

Annual Report

2025

*Reflecting on a Year of Action
and Impact*



1. About Us

Global March Against Child Labour

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.

2025: A year of renewed determination

In 2025, Global March responded to a difficult global environment marked by stalled progress towards SDG 8.7, shrinking development assistance and increasing pressure on civic space. The network used the year to strengthen its collective direction, launch a new organisational strategy for 2025–2030, deepen member engagement and prepare for the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Morocco.

The 2025 strategy prioritises community-led and area-based solutions; tackling the root economic causes of child labour; strengthening public education systems; and greater accountability across all sectors.

Global child labour estimates

The ILO and UNICEF Global Estimates 2024 report a decline from 160 million children in child labour in 2021 to 138 million in 2024. While this represents progress, 138 million children remain in child labour, underlining the continuing importance of action on poverty, inequality and access to publicly funded education.

Full global estimates:

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-labour-global-estimates-2024/>

2. Message from the Chairperson



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

While the decline in the number of child labourers globally stalled in 2025, committed activists, government officials, union members and other stakeholders pressed forward creatively and assertively with the long task of reaching the goal of a child labour-free world. However, during the year, the enabling environment to ensure continued progress was severely threatened.

“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—” Those were some of my closing words in our 2024 Annual Report. We were warned of headwinds, and they have arrived. Despite running up against these new challenges and perhaps because of them, advocacy and practical steps to address child labour are more critical than ever, and 2025 saw a year of redoubled effort by the child labour movement worldwide.

Born of a universal advocacy vision, the Global March continued to speak out in different fora and media as well as reflecting and boosting the advocacy efforts of member organisations at the national and regional levels. Global March worked to maintain program continuity as much as possible and was timely in focusing on the future. We designed a new comprehensive multi-year strategy framework with a multitude of partners; the Global March’s leading role was reflected as participants in UN-related panels in New York, and we maintained a close relationship with the ILO to program the Civil Society Organisations (CSO) engagement and Forum at the 2026 6th Global Conference in Morocco.

During the year, the Global March’s role as CSO representative in the ILO’s Alliance 8.7 saw March members General Agricultural Workers Union of Ghana and Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN) coordinating with their respective governments to facilitate their process to become Pathfinder Countries. Ghana is also a key cocoa producer, and the Global March is further involved via its seat on the International Cocoa Initiative, aimed at ameliorating and remediating child labour in the cocoa supply chain.



The importance of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) engagement as a Board member was reflected in consultations and advocacy around the key ILO conventions and principles that underpin a set of standards to address child labor at all levels. These are fundamental pillars 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 critical, in addition to the child labour conventions 138 and 182.

This high-level international advocacy is essential, yet Global March members recognize that advocacy without action is hollow. Work in and with their communities is the example of success that provides the opportunity to appeal to government officials and business to further engage and be accountable. Our advocacy connects with our members' grass roots work as it's informed by the practical programs that the Global March demonstrates are replicable and sustainable. It has become clear from the experiences of March members across the regions, that three essential elements are necessary 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 engage with unions and CSOs in an accountable fashion.

Despite some program interruptions, and changing circumstances country to country, the Global March's members continued to push forward with innovative programs like the Area-Based Approach, the Child labour Free Zone model, and the Centre for Excellence. Read further in this report for a survey of the wide-ranging work accomplished by Global March members around the world during 2025.

Unfortunately, the most significant development of the year was the wholesale reduction of a range of foreign assistance from Northern countries, particularly the United States. Organisations focused on human rights, health, and relief faced the abrupt disruption of funding from a variety of sources, impacting and exacerbating conflicts that had worldwide implications. This reduction has undercut the foundational backstop that had been keeping millions of children from sliding back into poverty and being forced to work.

If they live. By several estimates, over six hundred thousand people, two-thirds of them children, have already died directly as a result of USAID aid cuts in 2025. The Lancet British medical journal estimates that if conditions remain the same, 4.5 million children under the age of five will die by 2030.

This moment poses a crisis for working-class children and their families. Any progress made up until now to reduce child labor, slow but steady as it has been, is facing a drastic reversal. Two of the three essential elements to make progress that I listed above are dangerously close to failing in several countries. The downstream numbers are sure to be larger still unless governments and employers change direction.

One other deficit that Global March founder Kailash Satyarthi reflects on in his new book "Karuna" is the dearth of compassion in today's world. He makes the moral case, but infuses it with different aspects of the human condition – biological, intellectual, spiritual – to show that this fundamental sensibility is not only crucial in making progress in today's world on issues like child rights, but attainable. The challenges ahead for 2026 are manageable if we centre ourselves around our core values and meet them together.

3. Project Highlights

RESOURCE Project – Uganda and Bangladesh

The RESOURCE project worked with communities in Uganda's coffee sector and with households in Bangladesh to strengthen livelihoods and reduce the pressures that can contribute to child labour.

In Bangladesh, household income increased by 57.4%, rising from BDT 75,288 to BDT 118,500. At the same time, the number of children in child labour per household fell from 1.39 to 0.27. The project's analysis also found that livelihood diversification and cooperative membership were stronger predictors of improved outcomes than training alone, highlighting the importance of combining skills development with opportunities for households to diversify their income and strengthen collective economic participation.

RVO Coconut Programme – Philippines

The RVO Coconut Programme addressed child labour in the copra supply chain in the Philippines through a combination of Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS), farmer training and community-based action.

A key feature of the programme was the integration of CLMRS into existing statutory Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) structures, rather than establishing parallel systems.

Through the CLMRS, 133 children were identified and referred for appropriate support.

The programme also demonstrated improvements in agricultural practices and farmer outcomes. Following training on drying and storage, the proportion of copra rejected for poor quality fell from 7.7% to 3.3%. Training on Good Agricultural Practices resulted in a 25% increase in correct fertiliser application. Collective marketing also enabled farmers to achieve prices 33.5% higher for intercroops than through individual sales.

Together, these results demonstrate how combining community-based monitoring with stronger agricultural practices and collective economic action can address both child labour and some of the livelihood conditions that contribute to it.



Peru: Child Labour Risks in the Mango Supply Chain

Peru's mango sector is a major export industry, with the 2024–2025 season producing approximately 289,000 tonnes. The sector is concentrated in Piura and relies heavily on more than 5,000 smallholder producers, many cultivating less than five hectares. The assessment found that farmers face significant income and market pressures, including high production costs, limited access to finance and the costs of meeting certification requirements.

The assessment also identified seasonal and informal labour arrangements as key risks for child labour. Children's involvement was primarily reported within family farming, particularly during harvesting and produce handling. Rather than permanent school dropout, child labour was more commonly linked to seasonal school absenteeism, particularly among children aged 12–17. Limited labour inspection in dispersed rural areas makes these practices difficult to identify and address.

Climate and market pressures further increase vulnerability. During the 2023–2024 season, mango exports reportedly fell by 60–70%, while producers also reported reduced yields, smaller fruit and increased post-harvest losses.

These pressures can affect household income and increase reliance on informal work and family labour.

The assessment highlighted the need for stronger coordination between producers, cooperatives, public institutions and companies, alongside approaches that move beyond certification-based compliance. Strengthening producer livelihoods, improving access to finance and making due diligence more responsive to conditions at farm level could help address both child labour risks and the wider vulnerabilities within the mango supply chain.



4. Advocacy and Movement Building

Brussels Strategy Meeting and the 2025–2030 Strategy

In January 2025, the Global March network convened in Brussels to assess progress towards SDG 8.7. The three-day meeting shaped the network's revised organisational strategy for 2025–2030, which was launched globally in April.

The strategy sets out four priorities:

- Community-led and area-based solutions.
- Tackling the root economic causes of child labour.
- Strengthening public education systems.
- Greater accountability across all sectors.

Strategy meeting press release: <https://globalmarch.org/press-release-punishing-children-through-exploitation-and-poverty/>

2025–2030 strategy document: <https://lnkd.in/gWWZ7dWd>

High-Level Political Forum

At the HLPF side event “Dialogue on SDG 8.7”, held on 16th July 2025, speakers emphasised the urgency of coordinated community-based action, corporate accountability and political will.

The discussion also highlighted concerning trends in child labour in agriculture and in the United States, alongside calls to renew commitments and protect civil society space.

Engagement towards the 6th Global Conference

As the global target to eliminate child labour by 2025 was not achieved, 2026 became a critical moment for reflection and renewed commitment. Global March and its members

contributed to the preparatory process for the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Morocco through consultations, advocacy, research and coordination.

Children, youth and survivors at the centre of advocacy

In November 2025, Global March convened consultations with children, youth and survivors as part of the preparatory process for the 6th Global Conference. Participants highlighted poverty, weak social protection and limited access to quality education as major drivers of child labour and called for free, inclusive and flexible education systems.

Participants also called for meaningful participation in decision-making, stressing that children’s and survivors’ voices should move beyond consultation to influence policy and accountability. Testimonies highlighted hazardous working conditions, weak enforcement of child labour laws and gaps in child protection systems.

UN Informal Interactive Dialogue on Child Labour

In May 2025, Global March was represented at the United Nations General Assembly’s Informal Interactive Dialogue on “Childhood with dignity: Eliminating child labour in all its forms, including forced recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.” Convened with the support of the International Labour Organisation, the dialogue brought together Member States, UN agencies, civil society and other stakeholders to discuss accelerating action towards the elimination

of child labour. Discussions highlighted the continued scale of the challenge—with around 138 million children still engaged in child labour—and the need to address its root causes, including poverty, limited access to education and social protection, conflict and exploitation. The event also provided an important platform for sharing perspectives and strengthening global commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 8.7.

Asia and the Pacific civil society and children's consultation

In September 2025, Global March participated in the Civil Society and Children Consultation on Child Labour in Asia and the Pacific, organised as part of preparations for the 6th Global Conference. Director Deepika Mittal moderated the consultation, facilitating dialogue among civil society organisations, UN experts, and children and youth representatives.

Key recommendations included:

- Guarantee free and quality education for every child.
- Support families to break the cycle of poverty.
- Strengthen and enforce child protection laws.
- Act locally, think globally.
- Include children in decision-making processes.

ILO consultation with civil society organisations

On 27 October 2025, Global March participated in the ILO consultation for the 6th Global Conference. The intervention called for the conference to go beyond political declarations and deliver clear, time-bound commitments with measurable targets, supported by transparent progress tracking and independent verification.

The intervention highlighted the need to address poverty, informality, weak corporate accountability, gaps in education and livelihoods, and intersecting challenges including climate shocks, conflict and gender inequality. It also reaffirmed the role of civil society, trade unions and grassroots organisations and the need for meaningful participation of children, youth and survivors.

Assessment of the Durban Call to Action

In December 2025, Global March, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Education International launched the Assessment of the Durban Call to Action, reviewing progress since the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Durban in 2022.

- Progress and setbacks since the 2022 Durban Conference.
- Gaps in enforcement, education access and social protection.
- Real experiences from communities across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Latin America Regional Consultation

On 23 October, Global March participated in the Third Session of the Regional Consultation organised by the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Initiative for a Child Labour-Free Region, contributing to the Regional Report on Child Labour in the Americas for the 6th Global Conference.

Isaac Ruiz Sánchez (CESIP, Peru), representing Global March in Latin America, emphasised inclusive education, social protection, agricultural development, stronger public investment, a rights-based approach, children and adolescents as agents of change, and stronger labour inspection in the informal economy, agriculture and domestic work.

FOR MORE DETAILS, TAKE A LOOK AT OUR ADVOCACY DOCUMENT:
[Home - Google Drive](#)

5. Global Campaigns and Member Updates

World Day Against Child Labour 2025

Global March amplified voices from communities while emphasising the urgency of coordinated global action amid funding cuts. Members across regions used advocacy, public events, media and digital campaigns to highlight national challenges and local solutions.

ANPPCAN Uganda

ANPPCAN Uganda led the work through the CSO Coalition on Child Labour, Child Trafficking and Safe Migration, including a virtual meeting to develop the coalition's 2025 work plan based on a review of the advocacy and lobbying strategy.

As part of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025, ANPPCAN Uganda's child trafficking subcommittee focused on amplifying survivor voices and supporting three child trafficking victims to share their journeys. The initiative sought to strengthen collaboration among government, civil society and international actors.

In 2025, ANPPCAN Uganda Chapter strengthened its contribution to the national fight against child labour through advocacy, child participation and policy coordination. Through the SHIELDSHILD project, ANPPCAN worked with the CSO Coalition on Child Labour to revive and strengthen collective advocacy, bringing together civil society organisations to refine a lobbying plan and develop three priority asks: increased funding and staffing for district-level labour inspection and enforcement; dedicated resources for Child Labour Free Zones; and child-friendly school systems that improve retention and completion.

ANPPCAN also supported child labour survivors from Kyotera and Rakai to participate in Uganda's Pre-Children's Summit, helping ensure that children's experiences and recommendations informed wider discussions on education, safe schools and child rights.

ANPPCAN further strengthened its role in national policy and coordination mechanisms in 2025. The organisation participated in national World Day Against Child Labour activities, highlighting the continued risks faced by children in agriculture, domestic work and informal trading, and advocating for stronger remediation and access to education. ANPPCAN was appointed to Uganda's National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour for a new five-year term and also joined the Alliance 8.7 National Coordination Committee, contributing to high-level coordination on child labour, forced labour, trafficking and modern slavery. Together, these engagements positioned ANPPCAN as an important civil society voice in Uganda's national child labour policy and advocacy landscape, despite the closure of the Catalyst project during the year.

ACE Japan

On 12 June 2025, ACE and the Child Labour Network (CL-Net) held a parliamentary briefing in Japan titled “Zero Child Labour: When Will That Day Come?”. Government officials, ministers, ambassadors, NGOs, businesses and members of the public discussed the continuing challenge of child labour, including developments in agriculture and cocoa. The event also highlighted Japan’s role through initiatives such as Child Labour Free Zones.

ACE used the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to bring greater international attention to child labour and SDG Target 8.7, hosting a side event on “Dialogue on SDG Target 8.7 to End Child Labour by 2025: How can we achieve a child labour-free world?” The session shared lessons from Ghana’s Child Labour Free Zones initiative and highlighted the continued prevalence of child labour in the United States.

ACE noted that, without the initiative, child labour would not have been addressed in any other session at the Forum, underscoring the importance of creating dedicated spaces to keep child labour on the international development agenda.

The event also amplified the voice of Jacqueline Aguilar, a former child labourer in U.S. agriculture and first-generation college graduate, who shared her experience of beginning farm work at age 11 due to financial hardship. Her testimony highlighted the physical and emotional toll of child labour, including long working hours, exposure to extreme weather and chemicals, exhaustion, and the loss of childhood and educational opportunities. Her story reinforced the urgent need for action so that no child has to choose between survival and their dreams.



JARAK Indonesia and PAACLA

The 2025 JARAK, PAACLA and PKPA held “Dare to Dream, Dare to Aspire from an Early Age”, bringing together national stakeholders and child representatives. The event featured child-led performances and dialogues, and JARAK and partners launched a national child labour mapping.

On 13 June 2025, members of the Children Advisory Committee, supported by PKPA and Terre des Hommes Germany, met with the Ministry of Manpower in South Jakarta to share lived experiences of child labour. The children also presented a child-created “Child Labour-Free Rubik’s Face” as a creative communication tool.

In 2025, PAACLA Indonesia strengthened its role as a multi-stakeholder platform translating commitments on child labour into practical action across Indonesia’s agricultural sector.

A key milestone was the development and pilot implementation of a community-based Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) across eight villages in Jember, East Lombok, and North Lombok. Supported by a digital platform for data collection, case tracking, referrals, and follow-up, the system helped strengthen early identification and coordinated responses for children at risk of or involved in child labour.

By the end of 2025, 26 Community Activity Centers were also active, reaching more than 1,125 vulnerable children through learning, arts, sports, and non-formal education activities.

PAACLA also expanded efforts to drive responsible business practices and stronger cross-sector collaboration. The Labour Practices Guidelines for Companies and Supply Chains were disseminated through Training of Trainers involving 56 stakeholders, while the PAACLA Award recognized seven companies demonstrating leadership in child labour prevention, human rights due diligence, and remediation. Collaboration with government, business, international organizations, civil society, and communities advanced work toward child labour-free palm oil and stronger national governance and monitoring systems. By December 2025, PAACLA had grown to 36 member institutions, while its 2025–2028 Action Plan established a framework for more coordinated, measurable, and sustainable action in the years ahead.



Child Labor Coalition

On World Day Against Child Labour, the Campaign to End US Child Labour, Child Labor Coalition and Global March hosted a virtual congressional briefing, “Child Labor 101: The Possibility of Major Increases in the U.S. and Abroad”. The briefing examined trends in hazardous child labour and threats to international advocacy funding and brought together voices from Congress, civil society and watchdog organisations.

South America: coordinated regional campaign

Global March members in South America coordinated a social media campaign calling on governments, businesses and civil society to reprioritise child labour eradication. The campaign highlighted policy gaps and resource constraints alongside country-level developments.

DYA

DYA supported the Global March’s efforts to prevent child labour across Argentina, Peru and Ecuador, focusing on awareness, research, education, child protection, responsible business practices and policy advocacy.

Reached 1,100+ rural adolescents through research on child labour in Argentina. Assessed child labour risks in Peru’s mango supply chain and contributed to research on coffee in Peru and abaca in Ecuador.

Supported 1,663 migrant children to enrol in

school in Peru and reached 2,170 students through educational programmes.

In Ecuador, supported 1,186 children to enter/re-enter education and provided academic support to 1,686 students.

Helped 8 Peruvian municipalities strengthen local child labour prevention measures.

Continued promoting human rights due diligence and responsible business practices in agricultural supply chains.

FNPETI

In 2025, the National Forum for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Working Adolescents (FNPETI) strengthened its role as a national platform for knowledge generation, advocacy and social mobilization. Its work focused on strengthening public policies, improving the quality and use of child labour data, and reinforcing coordination across government, civil society, the justice system and the network of state forums.

FNPETI also submitted an Alternative Report to the 99th Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, highlighting persistent gaps in Brazil’s response to child labour, including underreporting, weaknesses in public policy implementation and the continued prevalence of the worst forms of child labour. The Forum called for stronger inspection, social protection, education and income-generation policies, improved data systems, and sustained investment in prevention and eradication efforts.

A significant area of work in 2025 was addressing emerging forms of child labour in digital environments. FNPETI published a technical note examining the growing involvement of children and adolescents as influencers, content creators, gamers and digital entrepreneurs, highlighting how monetisation, regular content production and economic expectations can create new forms of labour exploitation. It also contributed to a public position on the impacts of children's exposure to digital environments, connecting adultification, online exposure and child labour and calling for

stronger accountability and protection mechanisms. Alongside this, FNPETI continued to strengthen national and regional mobilisation, including campaigns around 12 June, engagement with the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labour, contributions to the 2025 Civil Society Spotlight Report on the SDGs, and support to the network of state and district forums. Together, these efforts reinforced FNPETI's role in keeping child labour high on Brazil's policy agenda while adapting advocacy and protection strategies to new and evolving forms of exploitation.

CESIP – Peru

CESIP focused on awareness, advocacy, youth participation and community action to prevent child labour in Peru.

- Recognised by Peru's Ministry of Labour as the best civil society organisation working to prevent and eradicate child labour.
- Ran World Day Against Child Labour campaigns, including urban interventions, school activities, forums and social media campaigns.
- Produced five awareness videos addressing child labour, education and public policy.
- Conducted youth leadership and advocacy workshops in Cusco, including work with Quechua girls and adolescents.
- Trained public officials on preventing trafficking and exploitation of children.
- Partnered with the Global March on an advocacy campaign linked to the 2026 Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour.

Education international

In 2025, Education International (EI) and its member education unions demonstrated the power of quality public education, teacher leadership and community mobilisation in tackling child labour. Through Child Labour Free Zone initiatives implemented by 15 education unions across 11 areas in eight African countries, more than 5,700 children were brought out of child labour and into school during 2024–2025, while more than 850 teachers and school leaders were trained and 11 Child Labour Free Zones were established or expanded. The approach goes beyond addressing school fees:

teachers are equipped to identify children at risk, engage parents and local authorities, challenge harmful social norms, and strengthen school environments. Reported results include increased enrolment, improved attendance and academic performance, as well as reductions in child marriage and teenage pregnancy in programme areas. In Malawi, for example, average attendance rose from 68% to 86% while dropout fell from 14% to 5%; in Zimbabwe and Uganda, enrolment in target areas increased by 20.6% and 27%, respectively.

The experience was reinforced by an independent 2025 evaluation of the Child Labour Free Zone approach, which assessed interventions in Malawi and Uganda using qualitative and quantitative methods, including field visits, stakeholder interviews and document analysis. The evaluation found the community-based approach to be highly effective in transforming communities, reinforcing the value of combining teacher training, trade union engagement, community mobilisation and social dialogue rather than relying solely on financial support to return children to school.

EI also continued to elevate the link between child labour and the right to education through international advocacy, culminating in its engagement at the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Marrakech. EI welcomed the Marrakech Global Framework for Action and emphasised that eliminating child labour requires free, compulsory and quality public education, adequately funded schools, supported teachers, social protection and meaningful social dialogue.

SAN: Nepal

In 2025, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN) strengthened Nepal's child labour governance through policy advocacy, technical support and multi-stakeholder coordination at federal, provincial and local levels. SAN worked with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security to advance the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Bill, 2081, bringing together 41 stakeholders from eight federal ministries, trade unions, development partners and the private sector. SAN also led the development and validation of a Strategic Plan of Action on the Elimination of Child Labour in Agriculture, responding to the concentration of child labour in agriculture, and provided technical support for a five-year provincial action plan in Bagmati Province. The organisation further supported national preparations for the Sixth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, including civil society consultations and an innovation fair showcasing local solutions.

At the local level, SAN translated policy into action by supporting the expansion of Child Labour Free Zones across 32 municipalities in four provinces, contributing to the declaration of Ward No. 5 of Kageshwori Manohara Municipality as child labour-free, and strengthening evidence-based planning in Bakaiya Rural Municipality. Capacity-building remained central, with 20 government officials trained as master trainers on occupational safety and health and hazardous pesticide exposure, 52 agriculture and extension officers trained on child labour risks and sustainable agriculture, and 48 municipal staff equipped to implement child labour elimination action plans. Together, these efforts strengthened the capacity of government and local actors to prevent hazardous child labour, particularly in agriculture, while building the systems and evidence needed for sustained, child-labour-free communities.



Nascent RDO-U

In 2025, Nascent RDO-U made significant progress in addressing child labour and exploitation in Karamoja by tackling both the economic vulnerabilities of families and the community-level drivers of exploitation. Through the COLLECT programme, 587 children were withdrawn from or prevented from child labour, while 2,100 people were reached through behaviour change campaigns. More than 105 young parents strengthened their livelihoods through Village Savings and Loan Associations, while 20 men and 85 women—including 85 young mothers—received support to establish income-generating activities such as retail businesses, cereal banking and goat rearing. Five Parent Care Support Groups also supported 50 caregivers through parenting, psychosocial and economic support, helping 12 children previously living on the streets return to formal primary education.

The programme also strengthened community-led child protection and advocacy. Forty community actors were trained to identify, report, refer and respond to child protection risks, contributing to the withdrawal or prevention of child labour and the reporting of cases of child marriage, sexual violence and trafficking. In parallel, Nascent RDO-U supported research with the ILO and Freedom Fund to deepen understanding of the drivers of child labour and exploitation in Uganda, bringing community experiences from Karamoja into district and national child rights advocacy. Looking ahead, the programme plans to scale the Full Hotspot Programme from two existing hotspots in Moroto to nine hotspots across Moroto and 12 in Amudat, strengthening community-led protection and household resilience.

Bangladesh Labour Foundation (BLF)

In 2025, Bangladesh Labour Foundation (BLF) strengthened efforts to eliminate child labour in Bangladesh's informal RMG sector, particularly in Keraniganj, combining direct workplace action with worker organising, awareness, advocacy and stronger government engagement.

A total of 118 children were withdrawn from 114 factories, while 10 towers were declared child-labour-free and a further four applied for recognition. Child-labour-free commitments were displayed in 348 factories, with 234 factory owners committing against child recruitment. BLF also supported the establishment of 30 Child Labour Elimination Committees, strengthened workplace safety across 68 towers, conducted 100 OSH awareness sessions and engaged around 600 workers through study circles. These efforts were reinforced through community mobilisation on World Day Against Child Labour and strengthened collaboration with DIFE, local authorities, trade unions, employers and the National Child Labour Monitoring Council.

At the national level, BLF contributed to policy reform and evidence-based action, including through a national dialogue on implementing the Labour Reform Commission's recommendations and its participation in the Government's National Executive Committee on Child Labour Elimination. Research conducted with GoodWeave International and the University of Nottingham's Rights Lab examined risks of child labour, forced labour and modern slavery across Bangladesh's RMG supply chains, drawing on research with more than 2,000 adult and minor workers across 20 industrial clusters. The findings informed recommendations for the National Plan of Action on Child Labour 2026–2030, including stronger prevention measures, supply-chain accountability and a comprehensive database for monitoring child and forced labour. The research and advocacy reached government, civil society, trade unions, UN stakeholders and wider audiences, strengthening the evidence base for a more coordinated and enforceable approach to eliminating child labour.

6. Other Updates and Events

Launch of a new Global March visual identity



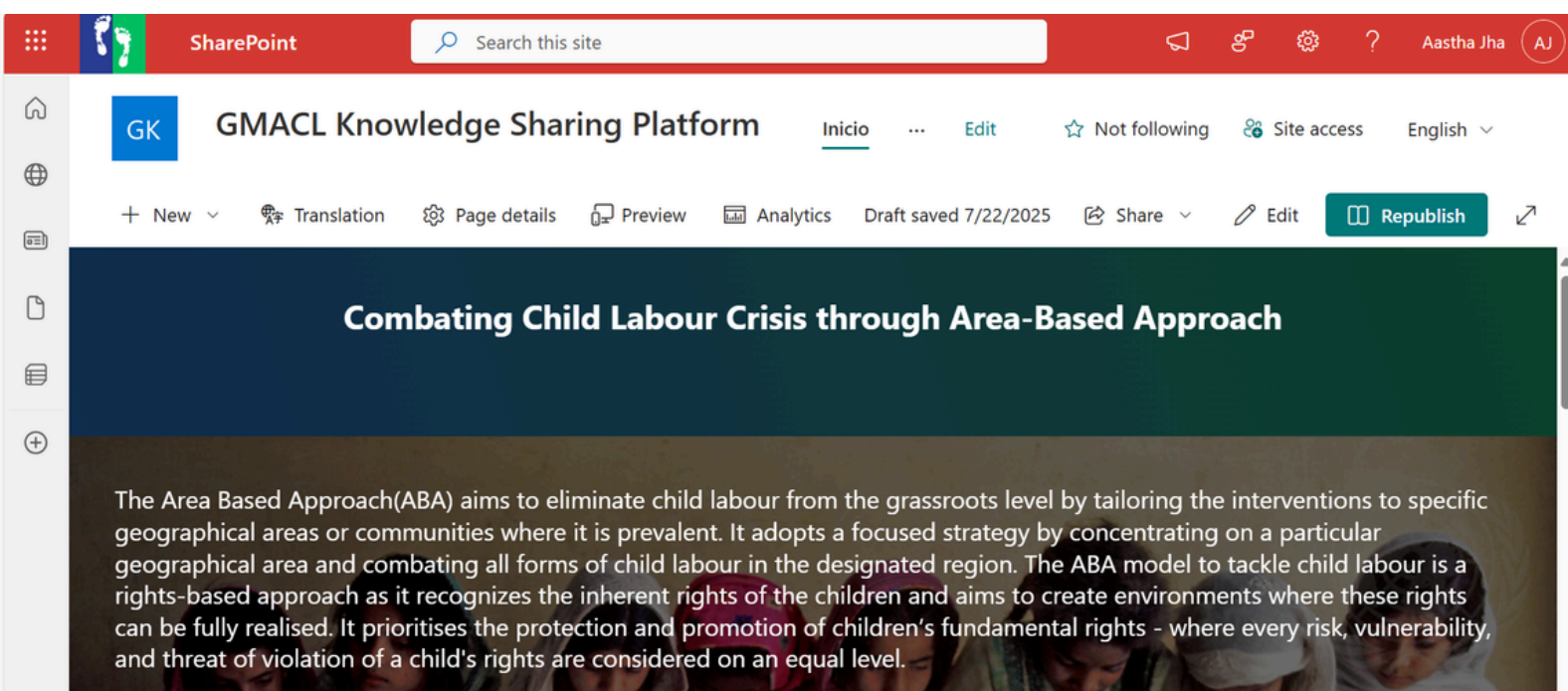
In 2025, Global March unveiled a reimagined visual identity that honours its legacy while signaling renewed purpose and collective action. The footprint remains at the heart of the identity as a reminder that current progress is built on the persistence of those who came before.

The renewed identity responds to a context of faltering progress towards SDG 8.7, shrinking humanitarian aid and narrowing civic space. It reflects three linked priorities: protecting children's rights amid rising global inequality; strengthening a unified and re-energised movement; and building stronger alliances, mobilising communities and influencing policy with greater urgency.

Launch of the Members' Knowledge Sharing Platform

Global March hosted two dedicated launch events for its Knowledge Sharing Platform, one in English and one in Spanish, to improve accessibility across the network.

- Connect members with tools and data for advocacy.
- Create space for professional exchange and regional dialogue.
- Amplify voices from the ground to global platforms.
- Support collaboration and coordination among members.

The image is a screenshot of a SharePoint web page. At the top is a red navigation bar with the 'SharePoint' logo, a search bar labeled 'Search this site', and user information 'Aastha Jha' with a profile icon. Below this is a dark blue header for the 'GMACL Knowledge Sharing Platform'. The header includes a 'GK' logo, the platform name, and navigation links: 'Inicio', 'Edit', 'Not following', 'Site access', and 'English'. A secondary bar contains various icons for 'New', 'Translation', 'Page details', 'Preview', 'Analytics', 'Draft saved 7/22/2025', 'Share', 'Edit', and a 'Republish' button. The main content area has a dark green background with the title 'Combating Child Labour Crisis through Area-Based Approach'. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text describing the Area Based Approach (ABA) and its goals. The text mentions that ABA aims to eliminate child labour by tailoring interventions to specific geographical areas and communities, adopting a rights-based approach that recognizes children's fundamental rights and aims to create environments where these rights can be fully realized. It also mentions that ABA prioritizes the protection and promotion of children's fundamental rights, where every risk, vulnerability, and threat of violation of a child's rights are considered on an equal level. The bottom of the image shows a blurred photo of children.

Worst Forms of Child Labour: Voices, Challenges and Pathways to Redress

Governments, employers, trade unions, civil society and UN entities convened to address the worst forms of child labour. The event was co-organised by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, with support from the UK, Alliance 8.7, Global March and ITUC.

The discussion examined factors putting children at risk of child labour, online sexual exploitation and forced recruitment in armed conflict, and highlighted the importance of education, social protection and labour rights. Global March Lead – Policy and Advocacy Gazal Malik emphasised the role of CSOs and trade unions in identifying hidden abuses and building sustainable alternatives.

ITUC Global Meeting on Child Labour

In September 2025, Global March participated in the ITUC Global Meeting on Child Labour in Brussels on 16–17 September as part of preparations for the Sixth Global Conference. Senior Director Marco Dubbelt and Lead – Policy and Advocacy Gazal Malik represented Global March.

The meeting addressed trade union–civil society collaboration, good practices and implementation of the Durban Call to Action. Global March and its members also engaged alongside Education International on decent work, public education, social protection and supply chain accountability.

Workshop: Best Practices to End Child Labour

Global March and the Ministry of Labour of Brazil co-organised an online workshop on effective labour inspection, Area-Based Approaches (ABA) and Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS). Drawing on Brazil's Special Mobile Inspection Group for Child Labour and Global March's experience with ABA, the session highlighted practical, community-rooted approaches.

The workshop underscored ABA and CLMRS as scalable tools to identify children at risk, support reintegration and address root causes, with collaboration among governments, CSOs, trade unions and the private sector.



New Members

New member: Nascent Research and Development Organisation (NRDO)

In 2025, Global March welcomed Nascent Research and Development Organisation (NRDO) as a new member. NRDO's field experience in Uganda's rural and agricultural communities highlights the importance of combining area-based and supply-chain approaches to address the inequalities that sustain child labour.

The organisation emphasises community commitment, education, child protection and social support alongside supply-chain accountability and sustainable livelihoods. It also highlights the need to challenge harmful social and gender norms and to ensure that poorer countries receive fair support to close persistent gaps.

MEL and Learning

Global March is integrating MEL processes to inform evidence-based design principles into our programming.

GMACL is integrating Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) processes to inform evidence-based design principles across our programming. This approach strengthens the link between evidence, learning and programme decision-making, ensuring that learning is used not only to assess what worked, but also to shape how programmes are designed and adapted.

Lessons Learned: From Endline Learning to Adaptive Management

Endline evaluations generated strong, credible evidence on what worked. However, there was limited evidence that these findings reached programme decision-making before projects ended, rather than only informing final reporting.

Going forward, GMACL will strengthen the use of quarterly Learning & Decision Reviews, linking learning directly to live programme decisions and supporting more adaptive management.

Looking Ahead

The 2025 Annual Report reflects a year in which Global March strengthened its collective direction while responding to a difficult global environment. The launch of the 2025–2030 strategy, the new visual identity and Knowledge Sharing Platform, and the network's extensive engagement in preparations for the 6th Global Conference all point towards a stronger focus on coordinated, community-led and accountable action.

As the movement moves into 2026, the network's work will continue to centre the experiences of children, youth, survivors, communities, civil society and workers, while pushing for stronger commitments to education, social protection, decent work, accountability and the elimination of child labour.