have identified commonalities of lessons learned that have been shared by all WNCB countries. The key WNCB-wide learning questions for 2021 are:

1. Parents' economic position: how can we mitigate the negative effects of the decrease in livelihoods in order to support children's education and prevent them going into child labour?
2. Getting children back to school: what modalities do we have, and how can we provide increased support to children leaving child labour and ensure they return to school?
3. The position of girls: how can we address increased gender inequality due to the COVID-19 lockdown measures?
4. What approaches can we take that will contribute to the elimination of child labour by engaging the informal sector in the countries?
5. How will we engage government institutions and private-sector companies in order to ensure a prioritised focus on eliminating child labour through continued investment in education and responsible business conduct?

Of course, any additional learning questions from individual country teams or working groups during the programme's implementation will be addressed as they arise. In the next section, we elaborate on how these key learning questions can be incorporated into our programme's ToC effectively.

- Helping out of school children back to school: what modalities do we have, and how can we provide increased support to children leaving child labour and ensure they return to school?
- Assisting children at risk to drop out of school permanently due to the pandemic back to school.

4.2 TOC ADAPTATIONS

Adapting to ground realities and the pandemic In general, the programme is assessing how we can further contribute to improving or safeguarding the livelihood of families, especially those that were

hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis. In this context we are interested to see if 'cash transfer' strategies can be rolled out in the partner countries as an alternative or in complementarity to existing livelihood strategies. Cash is more often used as a strategy safeguard people's ability to purchase essential goods and services. Research shows that when implemented well, cash transfers can be very effective in improving people's income sustainably. In addition, cash transfers have proven to be effective as a means of enabling households and communities to recover from crises.

It is also reported that due to lockdown measures gender inequality has worsened. It is expected that it will be more difficult to get girls back in school and improve their prospects for a good future. There are reports of an increase in child marriages as a result of the pandemic, as well as increased violence against girls and women due to lockdown measures.

It is important that the ToC will provide better insight on the programmes scope at local, regional, national and international level. Baseline data will therefore be used to create up to date information on the scope and scale of our outcome statements. Furthermore, a qualitative baseline conducted through the SenseMaker methodology will enhance our collective understanding of behaviour, values and norms related to child labour in the various contexts where the programme operates.'

WNCB activities that target teachers and schools have been delayed as it was not always possible to continue the work due to the lockdown. Our partners were already engaged in various forms of 'bridge schooling' for children and young people and other strategies to assist out-of-school and working children back to school youth. It is likely that this strategy the strategy to help children back of school will increase in importance in our activities. While initially we would have focused on out of school children, we are now also helping children back to school who risk to drop out of school due to the pandemic. One way to do this is through non-formal education such as 'bridge schooling'. it is a proven concept to get children back into the formal education system with increased support of governments to ensure that all children have access to child friendly and quality education. The WNCB Alliance is currently assessing how this strategy can be better supported in the

various countries of implementation.

In all of our countries, lobby and advocacy towards governments and the private sector is ongoing. It is proving to be essential for WNCB to carefully monitor and investigate the negative impact of the pandemic on child labour through further context specific research as identified by our partner countries. Subsequently we address these issues within the child protection networks that the programme is currently supporting and the current context in which dialogues with governments and the private sector are taking place. This will allow WNCB to continue to address child-labour-related issues effectively and address negative trends at various levels. Similarly, it will help us to understand possible negative trends in key performance child labour indicators that might be adversely affected by the pandemic throughout the programme's lifecycle.

WNCB relies on community engagement in order to succeed. Both the CLFZ and the strengthening of child protection systems need community members to actively participate and contribute to the changes that are required. This calls for great agility and understanding, and the trust of particularly marginalised households who have resorted to child labour as a coping mechanism to survive harsh conditions. It is therefore an important precondition for change that local communities are invested and place their trust in the programme. For this to happen, it is important that they are capable of sharing their feedback and complaints, and that they have access to frequently-updated information on the programme's progress. WNCB therefore aims to give community engagement and accountability a more prominent place in its ToC as a precondition for change.

PARTNERSHIP-BUILDING, STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Stakeholder alignment and the capacity development of governments, private sector partners and community-based organisations is an essential strategy for delivering services to communities within the approaches that partners are using on the ground. This precondition will therefore also require a clearer place in our ToC.

4.3 SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR APPROACH

It is important to monitor whether or not the change we achieve will be lasting. We have

therefore asked our country partners to describe the sustainability of their approaches on the basis of five known sustainability pointers¹⁰ that have been developed. We have also analysed our workplans and reported outcomes in relation to these pointers. The sustainability pointers are: the financial, institutional, environmental, technical and institutional aspects of sustainability.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

In their work within the community, programme partners in all programmes try to take into account how they can best support households and families to become financially empowered through livelihood approaches and cash transfers. In the long run, children benefit financially from having a better education and access to decent work in the future. By considering the financial sustainability of our approach, we also try to assess whether or not services will continue after the programme ends (assuming they remain relevant) and whether local stakeholders will be able to maintain the services that have been established. Other community-based services are structured in such a way that they rely on very little financial external income and can exist with the input from community members alone. The Village Savings & Loans associations that some partners have set up are an example of this.

INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Institutional sustainability helps us to understand whether systems, institutions, policies and procedures at local level have improved to the extent that they meet the community's needs. Many partners have therefore invested heavily in stakeholder alignment and partnership-building. In all countries, WNCB partners lobby national, regional, district and local governments on integrating child protection systems into their policies and practices. Partners are thoroughly aware that the ownership of activities such as bridge schooling (and other activities organised to help children return to the formal education system) needs to be embedded in a child protection system that will outlive the WNCB programme. One weakness identified is that the programme reports do not mention anything to do with possible conflicts of interest of the stakeholders and partners.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

It has proven difficult to make a direct contribution to specific environmental approaches within our programme. Specific sectors in which we are addressing child labour, such as mining and agriculture, have the potential to contribute to environmental degradation at local level (which in turn can negatively impact our target groups). The drive to create a world powered by green technology will increase the demand for materials mined in similar areas to those in which we work. It may be difficult to directly address issues such as environmental degradation or practices that contribute to creating hazardous living conditions for our target communities. The programme could, however, start taking environmental sustainability into account by collaborating with local stakeholders that are addressing environmental degradation and climate change through the Lobby and Advocacy of equally important RBC approaches.

TECHNICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Partners make a significant contribution to the capacity and know-how that governments, business and other stakeholders require in order to address child labour. Partners strive to achieve sufficient capabilities within various targeted stakeholders and communities in order to retain the outcomes achieved (and to do so from within the community) and to ensure that communities are able to address issues at local, district and national levels. Specifically, the child protection approach works towards developing the capacity of a wide range of stakeholders to maintain and further develop child protection systems that have been established or strengthened, while the CLFZ approach mostly targets and reinforces local community structures.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Parents, caretakers and children need to be able to place lasting trust in the services that have been set up by programme partners and stakeholders. Various programmes have carried out extensive research into the needs and wishes of communities. Most approaches rely on the community to engage in activities and to support activities from a community perspective. The extensive qualitative and quantitative baseline methods that have been used to assess baseline realities on the ground have also given voice to a large number of community members, enabling them to explain the identified root causes of child labour. One weakness that can be identified is that the baselines were not always conducted objectively. The fact that sampling was not always random may have resulted in

¹⁰ Developed within the WASH sector but also adopted by other sectors to monitor sustainability, for example by the RVO (Netherlands Enterprise Agency). https://english.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2017/07/FDOV-FIETS-checklist_0.pdf

sampling errors. As data collection has often been conducted by the partners themselves, there is a higher risk that respondents have been influenced. The assessment that aims to gain more insight into gender equality and inclusiveness will provide additional input towards making our programme socially sustainable.

4.4 INCLUSIVENESS, GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in important pillars of WNCB. In 2020, the partner country teams ensured the integration of a gender sensitive approach by collaborating with the gender working group. A process of gender mainstreaming in all annual plans led to more gender sensitive activities.

The first step was to develop a context sensitive approach as per the GESI approach of Save the Children. Partner countries appointed a gender focal point that took part in the Gender Equality working group. This helped to ensure different perspectives to gender and inclusion from all countries. All members of the WG reported increased attention to GESI in their country at the end of the year. Another action was the dissemination and integration of Gender Equality and inclusion aspects through linking and learning and mainstreaming efforts in other working groups and activities (Education, RBC, L&A, Sensemakers, Baseline etc).

Partners have also collected data and started to conduct a gender analysis within their context of implementation that ensure a gender strategic response but also helps to identify needs and best practices on the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups such as sexual minorities, migrants, people with disabilities, children affected by HIV..This gender analysis will ensure the assessment of programmatic gaps and needs and will also help to integrate of capacity development activities and the inclusion of specific gender action plans.

The gender analysis helps to raise awareness and bring attention to the need for a gender equal and inclusive way of working. In the pre-assessment most countries identified clear links between gender inequalities and child labour including concerns of COVID impacts which will be further explored throughout the programme. The efforts to internalize this process in our daily work included technical orientations, the provision of guidelines, representation of countries in the WG, and the adaptation of annual plans.

5. CONCLUSION

Looking back on 2020, we conclude that - despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other contextual challenges - the Alliance partners have managed to achieve considerable results and implement an important number of activities to ensure that the WNCB programme firmly points toward our joint vision to eliminate child labour. The collaboration and communication between and within country teams has been strengthened and will remain a focus of attention throughout the programme, both through reflection and learning exercises and via the various MEAL tools and methodologies at our disposal. The adaptive management component of the programme has also ensured that any delays and/or modifications to activities have been adjusted and included in the programme plans for 2021. Continued monitoring of further developments concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and other contextual challenges will be carried out in order to identify possible mitigation measures within the programme in a timely fashion. We will assess if 'cash transfer' strategies can be rolled out in the partner countries as an alternative or in complementarity to existing livelihood strategies. It is likely that we will increase in importance in our activities to get children back into the formal education system with increased support of governments. WNCB carefully monitors and researches the negative impact of the pandemic and will keep addressing these issues within the dialogues with governments and the private sector.

An overall challenge pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic has been identified in all the countries: shifting from a face-to-face way of working to a more digital and virtual modality, with online meetings, virtual trainings, etc. This new way of working offers opportunities to interact and reach out to a wider and bigger set of stakeholders and/or beneficiaries. Furthermore, this remote way of working aligns with the bottom-up approach of the WNCB programme, as it facilitates a decentralised decision-making process, and increases accountability among project partners and towards the community and a wider distribution of roles and responsibilities. We aspire to consolidate a 'contact management system', as well as to identify alternative ways of information exchange that will

cater for more informal and incidental contact and communication, thus recognising and celebrating diversity by co-creating a range of ways of working that reflect different values and contexts.

The demand for capacity strengthening that occurred in several countries will be met through in-house expertise, which will strengthen staff technical capacity and skills as well as address thematic priorities that have been identified in the countries. In addition to the effective use of in-house knowledge and expertise, the programme has the option of strengthening the capacity-building component via additional resources and the involvement of external experts.

Finally, we would like to thank all Alliance partners, country teams and working groups for their inspiration, commitment and determination in the joint implementation of the WNCB programme. Despite the aforementioned challenges, we managed to increase effective collaboration and to support each other in creative and flexible ways, thus continuing to join forces to scale up action against child labour.

WORK: NO CHILD'S BUSINESS

