



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Celebrating 21 years of fighting against child labour



About Global March Against Child Labour

The Global March Against Child Labour (Global March) is a worldwide network of trade unions, teachers and civil society organisations that work together towards shared development goals of preventing and eliminating all forms of child labour, slavery and trafficking thereby ensuring access to free, meaningful and good quality public education by all children.

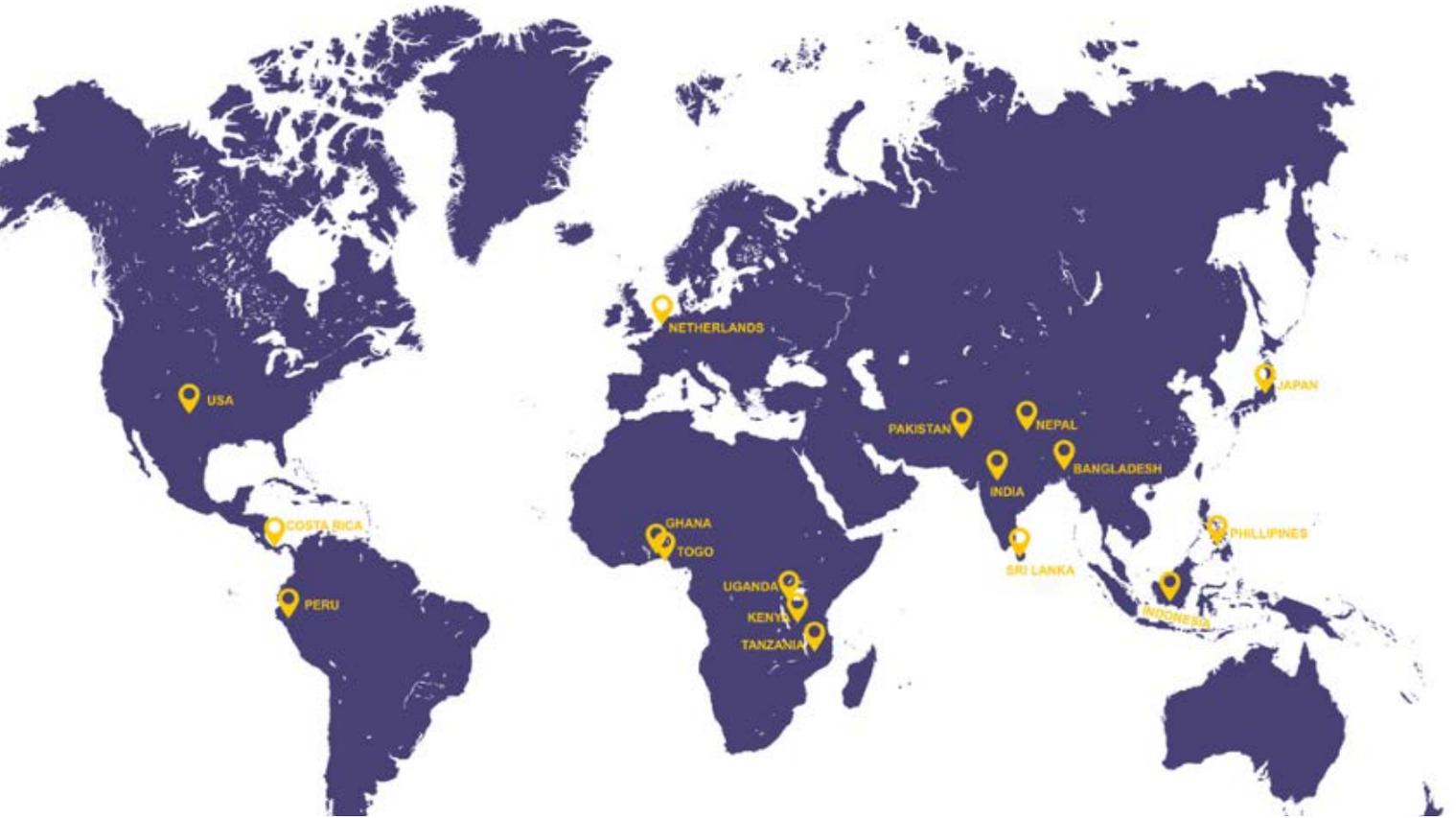
What We Do

Global March believes in going beyond campaigning and influencing policy formulation by not only carrying out the advocacy initiatives itself but also by supporting its members and partners all over the world to work closely with the governments and non-government agencies.

To achieve our endeavour of a child labour free world and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 8.7 we are:

- **Partnering** with a range of stakeholders like local organisations, UN agencies, Parliamentarians, businesses, institutions and individuals.
- **Supporting and building the capacity** of members, partners and non-partner organisations for effective working through technical guidance.
- **Collating, building and disseminating evidence-based research** for stakeholders' advocacy and knowledge building needs.
- **Bringing stakeholders closer** to work in harmony with each other to end child labour through dialogues, workshops, meetings.
- **Translating real-life experiences and research into advocacy issues** at national and international levels.
- **Raising awareness, empowering children and mobilising voices** to call for action, challenge governments, question businesses and bring attitudinal change in individuals

Where We Work



Advocating for the Hardest to Reach Children

Child labour is a complex phenomenon that still exists. Unfortunately, the issue has not received its due attention in the last few decades, nevertheless, the world has come a long way in making progress against child labour. From 246 million children in child labour in 2000, we have been able to collectively reduce the numbers to 152 million children in 2016. But this number is significantly high as well.

To ensure, children cease to be exploited, in 2019, Global March Against Child Labour focussed on strengthening the capacity of its member organisations across Asia, Africa and Latin America; guided the national campaigns to end child labour; advocated with the members of Parliament to create child-friendly laws; organised dialogues and discussions with civil society and the government; conducted researches on child labour in agriculture and carried out engagements with businesses.

For multiplying impact, knowledge sharing and dissemination is a key strategy embedded in all our projects, campaigns and researches. In 2019, we facilitated dissemination of knowledge generated by us through national and sub-national level conferences, policy dialogues, consultations, media and other communication channels.

Our approaches and strategies for reaching the most vulnerable communities, children on the margins have been effective to a great degree. The scale of impact from our work is already addressing the needs of our communities, advancing national priorities, and enhancing our commitment towards Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG Target 8.7, Goal 4 and Goal 5.

With our contextualised approaches, we have further effectively demonstrated our ability to work on a scale to strengthen political and social systems, stakeholders and decision-makers towards benefiting women and girls in child labour across the world.

Here is a quick snapshot of the work done in 2019:



ASIA
4 country programmes

AFRICA
1 sub-regional CSO meeting
2 country programmes

LATIN AMERICA
1 regional forum

EVENTS
Organised and participated in 9 events

RESEARCH
Field work completed for 2 researches

MP ENGAGEMENT
1 sub-regional MP meet in Africa
National MP engagements in Asia and Africa

BLOGS
2 Blogs

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT
2 engagements

Programmes: Towards a Gender Responsive and Child Friendly World



Global March's structured integration of gender equality, gender-responsive and civil society participation principles in all its programmes and in the clear vision for the future (with the support of the Girls Advocacy Alliance- GAA and Bread for the World) is a reiteration of its belief that gender equality and civil society participation drives development, reduces poverty and affects the children in child labour and their communities in a positive way.

Our gender-responsive and gender transformative approach focusses on the inclusion of "both" genders in the child labour discourse, the empowerment techniques and advocacy for women and girls rights along with encouraging the constructive engagement of men and boys in shaping gender-equal and gender-equitable social norms and policies that can contribute to the elimination of child labour from across the world. As a global network of organisations working on child labour, Global March represents the civil society voice at the global platforms and embeds strengthening civil society inclusion in national, regional and international child labour elimination efforts as its key approach.

Since 2016, we have supported institutions, civil societies, communities, youth, MPs and other stakeholders in challenging strongly embedded gender bias perceptions and practices; and have integrated the gender-responsive and transformative principles into our work which have unfolded into various ways.

Here are some success stories and some signs of change witnessed across our work in countries and at the global and regional level, that contributed to Global March's contribution towards the end of child labour:

ASIA

In 2019, Global March supported country programmes across 4 countries- Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The programmes were implemented by Global March members- Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (Bangladesh), Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (Nepal), Grassroot Organisation for Human Development (Pakistan) and Centre for Children's Happiness (Sri Lanka). The programmes across these countries focussed on engaging different stakeholders including civil society and government in policy advocacy dialogues, consultations with Members of Parliament in creating gender and child responsive budgets as well as policies; and awareness-raising of youth and the communities on the importance of education for both girls and boys and the need for elimination of child labour. Below are some signs of positive changes observed in 2019, that show us the ownership of all stakeholders in the fight against child labour:

Bangladesh:

- With the support of Global March member Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), the first kick-off meeting of Parliamentary Caucus on Children's Rights in Dhaka was organised in May 2019 that mobilised MPs and the Deputy Speaker on the issue of child rights. The Caucus' establishment has been recognised as an important one given the deteriorating situation of children in the country. The Deputy Speaker of the Parliament during the meeting suggested for the Caucus to use this platform for monitoring the utilisation of child rights budget which remained under-utilised till now. The Deputy Speaker and the Caucus members also called for the important role that MPs can play in advocating for the establishment of a Child Rights Commission in Bangladesh. Through BSAF's efforts, a position of Co-Chair was also created for this Caucus to ensure a seat to be occupied by a female MP. The election of a female MP as a co-Chair is of significance as it not only maintains a gender balance in power but also provides opportunities for girls and women to take up their issues with a women MP more openly.



- BSAF supported the development of community-based action plans through its member organisations in 7 Districts to promote child rights in the respective communities. It was for the first time that national-level plans were taken to the community level, wherein different stakeholders such as community members, local authorities and other local NGOs were invited to identify pertinent issues and find solutions for the same. Community participation in resolving local issues showed positive results such as the rescue of 3 girls from child marriage by community members in Dhutabon Moholla of Damkuna Union under Paba Upazila of Rajshahi District; withdrawal of 7 children from Harijan Union of Paba Upazila, 6 children from Dhutabon Moholla of Paba Upazila and 2 children from Rajshahi City Corporation from child labour and their enrolment in primary schools; and finally the creation of a 4 membered committee to prepare a database of working children at brickfield, Bidi Jarda and automobile workshop at 3 unions of Sadar Upazilla. These positive stories show us that with community ownership of the issues, a great change can be brought in the community mindset as well as practice.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) included BSAF into "National Monitoring Core Committee" of National Child Labour Welfare Council on 25 April 2019 through a gazette notification. The inclusion of BSAF in this committee means strengthened civil society participation in government child labour elimination efforts.

Nepal:

- Global March member, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN) supported the inception of the 'National Parliamentary Initiative to End Human Trafficking Child Labour and Forced Labour' in collaboration with Parliament Committee on Industry, Commerce, Labour and Consumer Welfare. Through efforts of SAN, the Parliament Committee committed to prioritising trafficking, child labour and forced labour at the national and local levels and adopted a work plan. Amongst other commitments, the Committee sought to provide assistance to provinces to develop and implement plans at the province level, along with budgetary allocations, as well as organise provincial level 'one-day Parliamentary dialogues'. This is an essential step in ensuring the laws and budgets provide for the basis of carrying out child labour elimination without any obstacles and with a strategic plan in place.

- SAN also engaged with various municipalities to create child-friendly policies and seek commitment on the allocation of appropriate budgets for the rights of children. By clear allocation of budgets and plans, the child labour elimination work can be carried out smoothly and within a set deadline. Some successes were witnessed in this endeavour such as through the announcement of Budhanilkantha Municipality as a child-friendly municipality making an allocation of NPR 30, 0000 budgets for children; announcement by Tokha Municipality that in its annual budget, policy and plans it will include the organisation of programs on child rights and child protection in coordination with child clubs and child rights networks and will monitor and regulate child labour by identifying child labour prone areas; through the agreement of the Chandragiri Municipality in organising programs for making child-friendly municipality under Child-Friendly Local Government program; and lastly through the consensus received by five Municipalities of Kathmandu and Lalitpur (Budhanilkantha, Lalitpur Metro, Kirtipur Municipal, Mahalaxmi Municipal and Godavari Municipal) to adopt policies to address and protect the rights of domestic workers, women, girls and children.
- SAN initiated the formation of 'National Level Girls' Network' to strengthen effective implementation of girls' rights and carried out a Youth Campaign to End Child Labour, Forced Labour and Child Sexual Exploitation and in Country Trafficking' in May 2019, to foster youth advocacy on critical issues of child labour, forced labour, child sexual exploitation, and trafficking. The establishment of a Girls' Network ensures that girls are given a chance to voice their concerns, find a free and safe space to carry out activities for their development and advocacy for their rights and create networks of friendship for creating positive change in society.



- To create awareness on child labour amongst youth and drive youth action, SAN organised a screening of the "The Price of Free" documentary film of Kailash Satyarthi for 105 students and 91 students of two social work colleges interacted with Ward Chairperson on the issue of child labour, who promised to collect data on child labour by mobilising the students. The involvement of students in data collection by the Ward Chairperson shows us the innovative use of the power of youth in carrying out activities where the government may find itself under-resourced.

Pakistan:

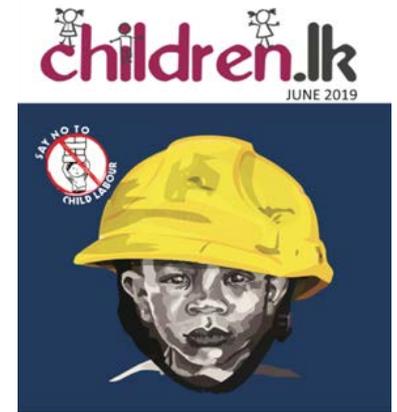
- To ensure the legal gaps in policies are addressed, Global March member, member Grassroot Organisation for Human Development (GODH) organised a consultation with the Parliamentarians and the Labour Department of the government to apprise them on the legal gaps in the Punjab Domestic Workers Act, 2019, informing them of the need to harmonise the age of prohibition of child domestic labour with the education age among other factors discussed. Further on, to ensure that the current law on domestic work (which is mostly silent on the issues related to child domestic labour) is effectively implemented and positively affects children.

- GODH created training materials and used it to train Child Protection & Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Child Protection Officers and Labour Department Officers on child rights. Training of government officers is noteworthy as it ensures that the law enforcement agencies are in know-how of the laws correctly and can implement them during rescue, rehabilitation and protection of children along with ensuring the perpetrators of child rights violations are punished appropriately.
- In July 2019, GODH supported the formation of Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights Pakistan Chapter through its first kick-off meeting which was attended by 19 Members of Parliament, including PWB members (the Minister of State of Narcotics Control, Mr. Shehryar Afridi, Ms. Saba Sadiq). The creation of a child rights Parliamentary body will ensure that MPs across party lines can come together and focus on children's issues and find solutions and advocacy agenda for promoting and protecting child rights.



Sri Lanka:

- With the support of Global March member, Centre for Children's Happiness (CCH), the National Chapter of Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights (PWB)/ Leaders' Forum was established in March 2019 under the leadership of PWB member, Mr. Aravind Kumar Arunachalem which saw the participation of 16 MPs across party lines to work towards protecting the rights of girls and boys. This is an important development as it will provide a platform to the MPs to focus on children's rights as part of their development agenda amongst other pertinent issues in their portfolio.
- For the first time, CCH constituted a youth advocacy group in June 2019 comprising of youth from the law, social work, IT, management and psychology backgrounds, to identify key issues connected to the national action plan for children. 300 young people were motivated and inspired through CCH's outreach initiatives and were signed up to be trained as Child Rights Educators of which 18 were selected for the first batch. Further in collaboration with Lion's Club International, CCHI entered into a partnership in November 2019 to train 100 youth as Youth Ambassadors on the subject of emotional well being of children in schools, especially girls. The engagement of youth in tackling child rights issue is an encouraging step in ensuring the leaders of the future are sensitive and aware of these issues and have knowledge and skills carry out their part in society and bring an influential change.
- For a coordinated response to the child rights violation in the country and participation of various stakeholders in restoring child rights, CCH organised a meeting with some of the prominent CSOs working on children's rights which led to the organisation of Child Rights Conference with participation from 80 diverse participants including Members of Parliament, Commissioner of Probation of Child Care and Department, Police, Ministry of Education, representatives from National child protection authority and Department of Education, civil society organisations and youth. The findings of the Conference were included in an advocacy document that was handed over to the government



AFRICA

In 2019, Global March carried out programmes in Uganda and Tanzania with the support of its local member, National Organisation of Trade Unions- NOTU(Uganda) and ANPPCAN Tanzania(Tanzania). In Uganda, the programme overall focussed on ensuring the issue of child labour and rights violations of girls and boys and the efforts taken by civil society are included in the SDGs reporting to the UN, along with advocacy on increasing administration resource for the elimination of child labour. In Tanzania, the programme focussed on creating a civil society group for influencing the government on various laws and policies along with creating child rights clubs in schools for promoting child rights awareness amongst children and youth.

Below are some efforts taken by NOTU and ANPPCAN in 2019:

Uganda:

- Global March's member, NOTU generated awareness amongst CSOs, governments and other stakeholders on the UN SDGs Voluntary National Review (VNR) process which is the annual voluntary reporting mechanism of the SDGs. For the same, NOTU held meetings with the National Planning Authority to contribute to the reporting on SDG 8.7 to be submitted to the UN by the government. As SDGs call for contribution by all stakeholders in their achievement, civil society contribution to the VNRs is also of a great significance.
- NOTU also carried out policy advocacy dialogues to strengthen momentum on ratification of ILO Convention 189 and the implementation of ILO Convention 138. In this endeavour, NOTU held meetings with Members of Parliament, (who were also the members of Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights -PWB) group, on NOTU's advocacy work on ensuring appropriate budgetary and human resource allocation for child labour elimination and discussed the establishment of Uganda Chapter of PWB.
- Additionally, NOTU held meetings each with the Ministry of Public Service, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as well as the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development advocating with them to allocate 1 District Labour Officer in each district of Uganda. This engagement of NOTU was appreciated by all Ministries and they expressed support to NOTU in the advocacy for making the appointment of labour officers centralised and not with the district administration.



Tanzania:

- Global March's member, ANPPCAN Tanzania held meetings with 20 CSOs of The Working Group (TWG) on the Traffic in Persons Act 2008 and created a joint advocacy plan with the PWB Tanzania Chapter. During the meetings, the group discussed various issues including lack of data and coordination amongst actors working against child labour and trafficking, the need to work more closely with PWB Tanzania Chapter and to report regularly to the government.
- ANPPCAN conducted training of child ambassadors, teachers and students respectively for apprising them on setting up Child Rights Clubs in their schools, which were formed across 6 schools.
- An E-magazine was also produced on child rights, which was disseminated amongst the civil society members. ANPPCAN also conducted a media campaign using 4 local TV stations and 3 radio stations to raise awareness on the issue of child labour and trafficking.
- ANPPCAN held meetings with various Ministries on taking stock of pledges made at the 4th Global Conference on Child Labour (held in Argentina), the status of the launch of National Action Plan on Child Labour and on Tanzania becoming a Pathfinder Country (under Alliance 8.7), as well as meetings with PWB Tanzania Chapter.



East Africa Capacity Building Workshop

On 5-7 November 2019, Global March Against Child Labour in collaboration with its CSO member, ANPPCAN Tanzania organised a capacity building and experience sharing workshop for its East African Global March members in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The workshop saw participation from 6 members of trade unions and child rights organisations from Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania as well as Ghana. The interactive and participatory workshop gave the opportunity to the participants to share their experiences on their advocacy strategies against child labour, area-based approaches to end child labour at grassroots level and discuss challenges faced by them in their day to day work. Global March Secretariat staff introduced some concepts on gender and child labour, corporate responsibility, child labour in supply chains, regional and national advocacy opportunities as well as possible solutions to end child labour at the national and regional level. The meeting concluded with identifying common challenges and common strategies to be adopted for achieving SDG target 8.7.



LATIN AMERICA

Regional Forum on Achieving SDG 8.7

On June 25-26, Global March Against Child Labour Regional Forum on Achieving SDG 8.7 was organised in Costa Rica with the aim to understand the situation of child labour and adolescents in work in the Latin America region and to decide on a joint way forward to address the issue. The forum was attended by 12 Global March members with 6 each from countries in Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panamá) and South America (Colombia, Brasil, Perú, Chile, Paraguay and Argentina), as well as Global March's Chairperson and 2 staff members of the International Secretariat. The forum also saw participation from public entities (Ministry of Labour of Costa Rica), agencies of the United Nations system (ILO), member of parliament, academia, students, media, CSOs and others.

The main objective of the forum was to officially launch and discuss the joint mapping carried out by Global March members on the situation of child labour and adolescent work in the Latin America region.

Some of the key findings of the mapping included: slow progress in the reduction of child labour in the region; boys in child labour found mostly in agriculture, data on girls in child labour found to be scarce; lack of priority given to children's issues especially child labour in the political agenda; and lack of coordination amongst sectors and departments and stakeholders across all levels. The meeting ended with the adoption of an Action Plan for 2019 and for 2021 onwards and a commitment extended by the ILO Regional office to continue the collaboration with Global March in the fight against child labour. In the region, ILO offered Global March to work closely with the Regional Initiative and ILO's regional offices.



Brazil

Global March and its Brazilian member, FNPETI issued a joint statement strongly condemning the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's deeply problematic stance on child labour, where he openly, repeatedly and abominably defended child labour, particularly for children as young as 10 years of age. Global March unequivocally condemns any such mind-set that violates the constitutional principle of child protection.



Private Sector Engagements

- To promote responsible business supply chains, Global March has been actively participating in the International Responsibility Business Conduct agreements in The Netherlands. Global March is already part of the steering committee of the Food agreement and in 2019 it also signed the Metallurgy agreement.
- The Metallurgical agreement focuses on national and international metals companies with the aim of improving the visibility of the entire supply chain and maximising the impact of the participants' collective activities. The agreement also helps the metals sector prepare for the EU's Conflict Minerals Regulation, which will enter into force in 2021. Global March will help the business community and other stakeholders involved to improve their performance with regard to international responsible business conduct and assist in the process of identifying and addressing risks, based on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprise. It is the only agreement that mentions gender as a specific focus while doing due diligence due to Global March's advocacy efforts.
- Global March additionally provided technical input into the Global Conference on "Taking Next Steps: Ending Child Labour by 2025" on ending child labour in supply chains, to be organised on January 27- 28, 2020 in Leiden, The Netherlands, by the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, in collaboration with Global March Against Child Labour, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)



Events: Achieving Transformation through Participation

Global March's advocacy goal is unequivocal: to end all forms of child labour by 2025 and promote quality, inclusive and equitable education for all. Through campaigns, events, meetings, workshops and consultations our efforts have translated into policy and practice changes at all levels. In 2019, we continued working on our advocacy goals by engaging different stakeholders at the national, regional international levels to ensure positive turnaround for the most marginalised children of the world.

Below are some events which Global March organised and participated in to achieve its goal for a child labour free world:

Alliance 8.7 Meetings

As a member of the Global Coordinating Group (the steering committee) of the Alliance 8.7 (the Global Partnership to Achieve SDG 8.7), Global March continued engaging with the Alliance constituents in 2019 and participated in various Global Coordinating Group meetings and Action Group meetings.

- Global March participated in 3 virtual meetings of the Communications and Engagement Action Group organised to promote messaging for the Alliance and took this opportunity to ensure gender is included in the Alliance 8.7 Communications strategy.
- Global March also gave inputs to the Migration Action Group's research agenda, including studying intersections of age and gender and its impact on boys and girls in the migration prone regions and communities. Further being part of Supply Chain Action Group of the Alliance, Global March participated in its second meeting in May held in Ivory Coast to bring attention to eliminating child labour in global and domestic supply chains, keeping the focus on gender alive. Recommendations made by Global March to this Supply Chain Action Group's Work Plan-2020-2021 on providing sex-disaggregated data in statistical surveys of child labour and forced labour in supply chains of at least two tiers, and including non-discrimination and gender inequalities to be studied to tackle the root causes of child labour and forced labour in supply chains; were accepted and included in the final Work Plan.

- Global March also took part in the 4th (Geneva), 5th (New York) and the 6th (Paris) Global Coordinating Group(GCG) meetings wherein Global March's Chairperson, Timothy Ryan took these opportunities to reiterate the linking of all Action Groups with SDG 5 on gender, along with providing suggestions to enhance civil society participation and engagement in the GCG at the global level and at the country level work of the Alliance and its constituents. Global March additionally raised important questions on the lack of inclusion of gender-related data in the research findings carried around child labour, trafficking and slavery and also informed the Group of the work being carried out by Global March in supporting the Pathfinder countries to end child labour. Global March Chair also highlighted the statements made by Brazilian President on child labour and insisted on the Alliance 8.7 to promote rights-based and gender-sensitive approach in tackling such obstacles and the new wave of authoritarian political mindsets challenging the human rights.

Global March at UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights

Global March in collaboration with Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation facilitated the participation of four youths and former child labourers from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka at the Inaugural UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights that took place on 14-15 March 2019 in New Delhi. The Forum which saw participation from multi-stakeholders such as businesses, governments, CSOs and trade unions, discussed issues related to responsible business supply chains, practices and operations. The youth leaders reiterated the need for prioritising vulnerable children while creating responsible business supply chains and ensure child labour is eliminated at all levels. They also shared their real-life stories and made compelling asks to the businesses to do their bit for children.



Child Labour Due Diligence Bill Passes in The Netherlands

After almost three years of introduction into the Dutch Parliament by Mr. Roelof Van Laar (former Dutch MP and member of Global March's initiative, Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights), the Child Labour Due Diligence Bill was passed in Dutch Senate in May 2019. The law mandates companies to provide transparency to Dutch consumers and other stakeholders on products and services whose sourcing may involve child labour.

World Day Against Child Labour Celebrations

- Global March co-organised and participated in the conference and interactive workshop organised by European Commission, ILO and FAO, on "United to End Child Labour in Agriculture" around World Day Against Child Labour on June 12 in Brussels. Global March representative and Board Member, Andrews Tagoe at the panel discussion emphasised on integrated and gender-responsive approaches as well as looking into domestic and global agro supply chains to tackle child labour in agriculture.



- Global March also organised an 'Open House Session' of its founder, Kailash Satyarthi at the European Development Days (EDD) held in Brussels in the second week of June 2019. At EDD, in different forums and interventions, Global March highlighted the need to accelerate efforts to reduce child labour and reduce inequalities in the world, especially for girls and boys.



- Global March participated in the Responsible and Human Rights Forum in Bangkok on 12-13 June 2019. During the Forum Global March raised concerns of lack of discussions on child labour in addressing human rights violations by the companies and that a large gap in understanding of the concept of gender still exists amongst private sector and the CSOs.
- On 12th June, Global March released a joint statement calling upon Governments to protect children from human rights abuses, especially children engaged in child labour in the agriculture sector. The Statement also urged the businesses to carry out due diligence in their domestic and global supply chains, to assess any risk and to avoid being complicit in child labour. Additionally, Global March's Chairperson, Mr. Timothy Ryan released an Op-Ed on the need for concerted action and investments in children's rights to end child labour.

United Nations High Level Political Forum 2019

Global March collated key inputs to contribute to the outcome document of the HLPF (High Level Political Forum of the United Nations) to strengthen the reach of child rights issues at the HLPF Summit 2019. Some of the multi-layered, integrated recommendations crafted by Global March included:

- the need for governments across the globe to keep children at the centre of nuanced and gender responsive policy actions;
- the need for leaders, businesses and overseas development actors to ensure that the causes of child labour, child trafficking and education receive adequate financial and human investment

- provide ample space and opportunities to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders of society and promotion of collaboration to truly ensure no one is left behind
- and enhance youth involvement and enable all-inclusive participation in the pathway to SDGs' progress.

Apart from giving inputs, Global March Chairperson, as well as representatives from the Secretariat, participated at the High-Level Political Forum 2019 in July 2019. Global March representing the Major Group of CSOs, participated in an HLPF session- "Four years of VNRs: what have we learned on implementing the SDGs?" in which 142 countries presented reports, highlighting the VNRs' areas of added value, challenges, lessons learnt and specific initiatives undertaken.

Global March also participated in several other events organised on the margins of the HLPF, including the launch of the Pathfinder Countries Progress Reports- "Accelerating action to end forced labour, human trafficking, modern slavery and child labour; experiences from Alliance 8.7 pathfinder countries", which took place on 17th July 2019 as well as the report launch and policy discussion on: "Accelerating progress under SDG 8 and promoting full employment and decent work for all" held on 16th July 2019.

Global March Participates in SAIEVAC Governing Board meeting in Maldives

In October 2019, Global March along with its members from Nepal and Bangladesh participated at the 8th Governing Board Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) that discussed its work on thematic focus areas and way forward. During the meeting, the Director-General of SAIEVAC, Dr. Rinchin Chopel not only recognised Global March's contribution to ending child labour in South Asia and but also as a key partner going forward to collaborate and work together in the region on this issue. It was agreed that Global March along with SAIEVAC Secretariat will work on the revision of the Regional Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of all forms of Child Labour in South Asia which was expiring in the year 2021.

Global March at India and Sustainability Standards Conference, 2019

Global March organised a session on 'Supply Chain Due Diligence – A Business Opportunity' at India Sustainability Standards 2019 conference with the Center for Responsible Business on 22 November 2019 in New Delhi. An objective of the session was to engage with Indian companies from diverse industries and sectors to explore mandatory due diligence legislation developments in the EU and non-EU countries, and their implications on businesses. Discussion also took place on Supply chain due diligence related issues ; challenges in bilateral trade and investment between India and its bilateral partners and its advantages and disadvantages for addressing child labour. Ideas to define the role of CSOs in implementing the guiding principles and how they can collaborate with businesses and governments were also discussed.



Global March at Alliance 8.7 Asia Regional Conference on Reaching SDG Target 8.7

To advance the work on Alliance 8.7, Global March, as well as its member from Pakistan, GODH (Grassroot Organisation for Human Development) and a member from Nepal, Swatantrata Abhiyan (SAN), participated at the Alliance 8.7 Asia Regional Conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 20-22 November 2019 that combined high-level panels and workshops for an in-depth discussion on a regional approach to achieving Target 8.7. Global March used this opportunity to network and gave important inputs around strengthening the implementation of the national laws and policies, keeping in mind gender-sensitive and responsive interventions and allocating optimum budgets for the same.

Global March Secretariat also facilitated a thematic session on “Strengthening Global Movement Against Child Labour: Experiences of Social and Political Mobilisation for Realising SDG 8.7” where it made a presentation on Global March’s experience and learning around the topic and conducted interactive and participatory group activities in the form of a World Café group work technique.



Global March at Freedom from Slavery Forum, 2019

From 10-12 December 2019, Global March was invited to the Freedom from Slavery Forum (CSO group constituted on slavery to give input to Alliance 8.7) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where Global March delivered a micro training session on “A Case for Including the Gender Lens- Experiences from Addressing Child Labour”. Global March participated in the media briefing of the Forum, speaking on the need for gender-responsive action for ending child labour. Global March was also the member of the Advisory Committee for the Forum and made inputs on including “gender” as a cross-cutting topic in the Forum's agenda and discussion.

Global March Supports Petition Against Ferrero Rocher

The Italian confectionery company, Ferrero, one of the largest chocolate producers in the world and maker of Nutella and Ferrero Rocher, is the biggest buyer of hazelnuts in Turkey, supplying 70% of the world's hazelnuts. Global March participated in a petition and advocacy campaign asking Ferrero Rocher to remove child labour from its hazelnut supply chains. The petition received 99,000+ signatures from people across the world.

The petition demanded that Ferrero pay a fair price for hazelnuts in Turkey so that adult workers get a living wage income and children don't need to work, thereby putting an end to child labour in their supply chain.

The image shows a screenshot of a petition page. On the left is a video player with a globe icon and the text "ENGLISH". Below the video is the title "Ferrero: Stop child labour!" and a short paragraph about the petition. On the right is a sign-up form with fields for "First name", "Last name", "Your email", "Country", and "Postcode". Below the form is a "Sign the petition" button. At the bottom, it displays "99,753 of 125,000 signatures" and a "Recent comments" section with one comment: "not in the exploitation of children".

PWB: Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights

In 2019 the engagement with policymakers and parliament members continued at national, regional and global levels through our partners and also through specific meetings of Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights (PWB) Initiative at the national level and with its members individually. Due to continued engagement and sensitisation of PWB National Chapters have been formed in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Uganda and Tanzania. In total, close to 65 MPs participated in 6 meetings held in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda.



Under the PWB initiative of Global March, a measure of success was seen through enhanced knowledge and political will observed amongst the MPs towards raising the issue on child rights in their respective Parliaments and constituencies. For example, in Pakistan, PWB member and now the Minister of State for Narcotics Control, Mr. Shehryar Afridi emphasised the importance of gender mainstreaming in government policies and cited it as one of the priorities of the Pakistan government. He also participated in the Afghan Peace Conference held in June 2019 in Pakistan and hosted the 6th meeting of Quadripartite Steering Committee for brainstorming solutions strategy for Afghan Refugees to support their voluntary repatriation and gave emphasis on protection of vulnerable children.



In Sri Lanka, Member of Parliament, Aravindh Kumar Arunachalem carried out a number of development work in his constituency, Badulla District. In his district, Mr. Arunachalem has constructed children's park, school lanes as well as a number of road projects in the hill region. Mr. Arunachalem also constructed and inaugurated a fenced sports park and school play ground, on the occasion of International Children's Day. With his efforts, 46 houses for the community members have been built.



In Bangladesh, Mr. Shameem Haider Patwary, PWB member and MP, established a driving school, approved by the Government of Bangladesh for imparting training to youth on becoming skilled drivers and trainers. He also has made provisions for the instituting a free ambulance service for the poor in his constituency. From time to time, Mr. Patwary organises free medical camps in the villages and recently began a blank and winter clothing distribution campaign for the homeless.

In Bangladesh, another MP, Israfil Alam became a member of the International Congress Against Work and Birth-based Discrimination. In this Congress, he spoke as a panelist and led a parliamentary group where members discussed how to eliminate discrimination especially in the form of contemporary forms of slavery. Mr. Alam also participated at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in New York, where he gave a speech on SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. To achieve the SDG-16, he emphasized the need for addressing some challenges including violation of human rights, sexual and gender-based violence against women and children, unemployment of youth, human trafficking in person, abuse of migrants in destinations, forcible displacement of people and other conflicts.

In India, Sushmita Dev who is currently the President of the All India Mahila Congress tirelessly championed girls' and women's rights – including prevention of sexual violence, exploitative labour and trafficking; and reducing barriers in access to education and decent work. She has time and again spoken about the need to not only amend the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, but also increase the number of courts required to prosecute cases expeditiously and ensure justice. In 2019, she continued to highlight urgent issues, through social media and public platforms, such as the provision of more nutritious and healthy mid-day meals for school children, access to affordable and safer means of public transport for young girls and women, the slowdown of economic growth in the country.

In India, Ravi Prakash Verma during a Rajya Sabha session of the Parliament in July, he spoke about the increasing levels of drug addiction among school children across the country. He deemed it a very serious public health issue and brought attention to the fact that there are not enough counsellors and public health practitioners present in India to tackle the issue and provide support and treatment to drug addicts. He also spoke passionately in favour of a bill to amend the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. He highlighted shortcomings in the execution of the act – trials and investigations are not time-bound, and conviction rates are only around 1%. He advocated for the creation of a National Children's Tribunal, which would function independently. He cited the need for an Rs.1000 crore investment in supporting infrastructure, such as forensic labs. He stressed on the need to become a more child-sensitive and gender-sensitive society and introduce policies to ensure the same.



First Sub-Regional Francophone Africa Meeting of Parliamentarians for Children's Rights

On 30-31 October 2019, Global March in collaboration with WAO-Afrique, Togo mobilised 6 Parliamentarians and 5 CSOs from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Niger and Togo who engaged in discussions and committed to work together to end child labour at the Francophone Meet of the Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights. The Members of Parliament and CSOs discussed issues such as child labour, child trafficking, child domestic labour, education and gender concerns in these paradigms. The MPs and CSOs also expressed their challenges and achievements and developed joint country action plans for working together on for the next 1 year.



On the sidelines of the meeting, Parliamentarians from the six countries also paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary of the President of the National Assembly of Togo under the leadership of Mr. Cléophas Mally, the Founder of WAO-Afrique. The meeting between the MPs and the Secretary led to enriching discussions on the work being done by PSFs (PWB Chapters in Francophone African countries) and Parliamentarians in their country on addressing child labour and promoting education.



Publications & Research



Global March members in Latin America, DNI Costa Rica and CESIP in consultation with other Global March members in the region produced a regional summary of the status of child labour in Latin America towards achieving the Target 8.7 of the SDGs. The report shed light on the prevalence of child labour, the challenges for children at risk and recommendations for mitigating the risk of engagement of children in child labour. Read the publication [here](#).



In 2019, Global March completed its research work on child labour in sugarcane in India and Uganda. In India, it focused on 4 states - Gujarat, Maharashtra, U.P and Karnataka. Field work was conducted by Global March staff in these four states to understand factors behind the practice of child, forced and bonded labour and its impact on gender on the basis of empirical evidence. In Uganda, Global March engaged a consultant to carry out the research on child labour with gender dimensions in sugarcane sector in the Busoga region (Eastern Region).

Blogs



The blog "Revaluating Child Labour in Agriculture: The Sugarcane Case of India" is based on field visits to native regions of tribal sugarcane cutters in Gujarat and Maharashtra who migrate for seasonal work in sugarcane farming. The findings are based on their interviews, discussions with their families, middle men/labour contractor, some local stakeholders, grassroots CSOs and trade unions. Read the blog [here](#).



On the 30th anniversary of the UNCRC, a blog was released on behalf of the exploited child labourers. Read the blog "30 years gone, so is my childhood, but hope is still alive"- a letter from a former child labourer to the leaders of the world [here](#).

Valuing Partnerships and Raising Awareness

Global March Against Child Labour would like to thank its institutional donors; The Government of the Netherlands, Bread for the World and the Girls Advocacy Alliance for supporting our work across the world. We would also like to thank our individual donors who have supported our work through one time or recurring donations. Without them all, our work would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank our Global March Partners & Volunteers, who helped us implement the projects and come closer to realising our mission.

Global March has a supporter base of more than 6000 individuals from varied backgrounds. We also have 14100 people connected with us on Facebook and 4900 followers on Twitter, through whom we raise awareness on all the key issues of child rights especially, child labour, trafficking and education.

We strive to keep our supporters informed and raise awareness on the issues through regular updates via e-mails, newsletters, social media platforms, our website, and the Annual Report.



Get Involved With Us

COME, BE A PART OF AN AMAZING JOURNEY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN ACROSS THE WORLD.

Global March is always in a need for support from like-minded people who want to make a difference to the world through the work that we do. If you are motivated after reading this report and want to contribute to making the world free of child labour, why not support us in different ways that we promise to offer. In return, we will make sure that your engagement and experience with us is surely satisfying for you.

You can support us through the following ways:

Support the Cause of Children: Your contributions can help us to raise the voices of the most marginalised and socially excluded children who have been exploited, trafficked, enslaved or kept out of school and work better towards the protection and promotion of their rights. Your support can be instrumental in providing a better future for children.

Donate online at: <http://globalmarch.org/get-involved/donate/>

Volunteer or Fundraise: Interested in working on the ground and behind the scenes or to fundraise for the cause of out of school children and bring them back to school from exploitative places of work? Write to us at info@globalmarch.org

Raise Awareness on Child Labour & Education: Anyone can raise awareness on the issue of child labour. You just need to tell people to not employ child labour at their home or workplace, raise questions with people who are employing child labour, or report a case to your nearby police station or ask the companies where their product comes from. You can also simply do your bit by sharing and liking our social media posts too!



Global March Against Child Labour

Koningskade 30, 2596 AA The Hague, The Netherlands

Registered Address

L-6, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110 019, India Tel: +91 11 49211111-12

 facebook.com/globalmarch

 [@kNOWChildLabour](https://twitter.com/kNOWChildLabour)

info@globalmarch.org, www.globalmarch.org