



Global
March
AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Annual Report 2024

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About Us



Vision, Mission and Values

The Global March Against Child Labour (Global March) is a worldwide network committed to eradicating the root causes of child labour. We harness the collective strength, resources, and experiences of our member organisations to tackle systemic inequalities, reduce socio-economic barriers, and mitigate vulnerabilities that perpetuate children's exploitation. Our actions are strategically aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7, which calls for the eradication of child labour in all its forms.

Over the years, Global March has grown from a campaign into a vibrant movement that works at multiple levels – from grassroots to global – advocating for child rights and building the capacity of civil society to act effectively. Through partnerships, policy influence, and community mobilisation, we strive to ensure that every child enjoys a childhood free from labour and exploitation.



Current Challenges

Despite over two decades of hard-won progress in the fight against child labour, the movement today faces a serious challenge: a global funding crisis that threatens to reverse gains made over the years.

International development programs, funded by governments such as Germany, France, the UK, the Netherlands, and the United States, have historically played a vital role in eliminating child labour.

These funds supported crucial interventions that rescued millions of children from hazardous work, enrolled them in schools, and strengthened child protection systems. However, recent and projected cuts in international aid and development financing now endanger this progress.

The situation is particularly dire for civil society organisations (CSOs) working on the frontlines. As government commitments waver, CSOs like those in the Global March network are left scrambling for resources to sustain programs and interventions that have shown measurable impact. Without renewed funding, community-driven models like the Area-Based Approach (ABA), which have led to Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZs) in countries such as Uganda and Peru, face critical slowdowns.

The new global estimates on child labour have reflected a reduction in the number of children in child labour by half. However, 138 million is not a small number. To end it within the next five years, current rates of progress would need to be 11 times faster.

Our Movement

With the 2026 Global Conference on Child Labour ahead, it's vital that NGOs and civil society groups working on the ground are not only heard and represented in global discussions but also contribute to a global call to action that delivers for the children and communities most at risk.

Whether in high-level meetings or global declarations, we need to hear from grassroots organisers, community-led groups, survivor networks and local trade unions. This has real consequences for the children we're all fighting for.

As the world's largest network of civil society organisations, teachers' and trade unions fighting child labour, we have the platform to take this movement further. We are rooted in the belief that those most affected by child labour—and those fighting it on the ground—must lead the way to action.

We believe:



Representation from civil society, from grassroots organisations to unions, is the key to lasting change.



Stronger coordination across civil society is what enables global progress

This is our opportunity to become a movement that doesn't just react to shrinking civic space, but reclaims and expands it.

Message from the Chairperson



In many ways, 2024 pointed the direction to a more activist and hopeful global chapter in the child labour struggle. Engagement by governments and companies continued to grow, but agriculture remained a key problem area. Although the number of child labourers in Africa remained maddeningly unchanged, the ILO figures released in 2025 point to a renewed downward trend worldwide from 2020 to 2024. That said, the goal of eliminating child labour by 2025 was nowhere in sight.

This year, however, pointed to a variety of useful strategies, tools and policies put into action by Global March members in Uganda, Ghana, Peru and Nepal that highlighted the three essential elements to seriously address child labour: the need for effective legal regimes, the political space for civil society including unions to organize and work, and government support and employers' willingness to work with unions and CSOs in a comprehensive fashion. The Global March's members showed that when given the space and resources, innovative programs like the Area-Based Approach, the Child labour Free Zone model, and creative engagement with governments and companies will yield significant results. The year 2024 provided a window on how we might make progress with these three provisos.

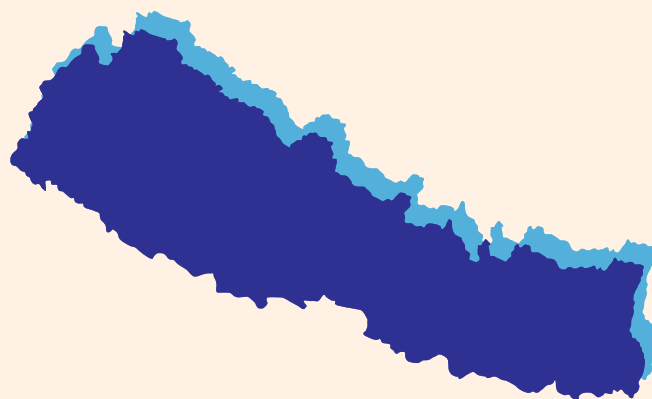
A highlight of the Global March's work this year was the recognition by the U.S. Department of labour in granting the annual Iqbal Masih Award to Global March Board Member Andy Tagoe, Deputy General Secretary of the General Agricultural Workers Union. His recognition points to the importance of organized labour in the struggle which is why the Global March is proud to count on two other key members from the labour movement -- the International Trade Union Confederation, representing hundreds of millions of workers around the world, and Education International, the global federation of teachers' unions.

They are chief advocates for a fundamental pillar in the child labour fight because if we are ever to reach that missed 2025 goal, it will be directly connected to improved family livelihoods, and that means better wages and standards for adult workers. That's why ILO Conventions 87 on freedom of association and 98 on collective bargaining are essential standards, in addition to the child labour conventions 138 and 182.

The path for the Global March and the child labour movement going forward were clear at year's end -- continue the comprehensive top-to-bottom/bottom-to-top programs yielding concrete results and replicable models for countries around the world, grow the government and company engagement on commodities like coffee and cocoa, continue consultations on the human rights due diligence legislation in Europe, and seek support for innovative ways to address the disturbingly high number of children in agriculture.

As I write this, the challenges facing the child labour movement going forward in 2025 seem far more daunting than they did in December 2024, but as the second US President John Adams said, "Facts are stubborn things." Our failure to address child labour as the "canary in the coal mine" not only of other labour violations, but of our economies, may be a particularly stubborn fact indeed. It's something we all need to keep focused on and in the coming year the Global March and its members will find innovative and creative ways to do so.

In solidarity,
Timothy Ryan



Project Highlights

Catalyst Project: Nepal

In Nepal, the Catalyst Project achieved measurable impact through localised implementation of the Area-Based Approach (ABA). Led by Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN), the initiative worked closely with local governments, schools, and communities across multiple municipalities. The project not only strengthened local governance on child protection but also directly improved the lives of thousands of children and families.

Key outcomes include:

- 4,268 children withdrawn or prevented from child labour, with 2,178 of them fully rehabilitated and supported to continue their education.
- 2,076 children enrolled in schools with follow-up support from child protection committees and local authorities.
- Over 13,000 children reached through school-based awareness sessions and youth clubs promoting rights-based education and child labour prevention.
- 19 schools supported to become child labour free through orientation, capacity building and formation of child protection structures.
- 66 children were rescued from hazardous or exploitative work and referred to government and NGO-run shelters for rehabilitation.

Beyond direct services, the project successfully:

- Supported the formation and strengthening of 16 municipal-level Child Rights Committees and 25 ward-level child protection committees.
- Enabled more than 130 CSO representatives and government staff to undergo specialised training in ABA, child rights, and integrated service delivery.
- Facilitated budget allocations for child protection and ABA implementation in 9 municipalities.

These achievements demonstrate the effectiveness of ABA in translating policy into action and creating child labour-free communities. SAN's close coordination with municipal governments has led to sustainable ownership of interventions and growing momentum toward local declarations of Child Labour Free Zones.



Catalyst Project: Peru

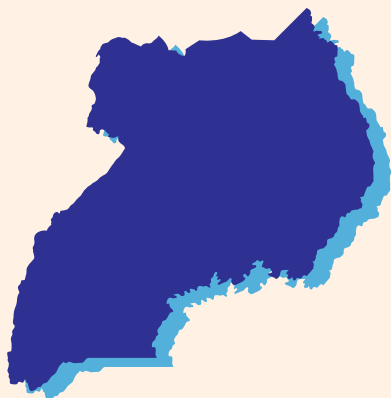
In 2021, child labour in Peru had surged to 12.1%, exacerbated by the socio-economic fallout of the pandemic. Through the Catalyst Project, we supported the development of sustainable, systemic responses to reverse this trend—particularly in high-risk regions like Huancavelica and Huánuco.

By 2023, national statistics showed child labour had decreased to 9%, with significant improvements in coordination, planning, and policy at both national and sub-national levels.

Key outcomes include:

- Estimated 7,170 children and adolescents reached through systemic, community-based protection and awareness interventions.
 - 2,120 children reached via school-based and youth-led awareness initiatives.
 - 5,000 children benefited from strengthened municipal child protection services & action plans.
 - 50 children directly engaged in workshops and leadership-building activities.
- 12 Municipalities in high-risk regions received sustained technical assistance to implement local public policies aligned with national child labour eradication strategies.
- 4 Regional Committees (CDRPETIs) revitalised with planning tools, work plan templates, and stakeholder mapping to enable coordinated local action.
- DENATI (youth advocacy group) trained 20 adolescent leaders across Lima, Callao, Piura, and surrounding regions to participate in public dialogue and policy advocacy
- Civil society engagement expanded through the Grupo Impulsor por un Perú sin Trabajo Infantil, now a consolidated coalition that participates in formal policy spaces, including CPETI.
- New tools institutionalised, including the Municipal Model for Child Labour Prevention and SELTI (Child Labour-Free Supply Chains), adopted by municipalities and producer organisations.

- **Contributed to national-level policy development, including:**
 - Characterisation of Indigenous Child Labour
 - Evaluation of the National Strategy (ENPETI 2012–2021)
 - First phase of the Intersectoral Protocol for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour



Catalyst Project: Uganda

The Catalyst project in Uganda unfolded within a dynamic and challenging socio-political, economic, and environmental context. Despite disruptions from the teachers' strike, inflation, Ebola outbreak, and political tensions, the project adapted to strengthen child protection systems, raise awareness on child labour, and influence national and local policy dialogues.

National-Level Impacts

- Integration of Area-Based Approach (ABA) into Uganda's Alliance 8.7 Roadmap – CSO advocacy ensured ABA was officially included under Priority Area #5, covering advocacy, budget allocation, and child labour duty bearer support.
- Retention of Pathfinder Country status – CSOs contributed to drafting and validating Uganda's Alliance 8.7 reports (2023 & 2024), enabling the country to maintain its international commitments.
- Influence on National Budgeting – A CSO position paper led to a confirmed UGX 2 billion allocation to the Child Labour Unit in the FY 2025/26 national budget.

Community-Level Impacts

- Child Labour Monitoring Systems (CLMS) established in five Bududa sub-counties (Bumayoka, Bukalasi, Bushiika, Nakatsi, Bunabutiti), enabling local identification, referral, and reintegration of children in/at risk of child labour.
- These CLMS fostered stronger collaboration among community leaders, government officials, and service providers, creating shared responsibility for child protection.

Evidence & Advocacy

- Study on Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) by ANPPCAN & Africhild revealed 39% prevalence in Kyotera and Rakai districts, with children engaged in hazardous agriculture, mining, construction, and fishing.
- Findings informed district-level advocacy roadmaps, securing local government buy-in for Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZs).

CSO Capacity & Coalition Strengthening

- Coalition of 23 CSOs formally recognized by the government as partners in child labour elimination.
- 4 advocacy sessions and 2 ABA training sessions strengthened CSO capacity in evidence-based advocacy.
- 3 parliamentary child rights champions engaged to revive the 2014 Parliamentary Resolution on CLFZs, now under formal consideration.

Child & Youth Participation

- National Pre-Children's Summit 2025 (ahead of the African Children's Summit) convened with CSO support, under the theme "Seen, Heard, Engaged."
- Elevated children's voices in policy debates on education, climate change, AI, and child labour.



Resource Project: Bangladesh

At the onset, over 2,369 children from 3,497 households were engaged in hazardous work, including fishing, shrimp fry collection, fuel wood harvesting, and informal labour. Today, communities are charting a different path.

Key outcomes include:

- **Child Labour Reduction:**
 - 60% decrease in child labour among targeted households.
 - 30% reduction in child labour reported in surrounding non-target households.
- **Community-Driven Child Protection:**
 - Child Labour Monitoring Committees (CLMCs) established in key schools and unions.
 - Active follow-ups and school attendance tracking reduced absenteeism significantly.

- **Education Revival through Livelihood Support:**

- 240 households trained in climate-resilient homestead gardening using salt tolerant seed varieties.
- 80 households supported with duck rearing (1 male + 10 females), generating weekly income from eggs.
- 40 households supported with goat rearing on a cost-sharing basis.
- Resulting 20–30% increase in household income enabled families to send children back to school.

- **Institutional Strengthening & Systems Building:**

- CLMCs, aggregation centres, and UDMC/WDMC now function as active post-project platforms.
- Engagement with local agriculture, livestock, education departments, and MFIs created public-private support systems.
- Early Warning Systems and disaster preparedness embedded within local governance for resilience.

- **Sustainability and Systems Change**

- Volunteer-led CLMCs tied to schools and local government structures ensure ongoing child monitoring and support.
- Aggregation centres facilitate better market access for farmers and local income growth.
- AR Malik Seed partnership and ongoing veterinary service linkages reduce dependency on project inputs.
- Behavioural change among parents and teachers has created a culture shift, linking child labour prevention directly with improved livelihoods and educational aspirations.



Protecting the Rights of the Children in the Coconut Oil Supply Chain: Philippines

As part of the Fund Against Child Labour (FBK) project, a significant step was taken towards combating child labour with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for establishing a Child Labour Monitoring Helpdesk.

This initiative, involving local government units in Malapatan Province, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Global March's implementing partner, Maguindanao Development Foundation Inc. (MDFI), fosters collaboration among various stakeholders, ensuring shared responsibility and accountability to combat child labour while integrating the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) at the community level for long-term impact. The Helpdesk will serve as a central contact point for reporting, monitoring and validating and providing referral services for identified cases of child labour.

This project brings together global buyers (Cargill, Wilmar), local producers, government stakeholders, and civil society partners to build a child-labour-free coconut oil supply chain grounded in due diligence, community action, and sustainable sourcing practices.

Key Outcomes

- **Strengthening Company Commitments & Due Diligence**
 - Cargill and Wilmar participated in joint standards awareness training focused on child labour, human rights, and due diligence frameworks.
 - Both companies updated internal human rights, labour, and child protection policies, and issued public commitments to responsible coconut sourcing.
 - Policies were integrated into internal communication channels and refresher sessions were held for staff across facilities.
- **Embedding Child Labour in Corporate Risk Analysis**
 - Companies began mapping risks in their supply chains, including indirect relationships with farmers.
 - A Coconut Responsible Sourcing Policy was launched by Wilmar to link child protection with quality standards and farmer sustainability.
- **Building Capacity in Local Communities**
 - Child Labour Monitoring Committees (CLMCs) were linked to existing barangay-level child protection structures instead of creating new ones, ensuring sustainability.
 - Consensus-building sessions were held with local stakeholders to harmonize definitions and understanding of child labour.
- **Improving Farmer Resilience and Engagement**
 - Joint work with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to align training for farmers on Good Agricultural Practices that included climate-smart techniques (e.g., soil moisture conservation).
 - Addressed productivity losses (up to 20% drop in yield due to El Niño drought) through adaptation training for farmers.
- **Operational Learning through collaboration**
 - Despite geographic challenges and limited transport access between pilot sites in Sarangani and Zamboanga del Norte, joint workshops were held, bringing together teams from both companies for peer exchange and shared learning.
 - Capacity-building sessions planned with accessible locations (e.g., Cebu) to improve company staff participation.

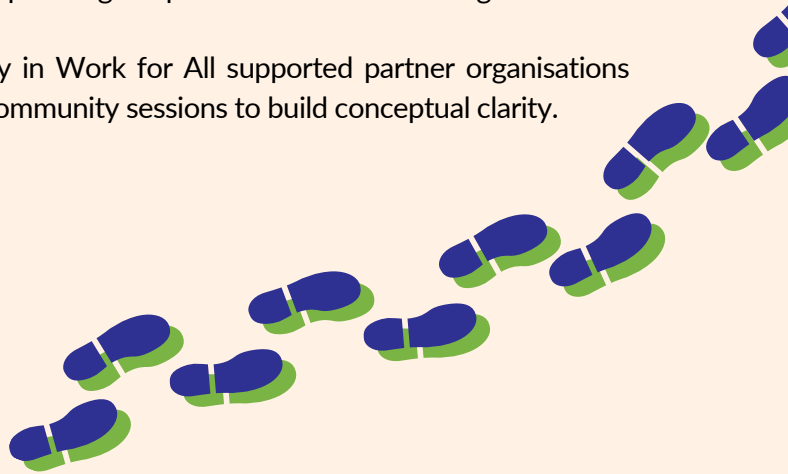


Sustainability and Systemic Change

- **Due diligence as a CSR pillar:** Integrated within company-wide frameworks including school nutrition and scholarship programmes, reinforcing the link between child welfare and education.
- **Public-private synergy:** Coordination with PCA and local government helped align project goals with national development and agricultural strategies.
- **Company-led internal systems:** Focus on institutionalizing due diligence within broader business operations, moving from a "tick-the-box" approach to a systemic, stakeholder-centric process.
- **Pilot-to-scale approach:** Lessons and solutions tested under Project B are positioned to be replicated across the wider coconut supply chain.

Key Challenges and How They Were Addressed

- **Limited visibility over indirect suppliers:** Companies are not directly linked to farmers; thus, building awareness and monitoring through intermediaries remains critical.
- **Logistical barriers to joint activities:** Workshop planning adapted to accommodate regional travel constraints and maximize participation.
- **Varying local expertise on child labour:** Dignity in Work for All supported partner organisations with technical facilitation and feedback during community sessions to build conceptual clarity.



Child Labour Free Childcare NL (CLFC NL)

GMACL is leading the Child Labour Free Childcare NL (CLFC NL) project by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) with Dutch childcare companies, industry associations, and CSOs to embed responsible procurement practices and reduce child labour risks in supply chains.

In Phase A (2024), the partnership completed a sector-wide review of CSR and procurement practices, identifying key high-risk products- tropical fruits, toys, wooden furniture, diapers, and follow-on milk- and mapping suppliers' human rights performance. Detailed factsheets documented major risks including labour exploitation, unsafe working conditions, and gender-based discrimination, equipping partners with clear evidence to strengthen due diligence. The process also built a shared understanding of OECD-aligned Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) steps and created a foundation for coordinated sector action.

Phase B will operationalise these insights by integrating Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) into company policies and management systems, identifying and assessing supply chain risks, and implementing measures to stop, prevent, or reduce negative impacts, with transparent communication on progress. Using mango in Peru and wooden toys and furniture in Sri Lanka as practical case studies, the project will demonstrate effective supplier engagement and generate lessons transferable to other agricultural commodities. A community of practice will be established to share tools, adapt procedures for large and small organisations, and formalise a sector-wide procurement standard. Leveraging the influence of industry associations, these standards will set clear expectations for suppliers, driving consistent and measurable improvements towards child labour- free supply chains.

Advocacy and Movement Building

Engagement with Alliance 8.7



Global March continued to engage with and participate in the different structures within the Alliance.

In December 2024, Global March participated in person at the Global Coordinating and Pathfinder Country workshop organized by the Alliance 8.7 in Turin, Italy.

During the 2 days, Global March provided key inputs to Supply Chain Action Group to support the formation of a Working Group on Area Based Approaches, expanding ABA initiative with the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI). The initiative on Donor Coordination was taken forward at the sidelines of the GCG with a meeting with key stakeholders.

Global March conducted capacity-building workshops in Uganda, Ghana, Peru, and Nepal on Alliance 8.7's Accountability Framework and reporting processes. These sessions supported CSOs to engage more effectively in Pathfinder Country (PFC) reporting and implementation. The outcomes were compiled into a short paper titled "CSOs' Experience and Recommendations towards the Alliance," submitted to the Alliance Secretariat to advocate for better integration of CSOs.

Global Campaigns and member updates



Partnership for Action Against Child Labour in Agriculture (PAACLA), Indonesia

World Day Against Child Labour

In Indonesia, our member organisation PAACLA (Partnership for Action Against Child Labour in Agriculture) organised the World Day commemoration events in Jakarta, Lombok & Jember, supported by JARAK, ECLT Foundation, GAPKI, P.T Veolia & PKPA Foundation. Over 500 people attended the event, which included interactive sessions, performances by children, art and cultural displays and education sessions on child labour.

The event aimed to reinforce the commitment and engagement of various stakeholders in combating child labour and providing a platform for sharing best practices. Additionally, the event united representatives from different stakeholders to jointly submit a statement of support for the elimination of child labour and child labour-free Indonesia. This multi-actor collaboration is key in supporting the national agenda towards the Golden Indonesia Generation 2045.

Jaringan LSM Penanggulangan Pekerja Anak (JARAK), Indonesia

Dialogue on Child Labour: Present and Future

JARAK (Jaringan LSM Penanggulangan Pekerja Anak) supported by PKPA (Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak), organised a dialogue addressing the present and future of child labour. The discussion revealed several significant insights. PKPA presented their baseline findings on child labour in North Sumatra Province, specifically highlighting issues in family-run oil palm plantations and street children. JARAK introduced a new tool designed to identify and monitor child labour, which is currently being discussed to become a ministerial regulation for village-level implementation. This tool has already been tested in four villages with child labour issues in agriculture, fisheries, home industry, and rural sectors.



Swatantra Abhiyan, Nepal (SAN)

Advocating for Child Labour Free Municipalities in Nepal



Our member organisation, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal, along with various civil society organisations and trade unions through the CSOs forum on SDG 8.7, organised a series of advocacy programs and interaction meetings at federal, provincial, and local levels. These efforts aimed to expand child labour-free municipalities and eliminate child labour through an Area-based approach. SAN reached 12 local governments and 3 provinces (Bagmati, Lumbini, and Sudurpaschim) with support from Child Welfare Society (Makawanpur), Concern Society Nepal (Banepa), Loo Niva Child Concern Group (Dadeldhura), & Dalit Human Rights Watch Committee (Kapilvastu). Children & youth actively participated in local government policy discussions, advocating for budget allocations to address child labour.

Key Achievements

Children in Policy Spaces

- 46 children from 18 districts participated in the National Children's Consultation in Kathmandu, directly engaging with ministers and senior officials.
- Developed and presented a Call to Action addressing child labour, child marriage, and online safety.
- Follow-up "Children's Dialogue" generated national recommendations targeting high-risk sectors such as domestic work, agriculture, brick kilns, hospitality, and transport.

Child Labour Free Milestone

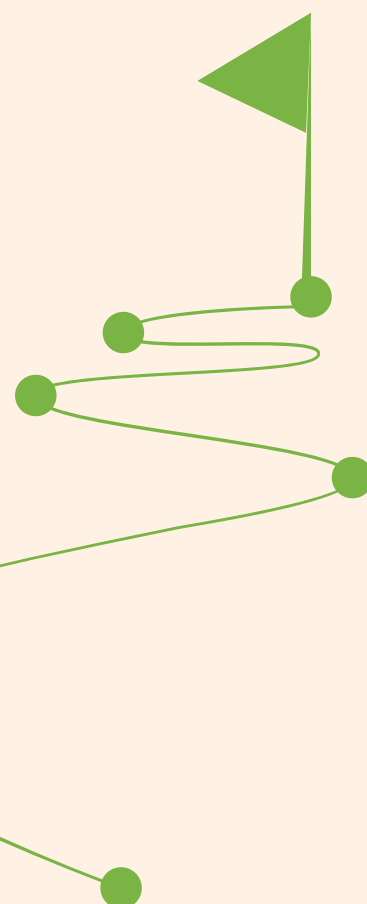
- Chandragiri Municipality Ward No. 11 officially declared Child Labour Free on National Children's Day, setting a precedent for other areas.
- Commitment from the municipality for regular monitoring and expansion toward a Child Labour Free Municipality.
- Similar pledges were made by Tokha and Kageshwori Manohara municipalities following children's interactions with local leaders.

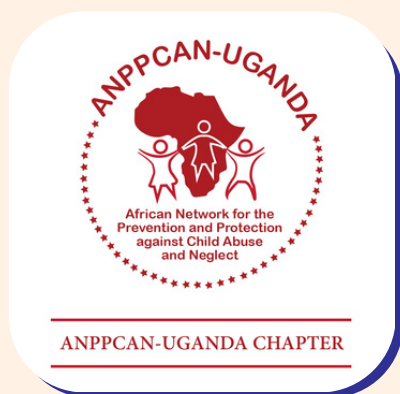
Local Action & Community Mobilization

- Ward-level consultations and follow-up meetings in 7 municipalities engaged 177 participants, including local officials, business leaders, and CSOs.
- Outcomes included municipal child surveys, action plans, and applications for the Federal Government's Child Labour Free Municipality Declaration Grant.
- Technical assistance provided by SAN and Child Welfare Society to strengthen data collection and grant proposals.

Private Sector Accountability

- Corporate CSOs Dialogue in Kathmandu and Social Dialogue in Bagmati Province engaged 37 participants from government, private sector, trade unions, and CSOs.
- Private sector representatives committed to implementing codes of conduct, monitoring business compliance, and penalizing offenders.
- Agreements reached to provide vocational training for rescued children and conduct community-level awareness campaigns against child labour.





African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Uganda

World Day Against Child Labour Efforts

In Uganda, our member African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) organised advocacy dialogues and sensitisation events to strengthen the CSO coalition and engage the government in accelerating efforts to combat child labour in the country. Key actions included presenting a unified CSOs statement, led by ANPPCAN Uganda Chapter, representing the collective demands of all CSOs in Uganda. This statement urged the government to implement Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZs), a resolution initially presented to the Ugandan parliament in 2014.

Additionally, children and youth were engaged in creating a child-led advocacy document (charter of demands), sharing their experiences, and generating demands for eliminating child labour. This initiative has led to better identification and reporting of child labour cases to stakeholders, including teachers and child protection CBOs and CSOs.



Key Achievements

Regional Knowledge Sharing & Project Close-Out

- Hosted a high-profile Regional Knowledge Sharing and Close-Out Conference in Naivasha, Kenya (Nov 2024) with stakeholders from Uganda, Kenya, and EAC countries.
- Shared best practices, lessons learned, and sustainability plans from the CAPSA Project (2022–2024) tackling child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and poor working conditions.

Strengthening Child Labour Monitoring Systems in Coffee Supply Chains

- Established clear reporting, referral, and remediation mechanisms in Mt. Elgon Region under the Area-Based Approach (ABA).
- Linked community monitors, parish chiefs, CDOs, and district labour inspectors to address cases and ensure children's access to education and other support services.

Policy & Legislative Advocacy for Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZ)

- Engaged Members of Parliament to re-table a motion in Parliament urging government adoption of the CLFZ approach.
- Built political momentum with MPs from Kyotera, Namayingo, and Kalungu districts to push for formal government action.

CSO and Trade Union collaboration for Unified Advocacy

- Convened a landmark CSO–Trade Union dialogue (Sept 2024) to agree on joint strategies for ending child labour in Uganda.
- Validated a CSO Joint Advocacy Strategy with over 30 organizations, promoting coordinated Area-Based Approach implementation and holding government accountable.

Empowerment & Capacity Building

- Trained child rights clubs in Kyotera and Rakai to strengthen self-protection, peer support, and advocacy skills for child labour survivors.
- Built CSO capacity on youth participation, communication for advocacy, and monitoring & evaluation, enhancing their ability to influence policy and sustain child labour-free communities.

Centro de Estudios Sociales y Publicaciones (CESIP) and Centro de Desarrollo y Autogestión (DyA)

Collective Efforts to End Child Labour in Peru

Our member organisations, CESIP (Centro de Estudios Sociales y Publicaciones) and DyA (Centro de Desarrollo y Autogestión), organised and collaborated in various awareness and advocacy activities.

These initiatives include virtual awareness campaigns (Back-to-School without Child Labour campaign) to engage the public through online platforms, social dialogues to facilitate discussions among stakeholders, and sensitisation engagements to educate and involve children and youth in advocacy efforts. The key actions included highlighting the role of CSOs and amplifying the collective advocacy through a powerful video launched during the WDACL. The overall focus was on promoting the Area-based Approach (ABA) with interventions such as the Municipal Model, the Child Labour Free Seal (SELT), and other child protection systems.





End U.S. Child Labour Campaign

The Campaign to End US Child Labour aims to stop state-level rollbacks of child labour laws and increase protections for all children working in the United States. In the U.S., thousands of children are injured at work each year, and at least one child is killed every month. On World Day Against Child Labour, the #EndUSChildlabour campaign highlighted the devastating impacts of child labour across various industries and states, with a particular focus on hazardous work, through a powerful digital media campaign.

Our Chairperson co-launched the Campaign and advanced a national "Report Card" on state laws. He represented Global March on the UN Alliance 8.7 Global Coordinating Group and engaged with U.S. agencies and unions. He also supported the International Cocoa Initiative and strengthened ties with members across regions.

Education International (EI)

Between February and December 2024, child labour free zone development projects led by Education International's affiliated unions in six African countries enabled 1,880 ex-child workers to return to school on a consistent regular basis.

The projects are implemented in Burundi, Malawi, Mali, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The projects have led to more vigilance among teachers and community members in ensuring that all children attend school.

Most schools located in the project zones report increased attendance rates and reduced absenteeism and have also registered increased enrolment as compared to the period before the beginning of the project.

[More information:](#)



In December 2024, Education International organized a Study trip in Malawi.

Rémy Nsengiyumva, President of STEB Burundi: *"Poverty is not the sole driver of child labour. Not all children who drop out of school come from poor households—many cases result from parental neglect. Many parents do not realize that the work children do today hinders their long-term development. This underscores the importance of continued awareness and mindset change across the community. In our workshops, we teach strategies to engage with them and help them understand that education remains the best guarantee of a better future"*

[Malawi: Coming together across borders to eradicate child labour](#)

Malawi Congress of Trade Unions (MCTU), Malawi

The Malawi Congress of Trade Unions (MCTU), in collaboration with the Plantation Agriculture Workers Union (PAWU), has been organising informal economy workers, particularly in the tea and coffee sectors, to extend labour protections and reduce child labour. Recognizing that many retrenched formal workers shift into informal, unprotected jobs, the initiative targeted smallholder growers and seasonal workers through structured unionisation, capacity building, and community mobilisation. Key stakeholders included local cooperatives, government bodies, and private sector associations, with efforts grounded in social dialogue, collective bargaining, and alignment with national employment policies.

As a result, over 1,200 informal workers were unionised, and child labour saw a significant decline, more than 1,500 children were withdrawn from labour and re-enrolled in schools. Communities developed child labour bylaws, and over 5,000 parents actively supported educational efforts. The initiative also strengthened union legitimacy, increased membership, and created replicable models of formalisation within the agricultural value chain.

Partnership for Action Against Child Labour in Agriculture (PAACLA), Indonesia

Partnership for Action Against Child Labour in Agriculture (PAACLA) achieved significant progress in child labour reduction, withdrawing, preventing, or protecting over 5,000 children across 12 countries. Through 620+ active CLMCs, more than 6,800 cases were tracked, with strong collaboration between communities, schools, and protection officers.

In education and livelihoods, over 4,500 children (including girls and children with disabilities) were (re)enrolled in school. Simultaneously, 3,200+ households received livelihood support like vocational training and IGAs, with 65% of beneficiaries being women, highlighting strong gender inclusion.

On the policy front, frameworks were influenced in at least five countries, and child labour responses were embedded into local development plans and school systems. Trade unions and cooperatives also helped institutionalise child protection in both formal and informal sectors.

The project fostered impactful partnerships with UN agencies, CSOs, and governments, and developed 30+ knowledge products to support scaling. Advocacy efforts ensured that child labour remained a key issue in regional and national policy agendas.

Bangladesh Labour Foundation (BLF), Bangladesh

The project *“Improving Labour Standards by Eliminating Child Labour in the Local RMG Industry”* led to significant progress in Keraniganj, with 10 towers officially declared child labour-free and 6 more underway. Over 410 factories across 27 towers committed to not recruiting child labour, and 30 CLECs were formed with action plans, Terms of Reference, and scorecards to guide monitoring.

A major policy achievement was the revision and approval of the National Plan of Action (NPA) 2024–25, which had faced delays due to elections and administrative shifts. BLF played a pivotal advocacy role and secured a seat on the reformed National Child Labour Welfare Committee, alongside other key NGOs and INGOs.

Workshops with Ostads resulted in commitments to halt new recruitment and return working children to their families. Community engagement was boosted through campaigns like the 12-day World Day Against Child Labour 2024, and ten towers were awarded for best practices. Capacity building, joint monitoring with DIFE, and a newly developed child labour website helped strengthen sustainability and accountability across the sector.

Other updates and events



Andrews Addoquaye Tagoe receives 2024 Iqbal Masih Award

Our Regional Coordinator for Anglophone Africa and Board member, Deputy General Secretary of the General Agricultural Workers Union, Ghana Andrews Addoquaye Tagoe won the prestigious Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labour. Andy played a crucial role in advancing child and workers' rights and has been a powerful force in the country's efforts to end child labour in the agricultural industry. His passionate advocacy has helped to create a strong network of anti-child labour champions in Ghana and beyond.



Work: No Child's Business (WNCB) Multi-Stakeholder Symposium

The WNCB Programme's 5-year journey ended with a symposium uniting over 70 stakeholders from government, private sector, and NGOs to renew commitment to ending child labour. Presentations from Vietnam, Côte d'Ivoire, and India showcased how combining area-based and supply chain approaches creates sustainable impact.

Despite a rise in child labour worldwide, the event highlighted WNCB's successes and the potential of the new European Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) to drive business accountability. Panellists stressed urgent multi-stakeholder action and the vital role of civil society.

The symposium reinforced that ending child labour requires cooperation beyond talks, immediate, practical steps are needed to protect children's rights and futures.

Area-Based Approach (ABA) Symposium, Ghana

West Africa Symposium Global March participated in the West Africa Symposium on Promoting Area-based Approach (ABA) to Prevent and Eradicate Child labour in May 2024, Ghana. The Symposium convened diverse representatives (48 participants from 25 CSOs, trade unions) from 5 Pathfinder countries, i.e. Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, and Côte d'Ivoire to address the evolving root causes of child labour and foster broader discourse around the Area-based Approach to catalyze urgent actions. Reference: Call to Action. This event was funded by the Work No Child Business Alliance, the project funded the participation of GM staff to this event. The agenda and outcome document contributed to the overall Call to Action document.

United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum– Africa, Nairobi

GMACL's Program and Advocacy Manager participated in the 2024 African Business and Human Rights Forum, contributing to discussions on corporate responsibility and child labour. During the different networking sessions, she shared results from Child Labour Monitoring Systems (CLMS) in the project with companies engaged in anti-child labour initiatives. She also used the platform to convey concerns raised by farmers in Bangladesh and Uganda, particularly regarding the challenges they face in addressing child labour within their supply chains. These concerns included the lack of financial support for sustainable livelihoods, the need for stronger corporate accountability, and the disconnect between international policies and local realities. By bringing these perspectives to an international audience, she reinforced the urgency of inclusive, evidence-based solutions that center the voices of affected communities.

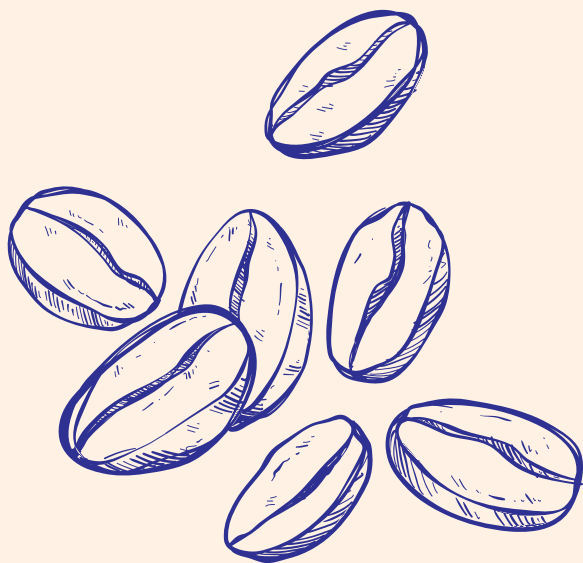
United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum- Southeast Asia, Bangkok

Global March co-organized* a session titled "Innovative Tools and Approaches for Businesses and Civil Society to Effectively Remedy Child labour and Sexual Exploitation" at the 2024 United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, in Thailand, in September. The session brought together over 25 participants from CSOs and development organizations to explore practical, multistakeholder strategies for addressing child labour and sexual exploitation across various sectors. It focused on leveraging existing solutions, examining regulatory impacts, fostering collaboration, and including small and medium enterprises. The session recognised approaches, such as Child Labour Monitoring Systems (CLMS) and the Area-Based Approach (ABA), as critical for eliminating child labour and tailoring interventions to local contexts, ensuring best results for the community and the children. Learnings and examples were shared from the work in the coffee and coconut sector by Global March.

**Co-organizers- Thailand Hotline Foundation (representing the Down to Zero Alliance in collaboration with ECPAT International), The Global March Against Child Labour, The Centre for Child Rights and Business (representing the MY Voice Initiative in collaboration with Social Accountability International), The Remedy Project*

Alliance 8.7

ABA Lab and CLMRS:



Global March organised two ABA Lab sessions in June and October 2024 respectively. The 1st ABA Lab (virtual session) organised on 28th June 2024, focused on how creating community led CLMRS effectively eradicates child labour and helps communities to transition into Child Labour Free Zones. The inaugural ABA Lab session was attended by experts who have been instrumental in crafting and executing CLM(R)S initiatives within the cocoa sector. They shared invaluable insights from their experiences, shed light on encountered challenges, and explored how their knowledge can be harnessed to elevate community led monitoring interventions within Uganda's coffee sector

June 2024 South America Symposium:

The Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child labour/ILO and Global March Against Child Labour in collaboration with CESIP and DyA (Global March partners in Peru) organized the Regional Meeting on Area Based Approaches (ABA) for the prevention and elimination of child labour in Lima, Peru. The event was part of the commemoration of the World Day against Child labour brought together different actors at the regional and national level to exchange experiences and challenges, as well as to jointly explore new aspects of interventions that can serve as key tools to accelerate progress towards a child labour-free region. With approximately 70 participants from- including CSOs (from 3 Pathfinder Countries Peru, Argentina, Chile and Brazil), regional government officials, municipal representatives, national entities such as Ministry representatives, SUNAFIL, and producers- the meeting aimed to foster a shared understanding of the ABA approach, highlighting its scope, benefits, and limitations in combating child labour.

The ABA Lab is a dynamic platform uniting diverse stakeholders, pioneering ABA implementers, and experts to transform our approach to combating child labour. By integrating innovative solutions and scalable best practices, the ABA aims to shift away from conventional strategies to effectively address the root causes of child labour in high-risk area.

International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) conference:

In May 2024, the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) organized its member event in Geneva. Global March is a member of the ICI and was represented by its Senior Director and the regional coordinator for Anglophone Africa. Various chocolate companies, like Ferrero, Barry Callebaut, and Mars, attended the meeting. During a full-day meeting, we discussed the outcomes of their Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) model and how it can be improved or enhanced. One of the main issues is how to address the economic root causes of child labour, which is one of the most challenging to address. Not only the industry, but also civil society is struggling with this.

To make the intervention sustainable, we need to elevate the income of farmers. Global March highlighted their interventions in Uganda in the coffee sector and in Bangladesh in the shrimp sector.

The Second ABA Lab:

The 2nd ABA lab session was organised in the Hague on the 14th of October 2024 on the theme "Corporate Responsibility: Supporting Child Labour Free Zones through Investment and Fair Pricing," centered on the critical role of companies in supporting sustainable child labour-free zones (CLFZs) through fair pricing and investment strategies. The session aimed to explore how companies, NGOs, employer organisations, governments, and local communities can work together to uphold and expand CLFZs as part of corporate responsibility, focusing on creating economic incentives and sustainable support systems. The ABA Lab brought together diverse stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities within the ABA.

International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)

Learning Webinar:

On 29 October 2024, GMACL's Program and Advocacy Manager was invited as a panelist in the launch webinar of a new compilation of case studies commissioned by ICI to Tropical Institute Netherlands (KIT), which explores landscape approaches to preventing and addressing child labour. The report draws on examples from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Uganda, highlighting promising practices, common challenges, and key recommendations. During the discussion, she contributed insights on the effectiveness of landscape and area-based approaches in reducing child labour, the types of interventions commonly used in these contexts, and the importance of sustained coordination structures to drive change at scale.

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Case Studies from the Field

Philippines – From Coconut Fields to the Classroom

John Doe, a 16-year-old from Bagadatu, Barangay Sapu Masla, Malapatan in Sarangani Province, was once trapped in hazardous child labour on his family's small coconut farm. Poverty and the economic impact of COVID-19 forced him to abandon school to work long hours climbing coconut trees, clearing land with sharp tools, and operating power equipment. With falling coconut prices, his labour became the family's lifeline, but at the cost of his education and safety.

Through GMACL's project intervention, John was enrolled in the Alternative Learning System (ALS), received educational supplies and financial assistance from Department of Social Welfare and Development, and additional learning materials and food support from MDFI. Child labour monitors provided regular follow-up, guiding his family to prioritise education over hazardous work.

Today, John is a regular student, participating actively in school and regaining his confidence. His parents, once resigned to the necessity of child labour, now view education as the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. This transformation, both in John's aspirations and in his family's mindset, reflects the lasting cultural change we strive to achieve, showing that with the right support, children can move from fields to futures full of opportunity.

Uganda- Child Survivors Lead the Call for Change

In Kyotera and Rakai districts, three child labour survivors turned the 2024 Day of the African Child (DAC) commemorations into a powerful platform for advocacy. Far from being passive participants, they stepped forward as leaders, using their voices to demand change.

On July 4 in Rakai, Rebecca (name changed) co-hosted the celebrations, showcasing remarkable leadership and public speaking skills before a large audience. Later, on July 25 in Kyotera, Rolla (name changed) engaged directly with the Resident District Officer, the chief guest, speaking about the urgent need to address child labour. Robin (name changed) shared a moving account of his past in construction work, calling on the government to create child labour-free zones and stressing that children and youth must have a central role in shaping solutions.

These moments did more than amplify their voices- they boosted their self-confidence, expanded their exposure to new opportunities, and demonstrated how empowering survivors can catalyse community and policy action. As Robin reflected, "It's not every day we get the chance to stand before such an important audience. Thank you for empowering us and giving us this platform."



Project Learnings

From our programmes in 2024, we have drawn the following key learnings that now guide GMACL's approach and are embedded into our programme design:

- Regional strategies anchored in a unified global vision deliver greater impact: Interventions are most effective when they address specific local realities while being firmly linked to a shared global strategy. For example, our regional actions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have achieved greater traction when connected to GMACL's global advocacy and policy agenda. This ensures that local successes inform global processes and, in turn, global commitments strengthen local action.
- Children's participation amplifies local impact and advocacy reach: Empowering children to be visible advocates in the fight against child labour transforms advocacy from speaking about them to speaking with them. For example, Global March (in project Catalyst) leveraged existing child-led groups such as DENATI to bring authentic voices and lived experiences into campaigns, forums, and public events. These contributions humanized the issue, enhanced the credibility and emotional weight of advocacy, and inspired broader community engagement. By enabling children to speak for themselves, the project not only deepened local ownership of the ABA but also created momentum for its replication in other regions.

- **Partnerships multiply leverage and results:** Multi-stakeholder collaboration- bringing together civil society, trade unions, governments, and the private sector- delivers more comprehensive and sustainable change. These partnerships amplify reach, pool expertise, and unlock policy influence, enabling systemic reforms and better protection for children. This reflects GMACL's focus on collaboration as a mechanism for scaling impact, guiding partnerships across diverse contexts- from Dutch childcare procurement reforms to cocoa sector advocacy in West Africa.
- **Sustainable impact relies on community ownership:** Lasting progress against child labour happens when local communities take the lead in monitoring, preventing, and addressing it. GMACL has established Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) within existing, mandated local bodies, in the Philippines, and Uganda so that these efforts are not just temporary project activities but part of official systems with the authority and responsibility to act. Embedding CLMRS in this way ensures that identification, reporting, and remediation continue well beyond the project's duration. This approach directly supports GMACL's strategy of prioritising "community-led action" as a key pathway for achieving lasting, self-sustaining results in the fight against child labour.
- **MEL as a driver of change:** Outcome-focused MEL transforms monitoring from a reporting tool into a strategic driver of impact. Measuring results provides evidence to adapt programmes in real time and influence policy. This principle is embedded in GMACL's organisational framework, strengthening our ability to demonstrate results and replicate interventions like the ABA.



New Members & Partnerships

We welcomed :

[MV Foundation \(India\)](#)

[Child and Youth Protection Foundation \(Nigeria\)](#).

We also welcomed [Milan Raj Dharel \(Nepal\)](#) and [Paapa Danqua \(ITUC\)](#) as new Board members.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL)

In 2024, GMACL strengthened its Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems through the development of two interconnected frameworks designed to improve member collaboration, and enhance organisational capacity.

- **Organisational Development Framework:** Complementing GMACL's goal and vision, this framework strengthens GMACL's internal capacity to deliver on its strategic and network commitments. It sets priorities for advocacy, communication, projects, and HR, amongst others.

- **Member Engagement Framework:** Building on our network's strategic vision, this framework ensures members are actively involved in achieving those outcomes. It defines clear indicators, and opportunities for joint action, allowing members to exchange knowledge, contribute evidence, and coordinate advocacy efforts in alignment with our goals.

Together, these frameworks create a coherent system: The Member Engagement Framework ensures the network works collectively to achieve it, and the Organisational Development Framework ensures GMACL has the internal strength and capacity to sustain and scale its impact.