



BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS United States Department of Labor

Who We Are...

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) has unique responsibilities in a larger U.S. government effort to create a more prosperous international economic system, in which all workers can share in the benefits of increased international trade and work in healthier and safer workplaces where the basic rights of adults and children are protected. An important part of ILAB responsibilities is coordinating with other U.S. government agencies, international bodies and other governments around the world to eradicate exploitive child labor, forced labor and human trafficking.

From Entrapment to Enrichment!



Highlights:

- ILAB has technical cooperation projects to combat exploitive child labor in over 75 countries worldwide, including 49 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, 49 in Asia and the Middle East, and 48 in Africa;
- To date, ILAB initiatives have benefited over one million children by preventing their involvement in, or withdrawing them from, exploitive child labor;
- ILAB's work with the U.S. Department of State and other agencies has increased awareness about human trafficking and helped governments around the world to enact meaningful reforms;
- ILAB provides services, information, expertise and technical cooperation programs that effectively support the international responsibilities of the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. foreign labor policy objectives;
- ILAB works with other U.S. government agencies to ensure that products made by forced labor and child labor internationally are identified and not imported into the United States.

What We Do...

Child labor, forced labor and human trafficking

- Our technical assistance contributes to the eradication and prevention of exploitive child labor, forced labor and the trafficking of persons for the purpose of exploitive labor.
- Our projects, which focus on geographic areas and sectors around the world with a high incidence of exploitive child labor, aim to abolish the worst forms of child labor, including forced labor, trafficking, children affected by armed conflicts, commercial sexual exploitation and hazardous work.
- We conduct research that informs U.S. policy on issues related to the incidence and nature of exploitive child labor, forced labor and human trafficking and efforts to combat these problems.

Trade and labor affairs

- Our work ensures that internationally-recognized labor principles are adhered to in our international trade agreements.
- In support of the President's international economic agenda, we represent the interests and welfare of U.S. workers through participation in the interagency development and implementation of U.S. international trade and investment policy that is chaired by the United States Trade Representative.

International relations

- We play the lead role within the U.S. government on policy and program issues in the International Labor Organization.
- We have the primary U.S. government responsibility for employment and labor-related issues in several international and regional organizations and fora, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Organization of American States, and the meetings of the G-8 Labor Ministers.
- ILAB helped to establish the U.S. – Vietnam Labor Dialogue, which provides a forum for the two nations to discuss labor-related issues.
- Each year, we host from 250-1,000 international visitors from the public and private sectors, academia, and non-governmental organizations to learn about U.S. laws, enforcement practices, job creation and programs that deliver training and employment skills to workers.
- We monitor labor developments in countries of strategic importance to the United States.



Select Publications: *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor; Linking Theory and Practice to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor; Foreign Labor Trends; Labor-Related Reports for U.S. Free Trade Agreements*

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<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/>