



Regional Symposia



## Promoting Area-based Approach (ABA) for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour

### Background

The Area Based Approach (ABA)<sup>1</sup> has pioneered community-centric, rights-based strategies to combat child labour. This includes initiatives like Child Friendly Villages and Municipalities, Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZs), and the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) in various regions across Africa, Asia, and Central America. These efforts have made significant strides in preventing child labour, enhancing educational access, and bolstering community engagement, particularly focusing on children, youth, and women, while also prioritizing income and livelihood opportunities.

While ABA models have primarily been applied in rural-agriculture, garment, and mining sectors, they have also proven effective in urban and semi-urban environments, seen in initiatives like child-friendly municipalities, cities, and schools.

Given the expanding complexities behind child labour, a robust and expedited solution is imperative. This involves targeting the evolving root causes, particularly by boosting income in high-risk areas, to establish sustainable and responsive livelihoods at the community level. Implementing ABA interventions with an emphasis on integrating economic solutions can be pivotal in generating a wider array of adaptable strategies to combat the root causes of child labour. However, this necessitates collaborative and coordinated efforts from key stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), international donors, and community leaders. By engaging a diverse range of stakeholders and capitalizing on their unique strengths, an area-based approach can formulate more comprehensive and flexible solutions. This multi-faceted approach ensures that interventions are culturally attuned, context-specific, and sustainable in the long run.

Given the background described above, the Global March Against Child Labour (GMACL) is organising a series of regional symposia on promoting the ABA for the prevention and eradication of child labour. The symposia will bring together different stakeholders at the regional level to exchange experiences and challenges of ABA as well as work together on improving and promoting it as a key tool to address child

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<sup>1</sup> The area-based approach (ABA), also known as Integrated Area Based Approach (IABA) introduced by the International Labour Organisation, (ILO), aims to eliminate child labour, targeting specific geographic locations or communities where child labour is prevalent and implementing community-centric sustainable solutions. It recognizes that child labour is often deeply rooted in the social and economic context of communities, and that effective solutions require a context-specific approach addressing concerns to eliminate it. The ABA prioritises creating good-practice models that lay the groundwork for the establishment of models such as child-labour free zones (CLFZs) or child friendly villages (CFVs) and similar structures that would be scaled-up in the future. For any model to ABA qualified, it is also crucial to include a Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS). Often, the terms ABA, CLFZs, CFVs and CLMS are used interchangeably. However, it is crucial to understand, that the ABA is a lens used to set up or guide the development of models such as CLFZ, CFVs and CLMS.

labour in various contexts. The goals, topics, relevance and locations of the symposia are described below:

## **Goals**

- Promote the ABA as an approach to be included in National Policies/ Roadmap priorities of (Pathfinder – PFC) countries in the regions, together with budget allocation for its implementation
- Understand and promote stakeholders' role in the implementation of ABA to foster ownership and accountability
- Exchange experiences and challenges of implementing ABA centric interventions to generate stronger ABA models that provide effective good practices to strengthen community income as a key aspect of addressing child labour
- CSOs jointly developing a call-to-action document to advocate for prioritising ABA in policies and interventions to address child labour
- Inclusion of the ABA as a priority of the work of the Alliance 8.7

## **Relevance and way forward**

GMACL is the largest network of NGOs and Trade Unions working towards the prevention and eradication of child labour and represents the CSOs on the Global Coordinating Group (GCG) of the Alliance 8.7 and the monitoring working group of the Alliance 8.7

The GMACL wants to promote the voices of the CSOs in the Alliance 8.7 platform on a national level but also on a global level to accelerate the fight against child labour using the ABA. A call-to-action document would be a key outcome of this symposia and guide GMACL's position towards the members of the Alliance 8.7. for representing the collective CSOs' call-to-action towards different stakeholders for promoting ABA interventions. The call-to-action document will be disseminated towards the different members of the Alliance, such as donor countries, employers, PFC governments and UN agencies.

The call-to-action document is also intended to guide policy makers to improve or adapt the PF roadmap priorities. The experience of CSOs on what works and doesn't work on eradicating child labour is crucial to reach the SDG 8.7 target. This document will offer policy makers direct solutions for addressing key root causes of child labour, such as low income that can be complemented by ABA and have a long-lasting impact on the ground.

The ABA is a tool which has direct impact, it is used by different CSOs, Governments and UN agencies to address child labour. By sharing knowledge and key recommendations, the ABA can be improved further and complement innovative solutions and good practices for addressing the key root causes of child labour.

Within the Alliance 8.7 GMACL can coordinate the implementation of the ABA within the different PFCs and share knowledge with PFCs and other stakeholders.

## Thematic areas of discussions

1. **Lessons learnt in the application of Area Based Approach** – introduction of Area Based Approach, taking into consideration key lessons from ABA interventions by the respective (pathfinder) countries and presenting good practices from different sectors, contexts and stakeholders
2. **Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders within the ABA** – identifying and promoting the roles of different stakeholders, based on their strengths, to design and implement ABA
3. **How ABA interventions can support (Pathfinder) Countries in addressing the root causes of child labour** - identifying opportunities and common obstacles amongst the (Pathfinder) Countries within their national priorities, to promote and implement the ABA with a focus on improving socio-economic conditions at the country level and identifying the role of different stakeholders in accelerating progress
4. **Exploring the way forward** - it is intended that this exchange would generate recommendations and inputs towards the (Pathfinder) countries and Alliance 8.7 on promoting and strengthening ABA

## Locations, dates and participants

GMACL intends to organise at least 3 regional Symposia on ABA:

- *African regional Symposium* took place on June 2023 in Kampala, Uganda
- *Latin American Regional Symposium* is planned for June 2024 in Lima, Peru
- ***South Asia & Southeast Asia Regional Symposium is planned for 19 December 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal***

In all the Regional Symposia it is crucial to have the participation of different sector representatives such as CSOs, Government, Trade Unions, Businesses, Research institutions as well as Child and Youth. Particularly for the South Asia & Southeast Asia Regional Symposium the participants and speakers will come from the following countries: Nepal (PFC), India, Bangladesh, The Philippines, and Vietnam (PFC), securing a diverse range of experiences for a regional vision.

GMACL is organising the South Asia & Southeast Asia Regional Symposium together with its member organisation Swatantra Abhiyan Nepal (SAN) and the support of its partner Work: No Child Business.

## Regional Symposium South Asia & Southeast Asia

**Agenda 18th - 20th December 2023**

**Hotel Mulberry, Thamel - Kathmandu, Nepal**

### Day 1 – December 18th

- **Arriving to Kathmandu of international speakers**
- **Evening network dinner – 19:00**  
- International speakers, participating CSOs, Alliance 8.7 Secretariat Nepal, Global March staff, SAN staff

### Day 2 – December 19th

- **Regional Symposium, Promoting Area-based Approach (ABA) for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour**  
- Participating CSOs, Government officials, Employer organisations, Trade Unions, Youth representative, international speakers

### ABA Symposium Agenda

| Timing  | Topic   | Speaker(s)   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>First part of the Day / Multistakeholder symposium</b> |   |  |
| <b>9:00-9:30</b>  | Registration of Participants  | <b>Moderator – Milan Dharel</b>  |
| <b>9:30-10:00</b>   | Opening of event:<br><i>Welcome of national and international participants to the regional event, highlighting the need to accelerate efforts towards achieving SDG 8.7</i> | TBC - Representative from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS)<br><br>Prof. Chandrakala Sharma – Chairperson, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN)<br><br>Marco Dubbelt – Senior Director, Global March Against Child Labour |
|   | Welcome of panels:<br><i>Role of (Pathfinder) countries and the need for promoting Area Based Approach to address child labour</i>  | Milan Dharel – Former Executive Director, National Child Rights Council - Nepal  |
| <b>10:00-10:30</b>  | Panel 1: <i>Learnings from Area Based Approach in (Pathfinder) Countries</i>  | Venkat Reddy – National Convener, MV Foundation - India<br><br>Riri Siti O. Malikhah (Ms.)   |

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|  |  | Director of Services and Products, Asia<br><br>Ashma Basnet – Youth representative - Nepal<br><br>Rakesh Senger – Executive Director, Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation (KSCF) - India   |
| <b>10:30-10:45</b>                           | <i>Q and A</i>   | Moderator  |
| <b>10:45-11:15</b>                           | Tea break  |  |
| <b>11:15-11:45</b>                           | Panel 2: <i>Role of stakeholders in implementing Area Based Approach to address child labour</i>                   | Danduraj Ghimire - Joint Secretary, MoLESS – Nepal (TBC)<br><br>A K M Ashraf Uddin – Executive Director, Bangladesh Labour Foundation (BLF) - Bangladesh<br><br>Hansa Ram Pandey - Senior Expert, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) - Nepal |
| <b>11:45-12:00</b>                           | <i>Q and A</i>   | Moderator  |
| <b>12:00-12:30</b><br><br><b>11:45-12:00</b> | Panel 3: <i>Strengthening Area Based Approach by addressing the economic root causes of child labour</i>           | Tenzing Sherpa – Founder, N.P. Rugs Industries<br><br>Arun Ganguly – Project Manager, Cordaid – Bangladesh<br><br>Binod Shrestha – President, ITUC-NAC - Nepal   |
| <b>12:30-13:00</b>                           | <i>Q and A</i>   | Moderator  |
| <b>13:00-14:00</b>                           | Lunch  |  |
| <b>Second Part of the Day / Only CSOs</b>    |  |  |
| <b>14:00-15:30</b>                           | Group Exercise:<br><i>Journey to Area Based Approach: Creating CSOs Call to Action for Child Labour Free Zones</i> | All CSO (participants and panellists) take part of the exercise<br><br>Moderating: Global March  |
| <b>15:30-16:00</b>                           | Tea break  |  |
| <b>16:00-17:00</b>                           | Wrap up:<br>Presentation of Symposium outcomes and recommendations on Area Based-Approach                          | Moderator  |