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ENDING CHILD  
LABOUR IN THE  
PANDEMIC



# ANNUAL REPORT

# *Making an impact amidst the pandemic:* **LOOKING BACK BUT GOING FORWARD**



2020 was a challenging and unsettling year. The world witnessed the biggest health crisis of the past 100 years with the advent of COVID-19, leading to countless deaths and seemingly unsurmountable challenges for people across all strata of society.

Vulnerable people, already living on the margins found themselves in a grave situation. The pandemic rendered millions of people hungry, unemployed and inaccessible, and pushing children out of schools and into child labour.

Nevertheless, while the world ground to a halt, the Global March and its member organizations grappled with the crisis. Within days of the World Health Organisation's declaration of a pandemic, Global March and its members across Asia, Africa, Latin America geared up to provide assistance to the vulnerable children and their families, rendered helpless and hungry by the lockdowns implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The Global March network provided critical support to families and children through health care, rationing, masks and sanitisers, education support, COVID-19 awareness along with proven child protection measures. Besides being at the front lines during the most pressing times of the year, the Global March network continued to rally support and conducted regular virtual dialogues on understanding the impacts of the pandemic on child labour and finding solutions to undo the risk of a reversal of the progress made so far.

The Global March's commitment to fighting for children's right to be free and educated has never been postponed or paused and in the decades to come, we will continue to work for the world's most vulnerable children, no matter the crisis. The impact we achieved together in 2020 - thanks to your support - is brought to light through this annual report.

As a long-standing patron or as a new supporter of Global March's work, we hope you will enjoy learning about the impact we made in 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'TR' or similar initials, written in a stylized, cursive manner.

Timothy Ryan  
Chairperson  
Global March Against Child Labour (elected for second term)

2020:

## IMPACT AT A GLANCE



### ***Celebrating* LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT**

ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour universally ratified



### ***Responding to* EMERGENCIES**

21 country members of Global March responded to COVID-19 challenges and needs of communities across Asia, Africa and Latin America.



### ***Protecting & mobilising* COMMUNITIES**

4 country programmes in Asia

2 country programmes in Africa



### ***Advocating against* CHILD LABOUR**

12 events, meetings, webinars and dialogues held for advocating against child labour

2 private sector engagement meetings



### ***Researching* REALITY**

6 publications released including researches, policy briefs, position papers, surveys and approach papers



### ***Strengthening* POLITICAL WILL & *Raising* AWARENESS**

Efforts taken by 4 MPs to protect and promote child rights.

12 articles written and disseminated by Board members, members and staff for raising awareness on child labour amidst the pandemic.





## *Celebrating* **LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT**

### Global March celebrates the Universal Ratification of ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour

On 4 August 2020, in a historic move, Tonga, an archipelago of more than 170 islands in the South Pacific, ratified the International Labour Organisation's Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Tonga's ratification makes Convention 182 the only universally ratified convention in ILO's history. Convention 182 is the result of steady and sustained international advocacy by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi who founded the Global March Against Child Labour in 1998 that brought together more than 7 million people, 2000 institutions and former child labourers to call for this Convention and the end to child labour.

The success of the march resulted in the unanimous adoption of the convention in June 1999, the first step in the process of ratification. It was first ratified by Seychelles in September 1999 and today, after more than 22 years, Tonga is the 187th member State and the last to ratify it.

The ratification holds great significance as it reflects member states' commitments to end child labour. Each ratifying country is now bound under international law to align its national policies and practices to the requirements of the convention, along with reporting regularly to the ILO regarding its implementation.



Since the adoption of the convention, the Global March Against Child Labour and Kailash Satyarthi, have been advocating for its Universal ratification through numerous dialogues at world platforms with global leaders, country governments and their heads of state, supporting civil society in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as promoting the voices and participation of former child labourers at the local and global level.

Mr. Satyarthi has time and again emphasised the need for accountability and efficient implementation of Convention 182, by strengthening national administrative systems, allocating optimum budgets to national laws and policies prioritising children and their wellbeing. His tireless blend of activism, dialogue and deep compassion led the ILO to declare June 12th as the World Day Against Child Labour.'

On this momentous occasion, Mr. Satyarthi congratulated the people and governments of the 187 countries, especially Tonga and the ILO. Reminiscing the 1998 March and observing this victorious day, he remarked, "Today marks the victory of the millions of children and activists who marched across 103 countries and 80,000 km as part of the Global March against Child Labour. In 1998, as thousands of survivors and young people joined me to the lead the largest every mobilisation against child labour in the world, my children De Lucia, Kokhan, Govind, Sokuntia, and Joanna stood on the dais of the 86th Session of the International Labour Conference and demanded the international law whose universal ratification we celebrate today. Today's celebration is dedicated in gratitude to each one of them and is grounded in their legacy of freedom. I take this opportunity to congratulate the people and governments of the 187 countries who have made ILO Convention No.182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour the fastest and only universally ratified ILO convention in history, especially Tonga. I also congratulate the ILO on this historic day." Watch the congratulatory message by Mr. Satyarthi [here](#)



Celebrating this achievement and reinforcing this commitment, Global March Against Child Labour's Chairperson, Mr. Timothy Ryan, remarks "The quest of the Global March to push countries to adopt and ratify ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour has reached a milestone – the most ratified ILO Convention in history and the only one with every country as a signatory. But the quest isn't over yet – the Global March calls on all countries and companies to redouble their efforts to eliminate child labour and do so by 2025 – the commitment the world agreed to under the Sustainable Development Goals. Governments and businesses who are sincere and committed to this critical outcome can count on the full support and partnership of the Global March Against Child Labour to accomplish a child-labour-free world."



## Responding to ***EMERGENCIES***

Amidst the pandemic, Global March members swiftly responded to the needs, challenges and hardships faced by vulnerable children and their families.

*With imposed lockdowns across the world making difficult to carry our programmes on the ground, in spite of the challenges, Global March and its members responded actively to support communities and children with masks, hygiene kits, education materials, food supplies, along with tools to prevent gender-based violence.*



### **Global March Network's Response to COVID-19**

When COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic and spread swiftly around the world, Global March and its network members began mobilising a global response reaching out to hundreds of people across 21 countries.

Guided by the will to support the neediest and marginalised communities, Global March members went out of the way to support populations living on the brinks of society especially children to ensure they continue their education even though the schools were closed. Global March members also supported those who worked in informal economies and were rendered jobless and helpless due to lockdowns. For example, in Argentina Global March member, Confederación de Trabajadores de la Educación de la República Argentina” (CTERA), the national teachers’ union confederation, has developed a series of educational resources and materials accessible to students, teachers and families to support distance learning via the “Seguimos Educando” (Let’s Keep Teaching) platform.



CTERA also worked on television and radio programming as well as printed booklets and materials to reach out to those without digital access. In Costa Rica, Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional-Costa Rica (DNI) initiated several campaigns related to violence, prevention of sexual abuse, tips on how to talk about COVID-19 to children and taking care of emotional wellbeing as well as different resources for learning.



In India, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) linked 3000 families with government schemes for ration supply and has provided more than 8000 cooked meals, 5000 grocery kits and 2500 protective masks to daily wage earners, migrant labourers as well as children of underprivileged families who have lost all income sources. In Nepal, Swatantrata Abhiyan (SAN) along with other networks of organisations working for child rights submitted a 14 point appeal letter to the Government of Nepal through the Ministry of Planning as well as the Ministry of Children, Women and Senior Citizen on prioritising the needs of children while implementing Covid19 responses in the country. In Sri Lanka, Centre for Children's Happiness (CCH) engaged in relief work in the Jaffna region providing essential items to 340 families and their children in 8 division



In Togo, WAO Afrique along with members of the Parliamentarians Sans Frontières (PSF Togo- the country chapter of PWB) provided 100 children with food kits and protective safety equipment and conducted awareness-raising amongst this extremely vulnerable community to explain to them the facts of the virus, the current situation and its potential impact on their lives. In Kenya, Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union (KPAWU) identified vulnerable and hungry street children in Nakuru county in Kenya and served 600 street children with food and essential supplies.



For more information on Global March network's response towards COVID-19, read [here](#).



## Protecting & Mobilising *COMMUNITIES*

Amidst the pandemic, Global March members continued protecting children and mobilising communities through programmatic interventions and advocacy campaigns against child labour with a gender responsive approach.

Even though the year 2020 was marked by disruption and change with COVID-19 aggravating the livid realities for the most vulnerable communities around the world, what did not change was our extraordinary support to the people we work with and our strengthened advocacy movement against child labour.

As the pandemic has risked the reversal of the progress made so far to end child labour, Global March continually confronted the impacts of this crisis, while also fighting to change the systems that make those impacts worse for vulnerable children and their families, through its programmatic and advocacy interventions across Asia, Africa and Latin America.





## Country Programmes

With pandemic lingering in the background throughout 2020, Global March continued its advocacy work against child labour with gender-responsive approaches across Asia and Africa with the support of Girls Advocacy Alliance and Bread for the World.

As the pandemic slowly showed its differential effects on populations across the world, children especially girls were found to be the most disadvantaged. To ensure negative impacts of the pandemic were reduced for the most vulnerable, Global March members continued raising their voices on the potential risk of an increase in child labour by mobilising multi-stakeholders as well as communities, creating a global movement against child labour, much stronger than before, amidst COVID-19 crisis.

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

### Asia

*In 2020, Global March supported country programmes across 4 countries- Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The programmes were implemented by Global March members- Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (Bangladesh), Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (Nepal), Grassroot Organisation for Human Development (Pakistan) and Centre for Children's Happiness (Sri Lanka). The programmes across these countries focussed on engaging different stakeholders including civil society and government in policy advocacy dialogues to protect children and their families from negative effects of COVID-19; engaging youth and former child labourers to voice their concerns; mobilising communities to prevent child marriage and children entering into child labour; and promoting the establishment of structures to address child rights violations. Below are some signs of positive changes observed in 2020, that show us the unprecedented efforts taken by stakeholders to ensure children are protected and nurtured amidst the pandemic:*

### **Bangladesh**

*Under the Girls Advocacy Alliance, Global March member, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) conducted policy advocacy dialogues on child labour and carried out community-level interventions to prevent and raise awareness on the issue. Below are some signs of change and efforts taken by BSAF under this initiative in 2020:*

- BSAF organised a follow-up meeting with the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) on the issues of child labour and child rights, which was attended by 40 participants including MPs, CSOs and journalists. The outcome of the meeting was the commitment shown by MPs to establish a separate Directorate for Children and ensure proper utilisation of the Child Rights Budget.

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment included BSAF in a core committee for reviewing the National Plan of Action (NPA) of the National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010. Further during the meeting of the National Plan of Action on Child Labour's Revision Committee, BSAF got the opportunity to include some recommendations and advocacy issues related to child labour in the new NPA which will be effective from 2021-2025
- BSAF's community member organisations Manob Unnayan Kendra (MUK), Nari o Shishu Kallayan Sangstha (NSKS) and Ladies Organization for Social Welfare (LOFS) were able to monitor the situation of child labour, child trafficking and child marriage in spite of restrictions on gatherings and movement in the country, and as a result, MUK successfully prevented 10 child marriages and took a vow from the parents of 15 child labourers that they will allow their children to go back to school once the school will open.
- To promote children's participation on the matters concerning them such as child rights and child labour and impact of COVID-19 BSAF organised a TV talk show in the Child Rights Week giving an opportunity to 2 former child labourers from different sectors along with an MP and representatives from CSOs. During the talk show, children shared their experiences as child labourers and expectations from the government for their wellbeing and development. Such an engagement with children provided a spotlight on the issue of child labour and made a long lasting impact on the audience



*Under Bread for the World supported programme, Global March has begun a three-year intervention titled "Addressing Child Labour in Agricultural Supply Chains, Global to Local" wherein Global March is engaging its member, BSAF to understand the ground realities of child labour in the shrimp supply chain in Bangladesh. The programme also aims to advocate for the establishment of school feeding programmes to address the food security issue amongst the vulnerable populations (especially children) further exacerbated by COVID-19. Below are some efforts taken under this programme in Year 1 of the project in 2020:*

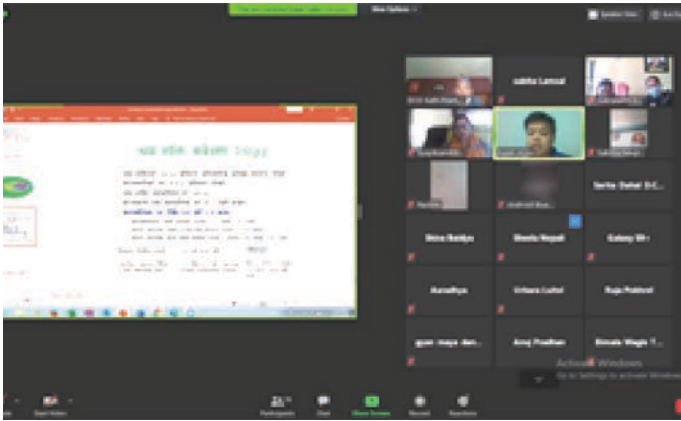
- BSAF carried out a mapping and analysis of child labour and associated stakeholders in shrimp fry collection in the targeted Upazila (sub-district) of Bangladesh from October 2020 to December 2020. The purpose of this activity was to find out the real scenario of child labour engaged in the shrimp supply chain and the perception of different associated stakeholders regarding child labour issues in the sector. The mapping also studied the impact of COVID 19 on the target areas and communities (children, families and companies) as well as on the shrimp processing companies and exports through desk research and focussed stakeholder interviews, assessing their approach towards child labour.



- For advocacy on school feeding programmes in the selected Upazila, a mapping of the number of schools and the number of children enrolled and having access to school feeding programmes in the region was conducted to understand gaps and find avenues for advocacy with World Food Programme on the same.

## Nepal

- With the onset of COVID-19 in the country, SAN and other CSOs prepared an appeal to request the Federal Government, Provincial Government and the Local-level Government to sensitise and pay attention to addressing impacts of COVID – 19 nationwide lockdown on children. It also provided recommendations for the protection of children to be included in government policy and programs. SAN also produced a Joint Appeal to Ministry of Labour Employment and Social Security to address the issue of child labour and for protection of their families.
- Global March member, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN) carried out a data collection drive with the support of Domestic Workers Forum (constituted by SAN) on the difficult situations faced by domestic workers due to the lockdowns. The information found was then communicated to the concerned government authorities at the Ward level, who in turn provided relief and food materials to domestic workers from 6 Wards.
- To continue lobby and advocacy work with the Parliamentarians in spite of restrictions on meetings due to COVID-19, SAN in collaboration with other CSOs used virtual seminars as an opportunity to keep this momentum alive. SAN organised 3 virtual seminars on "Discussion Meeting with Honorable Parliament Members of Province Assembly from 3 provinces- Province 5, Karnali and Bagmati Provinces." to advocate for the inclusion of children, women, human trafficking and workers issues in the upcoming policy and programs statement and budget of the provinces. Such an event showed the commitment from the side of MPs, who along with managing COVID-19 health-related and other challenges within their constituencies were continuing to pay attention to the issues of children, women and workers.
- Bachpan Bachao Aandolan (BBA) from India, Backward Society Education (BASE) and SAN from Nepal organised an "Indo-Nepal Dialogue on Trafficking of Children Across Borders" on Human Rights Day, 10th December 2020. The Indo-Nepal dialogue brought together multiple stakeholders including law enforcement officials, civil society organizations, child survivors and research institutions from both countries. The dignitaries present took a pledge to work collectively towards ironing out the roadblocks in the repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of cross-border trafficking. They pressed on the urgent need for governments in both India and Nepal to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which may be designed in a manner similar to the MoU signed by India and Myanmar on bilateral cooperation for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons.



***Sri Lanka***



- Witnessing a rise in domestic violence cases during the pandemic, CCH established a Child Protection and Development Unit at Jaffna Teaching Hospital by CCH, through which child abuse cases can be reported and required additional facilities to the children can be provided. A legal desk was also established for conducting free legal consultation with vulnerable children and women. By end of 2020, a total of 11 cases were reported and were provided with legal support through the legal support desk.
- CCH also conducted a consultation meeting with Juvenile Court Judge and requested some facilities to be improved in the court premises. As a result, a special child-friendly space was created at the children's court.



## **Africa**

*In 2020, Global March supported country programmes across 2 countries in Africa- Malawi and Uganda. The programmes were implemented by Global March members- People Serving Girls at Risk (Malawi), National Organisation of Trade Unions- NOTU (Uganda) and ANPPCAN Uganda (Uganda). The programmes across these countries focussed on engaging different stakeholders including civil society, government and businesses in policy advocacy and engagement dialogues to protect children and their families from negative effects of COVID-19 and human rights violations; along with studying the ground realities of child labour in supply chains and the impacts of COVID-19 on child labour. Below are some signs of positive changes observed in 2020, that show us the unprecedented efforts taken by stakeholders for promoting policy advocacy against child labour:*

## **Malawi**

- People Serving Girls at Risk (PSGR) carried out a policy advocacy programme in Malawi to engage and advocate with the political leadership to prioritise the issue of child labour in COVID-19 response in the realization of SDG Target 8.7 as part of Pathfinder country strategy and other national plans. For the same, PSGR mobilized 4 child rights organisations based in Blantyre and consulted 2 organizations in Salima District to create key advocacy asks for the government and raise awareness. To raise awareness on the issue of child labour amongst masses, civil society and the governments, PSGR produced T-shirts, posters, flyers and a banner.

- PSGR also conducted two separate meetings with the management of Salima Sugar Company and with 2 associations of cane growers, cane cutters, to apprise them on the issue of child labour and get their support in its eradication as children are used in their work. PSGR raised their awareness on the national and international laws and also lobbied the company to play a role in cooperate social responsibility especially targeting helping children in COVID-19 pandemic.
- PSGR also conducted meetings with Members of Parliament, Ward Councillors and many district level officers to discuss the ground realities of children amidst COVID-19. The meeting was successful as they accepted to relook at the current budget as per PSGR's recommendation, along with including budgets for increasing awareness on child labour, psychosocial support and reintegration of vulnerable children. The Members of Parliament committed themselves to lobby for more funding during committee stages of debate on the national budget.
- PSGR carried out meetings with the Ministry of Labour who shared its plan to convene a national stakeholder's meeting to develop the National Strategy on Achieving Target 8.7 as a Pathfinder Country. Further, the Labour Commissioner told the meeting that the government of Malawi is committed to creating Labour Free Zones and called on PSGR and everyone to undertake every effort to contribute to the realisation of this vision.
- PSGR also rescued 33 children from domestic work, 21 children from sex trafficking in beer drinking places and brothels, 9 from streets, and 5 children who just came themselves to PSGR offices looking for food and to be taken back home.

## Uganda

*Under Bread for the World supported programme, Global March has begun a three-year intervention titled "Addressing Child Labour in Agricultural Supply Chains, Global to Local" wherein Global March is engaging its Ugandan members, NOTU and ANPPCAN Uganda in understanding the ground realities of child labour in coffee supply chain and advocating with the private sector and the government to make it free of child labour. Below are some activities carried out in Year 1 of the project in 2020:*

- NOTU and ANPPCAN carried out a baseline survey in 6 districts of Mt. Elgon (Bugisu) Sub - Region of Uganda. These include Bududa, Bulambuli, Manafwa, Mbale, Namisindwa, and Sironko. The survey was undertaken to identify project stakeholders, establish push and pull factors of child labour, find plausible interventions and assess the existing social protection service providers and safety nets in Mt. Elgon (Bugisu) Sub - Region, along with studying the impacts of COVID-19 on child labour in the coffee farming communities. The survey also studied the awareness of communities, government support and social protection measures, impact on education and family life and checked on violation of any child and human rights.





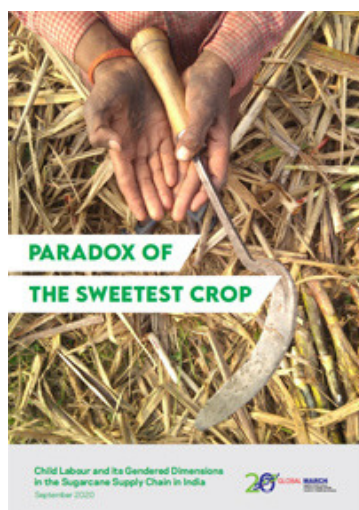
- NOTU and ANPPCAN also held meetings with CSOs and coffee processing and export companies to apprise them of the preliminary findings of the survey and persuade them to support the cleaning of coffee supply chains in Uganda from child labour. As a result, two coffee companies (Kyagalanyi and Bugisu Cooperative Union) committed to compile and share the lists with contacts of the farmer's group in their supply chain who will be reached to spread awareness on child labour. Other 8 private coffee companies committed to compiling and sharing the lists of middlemen (informal private enterprises) who buy coffee from farmers and sell to companies for processing and export, who will be reached out for awareness-raising as well. Lastly, coffee export companies committed to sharing the details of their foreign coffee importing companies in Eurasia, who can be reached out for sharing information on our efforts against child labour in supply chains.
- NOTU also organised a meeting with 2 MPs of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children (UPFC), where it shared the project goals and objectives and findings of the mapping including the impacts of COVID-19 on child labour and the need to protect vulnerable children in coffee farming communities. Responding to the same, the MPs commented saying the project and the mapping were timely as it came at the time the Uganda Coffee Bill of 2018 had been passed by the Parliament in 2020, which needed dissemination and implementation. They pledged support towards the project for increasing protection measures for the Ugandan children along with supporting the consolidation of the sustainable Uganda coffee in the foreign market





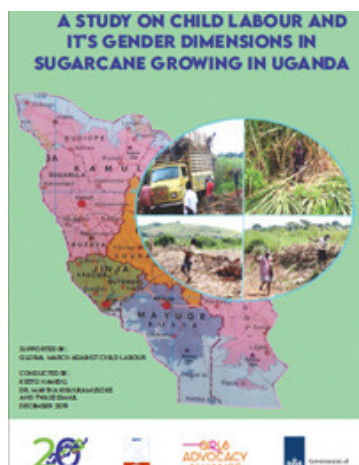
# Researching *REALITY*

Global March continued its work to understand the complex dynamics of child labour and the vivid realities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic through evidence based research and surveys in 2020.



Global March carried out research on the situation of child labour with a gender lens in sugarcane harvesting in India in 2019 and in 2020 the report was published in the public domain. The report is based on the fieldwork in four states, namely, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The focus of this report is to use evidence-based information to highlight the issue of child labour in the sugarcane sector within its key socio-economic intersections such as gender, caste, migration and structural inequalities in the Indian agriculture sector.

Read the full report [here](#).



Global March carried out research to study child labour and gender in sugarcane growing fields in Uganda. The study was carried out in Busoga region in eastern Uganda, in Jinja, Kaliro, Kamuli and Mayuge districts. and it investigated the fact that despite the urgency to tackle child labour in agriculture, the number of children engaged is unknown and the gendered challenges were even scantier.

Read the full report [here](#).



This policy brief pertains to the research on Child Labour and its Gender Dimensions in Sugarcane Growing in Uganda, particularly in the Busoga region, carried out in collaboration with Global March's local member, the National Organisation of Trade Unions (NOTU) and independent consultants. This brief highlights key findings, recommendations and calling for action.

Read the full brief [here](#).



Global March released its approach to tackling child labour in domestic and global supply chains. Global March's approach combines the 'whole of supply chain' action with community participation using best practices and advocacy at all levels.

Read the full approach [here](#).



In June 2020, Global March launched a survey called "COVID-19 and Child Labour Survey" asking its active civil society members in Africa, Asia and Latin America about their biggest concerns and challenges in their fight against child labour amidst the COVID-19 crisis. 40 Civil society organisations from 31 countries responded to the survey. After analysing the survey findings, unified advocacy asks of prioritising education, providing financial support to vulnerable families and ensuring there is no relaxation of child labour regulations and enforcement by governments emerged.

Read the full report [here](#).



Global March released a position paper explaining how this pandemic will increase child labour by adversely impacting access to education caused by school closures and disruption in global supply chains, local economies and the informal sector. The paper contains urgent asks for collective action from the civil society, governments, unions, businesses (employers), donors, inter-governmental organisations, and humanitarian aid organisations.

Read the full paper [here](#).





## Advocating against **CHILD LABOUR**

Advocating against child labour was critical more than ever in 2020. Global March and its network held dialogues, events and commemorated international days to bring spotlight on child labour aggravated by the pandemic.

### **Global Conference on Ending Child Labour in Supply Chains, The Netherlands**

On January 27-28, 2020, Leiden, The Netherlands, the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment organised a global conference on ending child labour in supply chains, in collaboration with Global March Against Child Labour, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).

The conference gave an opportunity to governments, NGOs, businesses and other stakeholders to share good practices, challenges, practical solutions and next steps to end child labour in supply chains by 2025 in line with SDG Target 8.7.

Global March also organised and participated in two break-out sessions. The first session was on Doing Due Diligence and the second on The Role of Business in Remediation – Making an Impact in the Informal Sector. Read more [here](#).



## World Day Against Child Labour 2020

Global March virtually commemorated World Day Against Child Labour 2020, in collaboration with the ILO on the theme of COVID-19's impact on child labour. Youth advocates and children formerly in child labour put forward their demands for protecting vulnerable children and families amidst the pandemic through videos, which were disseminated by Global March and ILO through social media.

A high-level virtual debate was also organised on the occasion of the World Day, attended by our founder and Nobel Peace Laureate, Mr Kailsh Satyarthi, who demanded a fair share of COVID-19 response aid for the world's most marginalised and vulnerable children.



## Alliance 8.7 Meetings

Global March participated in the 7th (19 May 2020), 8th (22 July 2020) and 9th (28 October 2020) Global Coordinating Group (GCG) virtual meetings of the Alliance 8.7 where Global March gave the following inputs:

- for creating more space for civil society in the Alliance e.g. co-leading action groups, being systematically invited to pathfinder workshops, having visibility in global and regional events organized by the Alliance
- called for identifying strategies by current and aspiring pathfinder countries and including GCG focal points in its implementation.
- emphasised the importance of documenting practical examples of what works and what does not so that Pathfinder countries can use these experiences in their own works
- appealed to the pathfinder countries to use the expertise of the CSOs and trade unions and encouraged the Alliance and ILO to support these efforts.
- called for follow up to the commitments made at the Taking Next Steps event in Leiden in January 2020.

Global March is now also a member of the Alliance 8.7 Coordinating Group in India at the National level and Alliance 8.7 Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group at the International level, wherein it contributes to ensuring the CSO perspective on child labour and its cross-cutting issues such as gender and education are included in the Group's strategy for achieving SDG 8.7.

## High Level Political Forum Side Event: Virtual Dialogue On "Accelerating Child Labour Elimination Via Pathfinders: Tracking Good Practices & Progress"

Organised by the Global March Against Child Labour on July 15, 2020, along the sidelines of the United Nations High-level Political Forum, this dialogue was aimed at drawing inspiration from pathfinder countries such as Nepal, on how to accelerate the process of child labour elimination. The virtual event was attended by approximately 50 participants from the government and civil society of Nepal, Alliance 8.7 and the ILO with one key message for us that in order to eradicate child labour we must learn from each other, combine our efforts and take concrete actions.



## Dissemination of Findings on Child Labour and its Gendered Dimensions in Sugarcane Production in India and Uganda

The dissemination of India report was done virtually on August 13, 2020, and panelists from Global March, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation and Prayas Centre for Labour Research and Action reflected upon the findings, along with the participants. The Uganda report dissemination was held on October 15, 2020, in Kampala, Uganda, in an event organised with relevant stakeholders from the government and civil society. A total of 34 participants attended the event and Kalanda Ismail, Principal Labour Officer, represented the Commissioner of Labour's office.

## 8th Annual Freedom from Slavery Forum

The 2020 Forum, held between October 26-29, 2020, featured 27 presenters from governments, multilateral institutions, academia and civil society organisations and was themed "Opportunities in an Age of Adaptation". Global March participated in Day 2 of the forum themed "Strengthening Advocacy from Grassroots to Global". Our Senior Programme Manager, Deepika Mittal, spoke as a panellist along with Ms. Hillary Clinton and former US Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. shared with the audience the 22-year long journey of Global March of spearheading work on children's rights from the local to the global arenas.



To watch the full recording of the sessions, please visit [www.freedomfromslaveryforum.org](http://www.freedomfromslaveryforum.org).



## GAA Asia Regional Learning Event

Global March actively engaged at the Asia Regional Learning Event hosted by the Girl's Advocacy Alliance (GAA) on November 10, 2020, and facilitated a session titled "Empowering CSOs, Youth and Communities". This session informed the participants of the critical work of Global March in Asia in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Indonesia in ending child labour through persistent engagements with CSOs, communities and the youth.



## Webinar: Child and Adolescent Labour in the Pandemic: Effects and Challenges

Global March effectively contributed to a webinar under the #NiñezPrimero webinar series organized by the Tejiendo Redes Infancia on December 1, 2020. Global March Board Member, Virginia Murillo, and Senior Programs Manager of Global March, Marco Dubbeld joined the webinar as child labour experts and panellists to reflect upon the increased challenges in curbing child labour in the Latin American region due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the role businesses could play in preventing child labour in their supply chains.



## Global March Against Child Labour Rejects Statements by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

Global March and its Brazilian partner, FNPETI issued a statement in response to the remarks made by President Jair Bolsonaro in favour of child labour. Global March's statement was supported by all our members from the South American subregion, made up of organisations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru.

Read the full statement [here](#).

## COVID-19 and Access to Education for the Most Vulnerable: Recommendations on How Businesses Can Support

COVID-19 has brought education in 195 countries to an unsettling halt with an estimated 91% of the world's children out of school, 743 million of whom are girls. The impacts of school closures are multidimensional, ranging from the growing digital and learning divide to the increase in malnutrition and risk of child labour and most importantly, absence of a key safety net for millions of children. Global March drafted a set of recommendations for the business community to help address some of these challenges in the times of COVID-19. Read them [here](#).

## **FAO's Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)**

From April 27 to May 25, 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) held e-consultations to identify and document good practices in order to create a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to address child labour in agriculture. Global March also contributed and gave inputs on areas that can help address the issue of child labour in agriculture and its sub-sectors.

To read our recommendations, click [here](#).

## **Global March on the ILO International Advisory Board on Research**

In April 2020, Global March's Policy Research Coordinator, Ms. Gazal Malik was appointed as one of the advisory board members of ILO's international advisory board to provide technical and strategic guidance to the conduct of child labour and forced labour research. The Project International Advisory Board (IAB) will offer the MAP16 and R2A projects technical and strategic advice and guidance regarding child labour and forced labour statistics and research. It will also be a platform for research cooperation and dialogue on child labour and forced labour issues and will contribute to reinforcing a world community of researchers.



A photograph of three children, two boys and one girl, looking at a smartphone held by one of the boys. They are outdoors in a natural setting with trees in the background. The image is partially covered by a yellow banner on the left and a dark blue banner at the bottom.

## Strengthening *POLITICAL WILL*

To ensure children continue to be protected through laws and programmes and sufficient budgetary allocations, it is important to engage with policy makers. In 2020, MPs of our Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights (PWB) initiative supported the protection of children and their communities amidst the pandemic.

In 2020, when the pandemic was affecting one and all, some people were rendered helpless and vulnerable. In such situations, Members of Parliament who are representatives of the common people stepped up to support the needy and the people of their constituencies. Read below some of the efforts taken by members of the PWB:

### **Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, Bangladesh**

Barrister Shameem Patwary has been actively involved in relief work in his constituency and several community health clinics while spreading awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic through his social media handles and community outreach. He facilitated free ambulance service and PPEs among the people of his constituency and nearby areas. As a parliamentarian, he has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and state of health services being provided through regular visits and deliberation with the health staff. He has also raised funds for cash distribution among thousands of ultra-poor families of his constituency who had lost their source of livelihood because of the economic shutdown brought on by COVID-19 pandemic. Barrister Shameem also participated in the Youth Policy Forum's politician's panel to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, where he suggested that students should be given interest-free loans or direct cash transfers and more of the education budget should be allocated to developing technical skills in the youth to combat the problem of unemployment.





## Aravindh Kumar Arunachalem, Sri Lanka

Upon his re-election from Badulla district as a Member of Parliament in 2020, Mr Arunachalem spent some time touring his constituency, thanking people and understanding their issues. In the parliamentary sessions, he raised issues related to higher education such as the hiring of teachers, creating more permanent positions for teachers and developing infrastructure. He continued raising funds for the relief items such as dry groceries for the population whose livelihood is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. He met with the Governor of their province to discuss issues related to the welfare of the people of his constituency in November 2020.



## Sarah Ahmed, Pakistan

Ms Sarah Ahmad is a member of Parliament and an active chairperson of the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) of the Punjab province in Pakistan. Ms Ahmed continued her campaign and rescue operations against the child beggary mafia. She rescued over 100 children. Ms Ahmed reached out to hundreds of families that are forced to send their children in begging due to extreme poverty and distributed groceries among them. She facilitated a number of collaborations with public figures to raise awareness on child rights and child sexual abuse and for providing improved facilities, including vocational training and skill development, for children being rehabilitated by the CPWB. She also reached out to the Chief Minister of Sindh province, offering technical assistance of CPWB in establishing shelter homes to accommodate & rehabilitate destitute & neglected children. The National Commission on the Rights of Child in Pakistan organised a webinar series on "Child Participation in Policy and Practise" in which Ms Sarah participated as a panellist and shared her experiences. She also facilitated a workshop meant for teachers to improve their communication with children to prevent and identify cases of child sexual abuse early.

## Ravi Prakash Verma, India

As an active Member of Parliament and an advocate of children's rights, Ravi Prakash Verma, a member of the Rajya Sabha of the Indian Parliament, continued raising issues related to children's health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. He raised concern over the situation of women and girls' safety and increasing violence against them in Uttar Pradesh and demanded preventative measures and strict action against the perpetrators.

During the Monsoon Session of the Indian Parliament, Mr Verma raised an important question regarding the state of migrant workers and their children who were affected by the sudden nationwide lockdown in India to curb the transmission of COVID-19. He also raised concern about the rising cases of child abuse after the coronavirus-induced lockdown. Mr Verma pointed out that over 92,000 cases of child abuse have been reported by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) during the first two phases of lockdowns. He demanded that children who are victims of abuse receive appropriate treatment, and local bodies to be held accountable to make children in India safer. He emphasised on child focused planning in governance as the need of the hour. He also spent time with children in his constituency encouraging them to work harder during exams and celebrating birthdays with them.





## Valuing **PARTNERSHIPS** & Raising **AWARENESS**

All that we do, is because of the support of our donors and patrons. In 2020, when movements were restricted, we were able to make impacts around the world and raise awareness virtually with a unified voice through social media, articles and posts.

Global March Against Child Labour would like to thank its institutional donors; Bread for the World and the Girls Advocacy Alliance for supporting our work across the world. We would also like to thank our individual donors who have supported our work through one time or recurring donations. Without them all, our work would not have been possible. We would also like to thank our Global March Partners & Volunteers, who helped us implement the project and come closer to realising our mission.

Global March has a supporter base of more than 7000 individuals from varied backgrounds. We also have 14640 people connected with us on Facebook and 5500 followers on Twitter, through whom we raise awareness on all the key issues of child rights especially, child labour, trafficking and education. We strive to keep our supporters informed and raise awareness on the issues through regular updates via e-mails, newsletters, social media platforms, our website, and the Annual Report.

In 2020, we produced and disseminated a number of articles written by the staff at the secretariat as well as network members and the Board Members. Read them below:

- Combating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains - Op-ed by Kailash Satyarthi ([Read here](#))
- 152 million reasons to end child labour by the year 2025 - Op-ed by Timothy Ryan ([Read here](#))
- Child marriage and child labour: Slavery is not dead in sugarcane ([Read here](#))
- The Virus and the Children - How Covid-19 will impact child labour — reflections towards World Day Against Child Labour 2020 ([Read here](#))
- The Pandemic in Peru: The Rights of Children and Adolescents in Crisis ([Read here](#))
- Homeless Children, Child Labour And the Onslaught of Covid-19 in Kenya ([Read here](#))
- The Tale of Two Extraordinary Women: Case of rescue from child labour in domestic work in Tanzania ([Read here](#))
- How COVID-19 is Playing with Street Children in Tanzania ([Read here](#))
- Effects of COVID-19 on Children in Ghana - Some Critical Thoughts ([Read here](#))
- Hearing the Silent Voices of Children in the Covid-19 Crisis: Reflections from Malawi ([Read here](#))
- No Safety in Sugarcane Town ([Read here](#))
- Indien hält bei der Kinderarbeit den traurigen Spitzenplatz (India Holds the Sad Top Spot in Child Labour) ([Read here](#))





Get **INVOLVED WITH US**

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

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

You can support us through the following ways:

- Support the Cause of Children: Your contributions can help us to raise the voices of the most marginalised and socially excluded children who have been exploited, trafficked, enslaved or kept out of school and work better towards the protection and promotion of their rights. Your support can be instrumental in providing a better future for children.
- Donate online at <http://globalmarch.org/get-involved/donate/>
- Volunteer or Fundraise: Interested in working on the ground and behind the scenes or to fundraise for the cause of out of school children and bring them back to school from exploitative places of work? Write to us at [info@globalmarch.org](mailto:info@globalmarch.org)
- Raise Awareness on Child Labour & Education: Anyone can raise awareness on the issue of child labour. You just need to tell people to not employ child labour at their home or workplace, raise questions with people who are employing child labour, or report a case to your nearby police station or ask the companies where their product comes from. You can also simply do your bit by sharing and liking our social media posts



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