

15

CELEBRATING FIFTEEN YEARS OF STOP CHILD LABOUR

1994
FIRST SPARKS

1997
DUTCH LOBBY
TAKES OFF

2000
ALLIANCE 2015

2003
FIRST EU GRANT

2004
SPIRIT OF
HYDERABAD

2006/2007
REGIONAL
HOTSPOTS

2006
EU CAMPAIGN
TO THE NEXT
LEVEL

2009/2010
COALITION
GROWS

2010
NEED TO
SCALE UP

2010-2014
OMAR'S DREAM

2013
INTERNATIONAL
VISIBILITY

2014 - 2017
LINKING CHILD
LABOUR FREE
ZONES TO
PRIVATE SECTOR

2017 - 2018
GETTING DOWN
TO BUSINESS

2017
PRESENCE IN
BUENOS AIRES

2018
15TH
ANNIVERSARY

A JOURNEY FULL OF HIGHLIGHTS AND LESSONS

AUTHOR:
SUZANNE HOEKSEMA



In 2018 Stop Child Labour celebrates its 15th anniversary. Worldwide Stop Child Labour and its partners have played and continue to play a crucial role in eliminating child labour and promoting formal quality education for all. By working closely with local communities and community-based organisations, Stop Child Labour has thus far been involved in creating 112 child labour free zones, demarcated areas – for example a village, neighbourhood, plantation or mining site – where everyone believes that ‘No child should be working, every child should be in school’.

In the past five years, Stop Child Labour removed and/or prevented more than 63,000 children from labour, and re-integrated them into the formal education system. Local and national governments are now using the same approach. Furthermore, Stop Child Labour is working with companies in various sectors (such as garments, natural stone and coffee) to ensure that supply chains are free of child labour.

‘Stop Child Labour – School is the best place to work’ is the full name of the coalition, which now consists of six Dutch NGOs and Trade Unions: Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland, Mondiaal FNV, Algemene Onderwijsbond (AOB), ICCO/Kerk in Actie, Arisa and Hivos. Stop Child Labour works together with local partner organisations worldwide. Stop Child Labour is coordinated by Hivos.

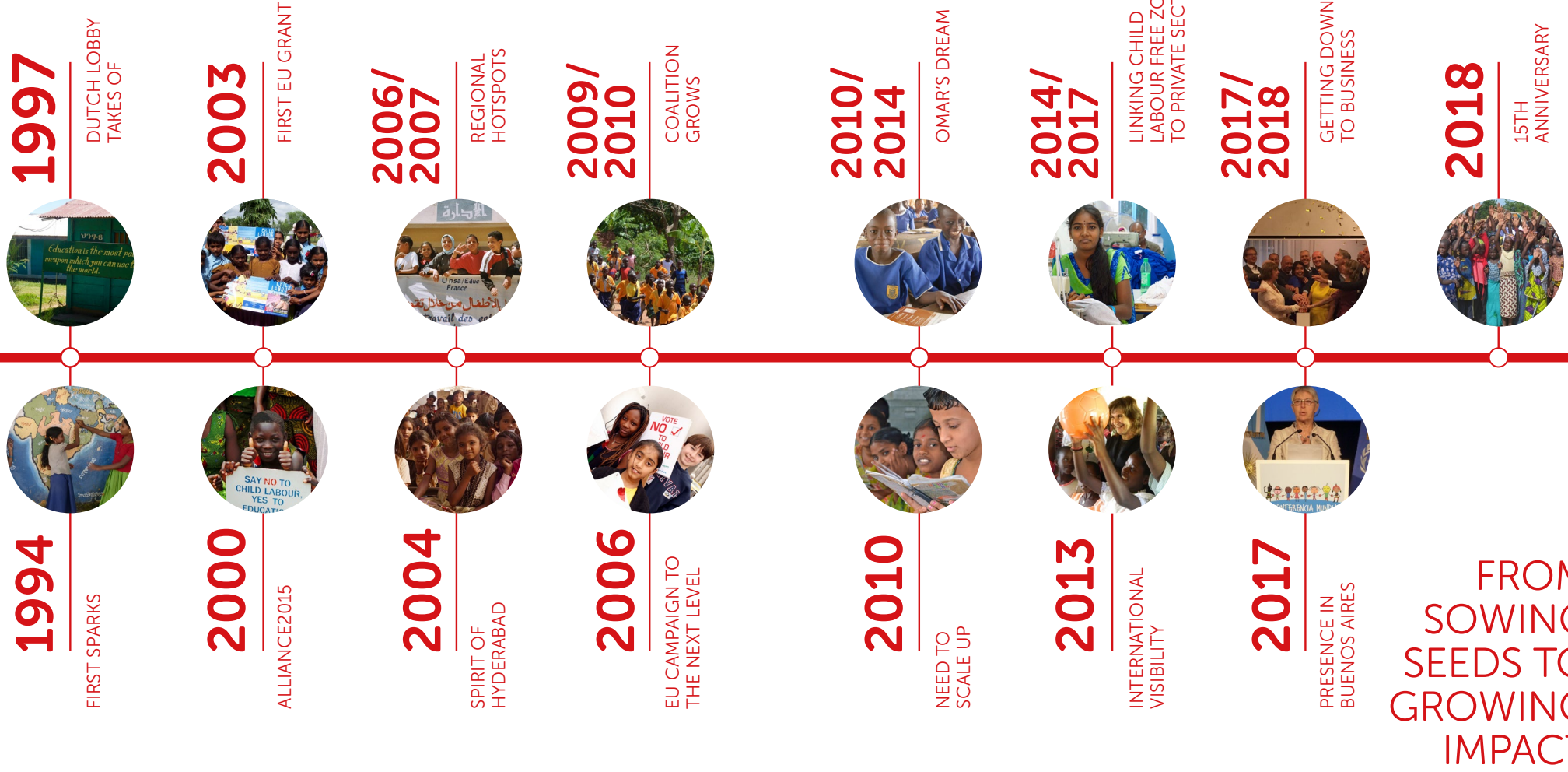
The overall vision of Stop Child Labour is: “No child should work. Every child has a right to education, to play and to enjoy his or her childhood. A world without child labour is possible if everyone abides by these principles. By working together, seemingly insurmountable challenges such as poverty and inadequate or inaccessible education can be overcome.”

The 15th anniversary is commemorated with a jubilee review, a series of videos and – of course – a celebratory conference. The jubilee review sheds light on a selection of achievements and lessons learned over the past fifteen years. It lists facts and figures, presents a timeline and shows the impact of key projects that the Stop Child Labour coalition has realised. We finish with fresh thoughts on what lies ahead.



कमल आसन छोड़ दे मा
देख मेरी बुर्दशा
मरिता बहा दे
ललिली

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



'Stop Child Labour – School is the best place to work' officially started as a Europe-wide campaign against child labour in 2003. However, the first sparks of change and collaboration were already observed in the early nineties. Over the past two decades, Stop Child Labour developed from a campaign into a coalition with worldwide programmes and multiple roles: funder, partner, inspirator,

implementer, lobbyist, watchdog, mentor, researcher and negotiator. Multiple external studies emphasise Stop Child Labour's unique selling point: its strong and clear message on the one hand and its adaptability to new circumstances on the other hand. Let's travel from Hyderabad to Kampala and see how a campaign matured into a movement to be proud of.

1994

FIRST SPARKS



A sense of urgency to act together against child labour emerges during various encounters between Dutch development organisations, trade unions and their Southern partners. In this era, MV Foundation in India, a partner of Hivos and FNV

Mondiaal, represents a new type of development work: rights-based, hands-on and lobby-savvy. In 1994 MV Foundation hosts a conference in Hyderabad to spread the message about the area-based approach to end child labour.

DUTCH LOBBY TAKES OFF



FNV, AOb and ICN work with the Ministry of Social Affairs to organise the Global Child Labour Conference in Amsterdam. They present 60,000 signatures to demand the government to link the promotion of primary education with child labour prevention.

2000

ALLIANCE 2015



© SCL/Hivos

European development NGO network is launched with Hivos as a member organization: Alliance2015. Hivos encourages the Alliance-members to start a Europe-wide campaign to raise awareness on child labour and education. Hivos takes the lead. Alliance members Concern Worldwide (Ireland), Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (Germany) and Ibis (Denmark) join Stop Child Labour.

2003

FIRST EU GRANT



© SCL/Hivos

Stop Child Labour – now represented by Arisa, AOb, FNV Mondiaal, Hivos and the European Alliance2015 members – submits a grant to the EU and receives funding for the first time. The Europe-wide campaign is officially launched. The priority is to influence the public and political opinion in the countries where the member organisations are rooted.

2004

SPIRIT OF HYDERABAD

© Eline Wijnen



VENKAT REDDY
DIRECTOR MV FOUNDATION

MV Foundation and Stop Child Labour organise the 'Out of Work and into School' conference in Hyderabad. NGOs and trade unions from all over India, Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America get together to learn from the experiences of MV Foundation and each other. The conference inspires organizations to try out the area-based approach in their own countries. MV provides technical guidance and on-the-job support.

"The Hyderabad conference in 2004 was a turning point in our journey. It was the first time so many people in India got together to speak about child labour. We really changed the way people thought and talked about child labour. MVF used to be a local organisation, and this conference took us to a global level. We didn't know how many people we should invite and Hivos said 200 would be enough. In the end registration went up to 5000! All the volunteers we had been working with also wanted to join. We asked the Indian Railway Company to give us discount to let all these volunteers travel to Hyderabad. And they did. They gave us 50% discount upon showing a voucher of registration for the conference. And the great thing was: the Railway Company had to give this order throughout all the railway stations in India, so the message reached all across the country."

REGIONAL HOTSPOTS

2006/2007



© Stop Child Labour

The Hyderabad conference is followed by exchange visits to Africa and Central America with child rights activists from Asia (led by MV Foundation) and teachers' union leaders from Albania and Morocco. Stop Child Labour organizes regional conferences in Honduras and Kenya. These events are eye-opening for both hosts and visitors. They see that the Indian example could also work in other contexts. Initial scepticism is replaced by excitement.

2006

EU CAMPAIGN TO THE NEXT LEVEL



The Stop Child Labour EU campaign is granted a follow-up. This time, Cesvi (Italy) and People in Need (Czech Republic) join the campaign as well. The Dutch coalition feels energized by the regional conferences and the enthusiasm of local organisations and starts supporting small pilot projects.

2009/2010

COALITION GROWS



HENK VAN ZUIDAM
KINDERPOSTZEGELS

"At first our partners in Ethiopia and West-Africa did not think much of the feasibility of the child labour free zone approach in Africa. They believed child labour was such a deep-rooted and 'normal' practice, that it would be too difficult to abolish it completely. The exchange visits really lit a spark. Once they had travelled to India to see how committed people managed to abandon child labour in their communities, they started to think: we can do this too. But in the African way, of course."

Stichting Kinderpostzegels and ICCO/Kerk in Actie, which had already participated in the exchange visits, join the Stop Child Labour coalition. They bring in new Southern partners (from Ethiopia, Mali and Kenya) and expertise on childhood development.

NEED TO SCALE UP



© SCL/Hivos



MARIO VAN LIJTENGAARDEN
MONDIAAL FNV

African and Latin American organisations that wish to scale up their area-based pilots to stop child labour in their intervention areas are invited for an exchange visit to India. They use this experience to develop concrete proposals. Stop Child Labour attends the ILO Global Child Labour Conference in The Hague with a large representation, including Southern partners, and manages to get the area-based approach and child labour free zones in the Outcome Document.

"Just prior to the 2010 ILO Global Child Labour Conference, we presented our findings about the correlation between child labour and decent work for adults based on input from trade unions and teachers' unions from 10 countries. I remember we were sitting in this small conference room, writing and re-writing our lines for the Outcome Document. We had prepared this very well in advance, also in harmony with the Global March against Child Labour and other NGOs. We were so proud that our message was included in the Outcome Document. For me this was a real lobby milestone for Stop Child Labour."

OMAR'S DREAM



© SCL/Hivos



ANDREWS ADDOQUAYE TAGOE
GENERAL AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS UNION

"As a trade union in agriculture we have employed different strategies over the past 17 years and have come to the realization that the integrated area based approach towards CLFZ is one of the most sustainable strategies that addresses root causes, empowers communities and ensures that systems are in place to address all forms of child labour whilst promoting decent work for all adults".

New grants open up space for new activities worldwide: a third EU project enables renewed lobby and advocacy with more focus on corporate social responsibility. The Postcode Lottery-funded programme, Omar's Dream, makes it possible to expand and deepen the child labour free zones throughout Africa.

INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY

© SCL/Hivos



TRUDY KERPERIEN
ALGEMENE ONDERWIJSBOND

Three international meetings take place that help boost the profile of Stop Child Labour: 1) the Stop Child Labour international conference in Kampala, 2) the Stop Child Labour regional conference in Managua and 3) the ILO Global Child Labour Conference in Brazil where Minister Ploumen mentioned the concept of child labour free zones in her key note speech as an effective approach to stop child labour.

"I remember the Kampala conference very well. Our Teachers Union partner from Morocco had managed to convince one of the representatives of the Moroccan Ministry of Education to attend this conference. Although he was skeptical at first, he really got his mind changed and returned with a great deal of enthusiasm."

LINKING CLFZ TO PRIVATE SECTOR

© Eline Wijnen



A new government-funded programme is designed: 'Out of Work and into School' to link Child Labour Free Zones to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and work together with companies to ensure child labour free production chains. Focus was on the hazelnut, textile, gold, natural stone, coffee and tea sectors. Projects are started up in Europe, Africa and Central America.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS



'Getting down to Business' is developed to consolidate the work with CSR initiatives and companies, specifically in the textile, leather/shoes, coffee, seeds, natural stone and gold sectors. Stop Child Labour becomes a key party to the Dutch Agreements in the textile, gold and natural stone sectors. The coalition takes part in and leads multi-stakeholder projects with Dutch private sectors, supported by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).

PRESENCE IN BUENOS AIRES



Stop Child Labour takes part in the ILO Global Child Labour Conference in Buenos Aires. The coalition makes a pledge to policymakers to support community-led, area-based initiatives in Africa, Asia and Latin America to tackle child labour. This pledge is underwritten by the Dutch government

representation that advocates for more support to projects such as child labour free zones. The joint lobby is successful: the importance of upscaling area-based, community-led interventions for eradicating child labour is recognized in the Final Declaration of the Global Child Labour Conference.

15TH ANNIVERSARY



SOFIE OVAA
PROGRAMME MANAGER
STOP CHILD LABOUR, HIVOS

After 15 years of Stop Child Labour we are proud to collaborate with more than 25 partner organizations around the world, all working with passion and commitment towards the creation of child labour free zones. 63.000 thousands of children have been withdrawn from child labour and are now able to go to school. We have seen change happen, not only in numbers of children going to school instead of work, but also in many other aspects of social-economic development.

"It has been very inspiring and rewarding to see how we have been able to develop from a European campaign with one partner organisation in India into a worldwide programme with partner organisations implementing the area-based approach towards creating child labour free zones in varied and diverse contexts. We see that it is indeed possible to get all children out of work and into school as long as we work together around the norm that 'no child should work – every child must be in school'. It is because of the strong commitment and tireless efforts of our partners and within communities that we have come so far. Together we can end child labour and bring about change in the communities and beyond, for the good of all, now and for the next generations."



SCOPE

14 COUNTRIES

KENYA
ETHIOPIA
BURKINA FASO
GHANA,
SENEGAL
MALI
ZIMBABWE
UGANDA
MOROCCO
NETHERLANDS
ALBANIA
NICARAGUA
INDIA
TURKEY



>25

LOCAL
PARTNERS
NGOS AND
TRADE UNIONS

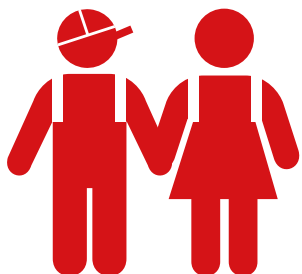
112

COMMUNITIES
TOOK ACTION
TO CREATE AND PROMOTE
CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONES

CHILDREN

63,000 CHILDREN

in Africa and Latin America have been withdrawn from child labour and/or prevented from dropping out of school in the past 5 years.



30,000 CHILDREN

43% GIRLS) TOOK PART
IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES

92% OF CHILDREN

LIVING IN CHILD
LABOUR FREE ZONES
ARE GOING TO SCHOOL

SECTORS



HAZELNUTS



SEEDS



LEATHER/SHOES



TEXTILE



GOLD



NATURAL STONE



COFFEE



TEA



FISHERY



COCOA



PALM OIL

11 companies and 4 Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives now include the area-based approach in their intervention strategies in the gold, natural stone, coffee and footwear sectors.

ADVOCACY SUCCESSES

3

STOP CHILD LABOUR
DECLARATIONS
WRITTEN

RESEARCH AND REPORTS

12

RESEARCH REPORTS
CONDUCTED BY
STOP CHILD LABOUR
IN COLLABORATION WITH
PARTNERS

SCHOOLS

> 135 SCHOOLS

take part in Stop Child
Labour programmes



STOP CHILD LABOUR

HIGHLIGHTED INTERVENTIONS

Scope

- 14 countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Morocco, Netherlands, Albania, Nicaragua, India and Turkey)
- More than 25 local partners (NGOs, CBOs and trade unions)
- 112 communities took action to create and promote child labour free zones

Children

- Prior to the launch of the Stop Child Labour coalition MV Foundation withdrew 1 million children from child labour and established 1,500 child labour free zones in India
- 63,000 children in Africa and Latin America have been withdrawn from child labour and/or prevented from dropping out of school in the past 5 years
- 30,000 children (43% girls) took part in extra-curricular activities
- 92% of children living in child labour free zones are going to school

Schools

- More than 135 schools take part in Stop Child Labour programmes

Sectors

- Hazelnuts, seeds, leather/shoes, textile, gold, natural stone, coffee, tea, fishery, cocoa and palm oil.
- 11 companies and 4 Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives now include the area-based approach in their intervention strategies in the gold, natural stone, coffee and footwear sectors.

Campaigns

Stop Child Labour is known for its campaigns on education, hazelnuts, shoes, garment and gold. At first campaigns targeted schools and general public; later campaigns targeted the private sector.

Advocacy successes

- 3 Stop Child Labour declarations written: Kampala Declaration (2013), Managua Declaration (2013) and Delhi Declaration (2016)
- Stop Child Labour present at the ILO Global Child Labour Conferences in The Hague (2010); Brazil (2013) and Argentina (2017):

Research and reports

- 12 research reports conducted by Stop Child Labour in collaboration with partners.

In 15 years' time, Stop Child Labour has opened doors for new child labour free policies, new projects on the ground and new ways of doing business. Below we highlight Stop Child Labour's three main intervention strategies:

1. Raise awareness about child labour and advocate for the area-based approach to be adopted as mainstream policy and practice

2. Create and expand child labour free zones in Southern countries
3. Engage private companies to take measures that tackle child labour in their value chain.

Strong and strategic communication – as well as facilitating linking and learning between partners and stakeholders – are integral parts of all three strategies.

1. RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD LABOUR AND ADVOCATE FOR THE AREA-BASED APPROACH TO BE ADOPTED AS MAINSTREAM POLICY AND PRACTICE

The Netherlands

In 2003 Stop Child Labour started out as a joint campaign of Hivos, the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN), Mondiaal FNV and AOb together with the European Alliance2015 members. From the onset, the campaign was fed by the real-time experiences of Southern partners of the four Dutch organisations. As NGOs, trade unions and teachers' unions, they all had different strategies and priorities, but they had one shared belief: school is the best place to work. And school was also the first place to start campaigning. Numerous activities were organised in and around Dutch schools: creative, playful, educational projects that informed pupils, teachers and parents about child labour.

The second aim was to encourage the Dutch government to design and adopt interventions that link access to education to child labour prevention – and vice versa. FNV Mondiaal and

AOb, well-positioned to interact with governments on policy change, played an important role in bridging those two policy areas. These efforts successfully led to the mainstreaming of a 'child labour perspective' in development education programmes of the Dutch government.

As the coalition matured and Southern partners started piloting the child labour free zone approach in their own contexts, the next lobbying aim was advocating for this area-based approach in political circles, both in The Hague and in Brussels. Persistent lobbying through letters, meetings and parliamentary questions led to child labour free zones being positively mentioned in parliament by the Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation on several occasions. The Minister also expressed support for the child labour free zones in her keynote speech at the international conference in Kampala and during a visit to a child labour free

zone in Entebbe, Uganda in 2013. The area-based approach was highlighted as an effective strategy to end child labour in the 2016 Annual Human Rights Report, one of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' most noteworthy publications. Furthermore, in 2017, the Dutch government, together with employers' organisations and trade unions, made a pledge to support Child Labour Free Zones at the ILO Global Child Labour Conference in Argentina. In the same year, Stop Child Labour contributed to the decision to launch a new government fund to end child labour. The coalition had become an influencer itself, and rightfully so.

Onto global levels

Stop Child Labour gained track record as campaigner and lobbyist and at the same time as supporter and connector of Southern initiatives. The coalition used these new experiences to strengthen its lobbying on higher grounds, such as the European Parliament and the International Labour Organisation. During three regional conferences of Stop Child Labour – in Kampala (2013), Managua (2013) and Delhi (2016) – widely supported Declarations were formulated which were strategically used as lobbying tools. Strengthened by its collaboration with the Alliance2015 members, Stop Child Labour targeted specific European parliamentarians, which eventually led to the EU expressing support for area-

based and sector-based approaches to tackling child labour via a Council Declaration.

The ILO's Global Conference on the Eradication of Child Labour is one of the key global forums to influence child labour policies. As civil society representation increased amongst a majority of governmental players, Stop Child Labour took part in the Global Conferences in 2010, 2013 and 2017, successfully demanding attention for community-led and area-based approaches to tackle child labour.

Support for local lobbying

The most sustainable initiatives to end child labour are those led by the community and supported by local and national governments. That is why strengthening the lobby power of Southern partners – through exchange visits, research and training – has become an integral part of Stop Child Labour's work. Successes vary but solid steps have been made.

In India > The government of Telangana State declared that it will strive for a 'child labour free state' and the city of Jaipur in Rajasthan State has declared itself a 'child labour free city'. At the national level, bridge schooling has become part of the Right to Education Act. This law gives a former working child, who is too old to enrol in the first class, the option – through accelerated bridge schooling – of joining an age-appropriate class so he or she can finish primary education.



2. CREATE AND EXPAND CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONES IN SOUTHERN COUNTRIES

The concept of child labour free zones was first introduced in 1992 by MV Foundation in India. Ever since, it has helped get over 1 million children out of work and into school. Stop Child Labour managed to fine-tune and replicate MV Foundation's area-based approach in Africa and Latin America, leading up to 112 child labour free zones, all different in size and context. Yet the basic principle is the same across all areas: 'No child should be working; every child should be in school'.

five years, the concept was embraced and adopted by progressive partners, trade unions, teachers' unions, community-based committees, youth groups, women's associations and some cases also by governments, who have the responsibility and power to take the concept to scale. All these efforts led to children being taken out of labour and (re)integrated into schools. Step by step, social norms have started to change. These communities are at the beginning of the end of child labour.

Impact

Across countries and cases, we have convincing evidence that school attendance increased significantly in all of the child labour free zones. Child labour may have not been eradicated completely in the intervention areas, but a strong downward trend has been observed and child labour has become less acceptable. Moreover, child labour free zones have also led to improvements in other aspects of development such as social cohesion, healthier lives and better working conditions for adults. To create a geographically specific area that is free of child labour – and to maintain this status – is a challenge. The concept was new and exciting for most of its implementers. Within a period of only

Sustainability | addressing root causes of child labour

The essence of the child labour free zone approach is to address the systemic causes of child labour. Stop Child Labour believes that poverty is neither an excuse nor an explanation for child labour. On the contrary, child labour perpetuates poverty. This belief is backed by evidence. Efforts to create child labour free zones were no less successful in poorer areas. The activities in child labour free zones did not only lead to reduced child labour ('do no harm') and higher school attendance, but also helped create better income opportunities for families and for communities as a whole ('do more good'). When

These are all political effects MV Foundation has contributed to.

In Uganda > The Teachers' Union and the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Quality Education pushed for new legislation on education and employment of children. This led to the tabling of the 'Child Labour Free Zones Motion' that was overwhelmingly passed by Members of Parliament in 2016.

In Ghana > GAWU (the farmers' union) effectively spread the word about child labour free zones in its encounters with umbrella institutions such as the Trade Union Congress. The Trade Union Congress has by now included the

child labour free zone concept in its own strategy documents.

In Ethiopia > At the initiative of Stop Child Labour partner ADAA, communities formulated so-called by-laws that forbid child labour and put sanctions on those who violate the (new) social norm that 'no child should work'. These by-laws are functional when there is no national legislation against child labour, or when there is a legal prohibition, but no reinforcement. In Siraro District, Stop Child Labour partners helped communities reach an agreement with the state-owned agricultural company Bilito. The company agreed to gradually release all the children working on its farm.

What is a child labour free zone?

A child labour free zone is a defined area, such as a village or a plantation, where everyone is convinced that 'No child should be working, every child should be in school'. It is a concept that tackles child labour at the root cause. Teachers, local authorities, village leaders, employers, parents and children in these zones work together to get children out of work and into school. Child labour is no longer

accepted because all children are entitled to good, full-time education. If everyone takes their responsibility, all children can go to school. Activities are initiated within existing community groups, in cooperation with local authorities, to ensure the rights of all children. Adults learn how they can make ends meet without the income generated by their children, for instance by participating in savings and loan groups and developing income-generating activities.

children do not work, more jobs are available for legally working youth and adults, who are subsequently better positioned to negotiate for better working conditions and salaries.

Factors for success

Child labour free zones have been created in 7 countries, near coffee plantations and gold mines, in remote villages and in suburban slums, led by union members and by child rights activists. All child labour free zones are different, and some were more successful than others. With 15 years of experience, we now know that a child labour free zone project is more likely to leverage and sustain the ultimate goal of ending child labour when the following preconditions are present or being created in the process:

- The partner organisation is rooted in or is closely connected to the community.

- The partner organisation has a clear understanding of the child labour free zone approach.
- The community recognises child labour as a problem, and believes the community is responsible for solving this problem.
- The partner organisation has formulated an exit strategy, including a pathway to adoption of the project by the community and local government.
- Bridge schooling facilities for former working children to be mainstreamed into the formal education system are part of the intervention.
- There is a functioning school in the community and conditions are there to ensure sufficient quality education.
- Livelihood and saving schemes activities to raise household incomes are part of the intervention.
- There is a certain level of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in the community.



ANNAH KAMUSIIME
NASCENT RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT, UGANDA

"If there is one thing which has been very successful in Lubyapa parish, it is the Village Saving and Loan Associations. Poor people do need to survive. We realized that these people need to see a financial benefit in whatever they do. When they educate their children, then there is hope that their life stories will change in the future, but how about today, how about now? When we linked fighting child labour with a financial benefit, it became more attractive."

Lessons learnt

The child labour free zone concept has proven to be attractive and inspiring to a wide range of audiences. The concept gives guidance and support, and the idea 'you can make it work anywhere' motivates implementers to try it in their own settings. Yet the lesson we take from our experiences is that the concept requires more practicability and adaptability – without losing its core message and ambition. We realise that interventions can be even more effective and more sustainable when the concept is unpacked in small, achievable steps or phases. We are designing practical, on-the-job guidance that makes it

easier to celebrate small successes and keep up the energy throughout the trajectory.

We have also learned that it is important to improve the collection and documentation of reliable data. For a child labour free zone to really work the way it is intended, you need reliable data about the children, their wellbeing and their whereabouts. This kind of information helps us respond to local needs and monitor and showcase results. It takes time, skills and resources to collect, document and analyse this data in a systematic way and that is why we continue to invest in ensuring reliable data collection and documentation in the future.

THE TORKOR MODEL

Farmer's Union in the lead. The General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) is the largest trade union with a solid network of small-scale farmers and fishermen in Ghana. During the Omar's Dream programme, GAWU worked with communities to create 8 child labour free zones in 3 different regions under very different livelihood circumstances: Ashanti (cocoa producers), Eastern province (palm oil) and the Volta region (fishery). GAWU reports to have withdrawn almost 1,500 children from child labour and prevented 1,300 from entering into child labour.

Success factors. GAWU mobilised its union members in the villages, and then they created child protection committees amongst themselves. This mobilisation was successful because of GAWU's visibility and presence in the target communities and its integration of anti-child labour messaging within GAWU's regular union activities. Another element that contributed to the success of the project is the limited size of the targeted areas. The definition of each area is small and relatively homogenous. On the inland island of Torkor in Volta region, GAWU successfully mobilised both fish workers (fishermen and fish processing and selling women) and employers

(boat, canoe and shop owners), by equipping them with knowledge and motivation to combat child labour together. GAWU kept a strong focus on income-generating activities as to increase the self-reliance of fishing communities. For example, female fish sellers were given access to cool storage to increase the shelf-life of their fish. The 'Torkor model' has now become GAWU's trademark.

Impact. At the national level, GAWU has been instrumental in having the Child Labour Free Zone concept adopted by the National Steering Committee on Child Labour. What's more, other Ghanaian agencies, such as the Trade Union Congress, have now included the concept in strategies and project documents. At the village level, it is clear that project activities have led to considerable changes including the wider enrolment of children in school and a dramatic reduction in the number of children working full time. However, part-time work over weekends and holidays still is a common phenomenon. At the regional level it shows that GAWU has been able to adapt and adjust the model to local actors and conditions in each region – cocoa plantations, palm oil farms and fishing areas – to ensure that the project succeeds.



Lessons

The GAWU experiences teach us that a farmer's trade union with a strong base of village-based members has great potential for creating child labour free zones. However, partnering with an organisation specialized in education could have strengthened the child labour free zones, as the quality of (bridge) schooling proved to be a weak spot. Sustainability risks include the materials GAWU distributed to community members who took part in the project, especially school-related items such as pens and books, and technical equipment for farmers to raise more income.

TODAY — IN TORKOR

The success of GAWU has not gone unnoticed. The Minister for Employment and Labour Relations has taken up the initiative to develop political guidelines for scaling up child labour free zones in Ghana. "As a trade union in agriculture, we have tried different strategies over the past 15 years and have come to realise that the area-based approach towards child labour free zones is one of the most sustainable strategies to address root causes, empower communities and ensure that systems are in place to eliminate all forms of child labour – whilst also promoting decent work for all adults."

ANDREWS ADDOQUAYE TAGOE FROM GAWU

IT STARTS WITH WARD 16

A unique coalition. The Coalition Against Child Labour in Zimbabwe (CACLAZ) took up the initiative to create a child labour free zone in Ward 16, in Chiredzi district, Eastern Zimbabwe. CACLAZ is a coalition of 3 Zimbabwean organisations: the African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Progressive Teachers Union (PTUZ) and the General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union (GAPWUZ). The project managed to bring 1,000 children – out of the estimated 1,500 out of school children living in the Ward – back to school.

Success factors. The project could not have been successful without the commitment of the pre-existing Child Protection Committees. Also, the involvement of schools in the target area was crucial, especially the role teachers played in the so-called ‘incubation centres’. Through these accelerated learning classes, children

who had been withdrawn from labour, were able to catch up with their levels. A factor contributing to the sustainability of the project is the establishment of a Youth Volunteer Network. This network comprises of 40 young people, both girls and boys, whose aim is combat child abuse, including child labour.

Impact. CACLAZ made a huge difference towards reducing child labour in Ward 16. A number of events have come with a lot of publicity about the child labour free zone, for example the Fun-Run, organised in Chiredzi. The issue of child labour is now dominant on the agenda of the District Child Protection Committee. Furthermore, the Councillor for Ward 16 had successfully moved a motion in the District Council for increasing the percentage of public funds allocated to building school infrastructure. The motion was endorsed and will have its effect across the entire district.



Lessons

The Ward 16 experience teaches us that three years is a short period to create a child labour free zone in an area as large and spread-out as Ward 16 (179 villages). The size makes it more difficult to conduct a baseline and keep track of data regularly. The community has warmed up to the issue of child labour, but the enforcement of child protection laws is still weak, and the quality of education is poor. Evidence-based lobbying for anti-child labour and pro-education policies are needed. Starting up a demonstration site near Harare is worth exploring for this purpose.

TODAY — IN CHIREDDI

“Today the child labour free zones are very much alive. We are actually expanding into ward 21 of Chiredzi with support from Terre des Hommes so that we are operating in wards 16, 21 and 29 in Chiredzi. We are putting up a vocational training centre at Masimbiti for the older children (youths) who no longer qualify for primary education. Finally, some partners have begun to approach us for inclusion in the coalition so that together we spread the concept to all districts of Zimbabwe.”

PASCAL MASOCHA, CACLAZ DIRECTOR

3. ENGAGE PRIVATE COMPANIES TO TAKE MEASURES THAT TACKLE CHILD LABOUR IN THEIR VALUE CHAIN

Over the past 15 years, Stop Child Labour has shifted its focus more and more towards the private sector as a stakeholder that needs to be on board in the fight against child labour. Engaging with companies was a skill the coalition had to learn – by doing. And it did. The coalition left its footprint on almost a dozen business sectors, including coffee, tea, natural stone, seeds, garment, shoes, shea, sesame, gold and hazelnut. Stop Child Labour evidently contributed to companies in the Netherlands, Europe and at the international level by having policies adopted in support of the elimination of child labour and the creation of child labour free zones. Stop Child Labour also improved its practices (change of behaviour) in adopting a more long-term and holistic approach towards tackling child labour and in moving 'beyond auditing'. There is good potential for more positive changes in the coming years.

Impact | towards tailor-made support for frontrunner companies

In 2010 Stop Child Labour started off with the shoe and hazelnut campaign. Despite limited resources, the impact of both campaigns was substantial. In a short time, the Stop Child Labour partners were able to generate international attention and notable change in these two sectors with a number of key international players. Thanks to Mehmet Ülger's well-received documentaries on child labour in the Turkish hazelnut industry, the hazelnut campaign led to a quick and massive response. The issue was put firmly on the agenda of multinational corporations (specifically Nestlé), the EU and the Dutch government.

The shoe campaign was different from the outset, more focused on consumers and public engagement. Although popular response was rather low, the campaign did trigger a number of companies to reflect

and adapt their policies and practice. The action led to four companies committing to support a child labour free zone in Agra, India.

In 2015 the 'Out of Work and Into School' programme was designed to link child labour free zone projects with private sector engagement. Stop Child Labour managed to familiarise companies, both high up in the value chain and local suppliers, with the concept of child labour free zones. This approach led to emerging engagement with companies in the natural stone, textile, gold and coffee sectors. International and national companies decided to partner with Stop Child Labour to work together in finding solutions to tackle child labour in their supply chains. These companies can be seen as frontrunners. They are committed to achieving lasting effects, firstly from the perspective of risk reduction, secondly because they may offer additional benefits. Their role has been very important in triggering change

in the child labour free zones and inspiring more companies to assume responsibility in the elimination of child labour.

Stop Child Labour coalition has noticed that more and more companies are interested in tailor-made tools and instruments for effective due diligence, especially those that allow for a better understanding of the lower tiers of their supply chains. They also increasingly want to work together with local organisations to address the problem in their production and sourcing areas. Under the 'Getting Down to Business' programme, Stop Child Labour guides these companies in finding and implementing possible solutions, such as taking part in a multi-stakeholder initiative.

Lessons learnt

There is no blueprint towards the end of child labour that works for all companies. Stop Child Labour will need to invest in diversifying and

fine-tuning its strategies vis-à-vis the various industries. Also, the coalition can play a leading role in showcasing good examples of frontrunner companies, thereby creating positive incentives for other companies to explore partnership with Stop Child Labour.

Again, reliable data is key. Objective and convincing baseline data about child labour in a certain area or sector will help convince companies to join or support a child labour free zone. In return, companies that have a clear picture of the problem and the possible solution are more likely to promote the child labour free zone approach in their sector and supply chains. The close collaboration with local partners is crucial. They are able to detect and document child labour sites and stay in touch with the children and their

families. This key information is hence used by Stop Child Labour to inform the lobby actions towards companies and governments.

Another insight from our engagements with the private sector is: not all the work we do fits in a child labour free zone or value chain. The majority of child labour in Africa is still happening in informal, rural settings, on family-owned land, and not in company workplaces. In suburban and urban areas, we will have to work more with small employers, such as owners of shops, stalls, restaurants and workshops. Not all of these settings may be suitable for creating child labour free zones. That is why Stop Child Labour will have to keep up its creativity and flexibility to respond to what is needed in specific contexts.



STEVEN WALLEY
LONDON STONE

"The costs of restoring the public's faith in a brand due to child labour violations outweighs the costs of addressing child labour in the entire supply chain."



BRAM CALLEWIER
BELTRAMI

"Being involved with Stop Child Labour on the ground has tremendously increased my understanding of what needs to be done. Seeing the first results after 4-5 years feels personally very rewarding."

CHILD LABOUR FREE COFFEE FROM ERUSSI

Context. This unique project – a collaboration between a coffee company, NGO, a teacher union and a certification standard – encompasses 13 remote villages and a population of 10,244 in Erussi sub-county, North-Western Uganda. This area is one of Uganda's coffee regions, and it struggles with child labour.

Joint efforts. In 2015 a child labour free zone was established in Erussi, West Nile region in Uganda, in cooperation with the UNATU teachers' union, the local NGO CEFORD, an international coffee company (Kyagalanyi Coffee Ltd./Volcafe) and the international certification standard UTZ. The Ugandan local government was supportive. CEFORD created and trained child protection committees in the villages to track down child labour and introduced village savings and loans associations. UNATU taught school teachers on child labour issues and helped improve remedial teaching and child monitoring systems. Kyagalanyi worked with CEFORD to identify child labour in its UTZ-certified households and introduced a child labour eradication plan to monitor these households on a regular basis. The company also assists farmers to

increase income by training them on better agricultural practices and by identifying other income generating activities.

Added value of Stop Child Labour. As an UTZ scheme, Kyagalanyi works with more than 6,000 coffee producers in West Nile. The company trains its producers how to comply with the UTZ standard, including measures to address child labour. The UTZ child labour guidelines aim to prevent, identify and remediate child labour together with communities, rather than sanction and ban its practitioners. "The added value of the Stop Child Labour project", says Anneke Fermont from Kyagalanyi, "lies in the strength of partnership and unity. Different stakeholders (company, government, NGO, schools) have the same message: all children should be in school". Rashida Nakabuga from UTZ Uganda adds: "The great thing of working with Stop Child Labour is the connection to the child rights networks at national, regional and international levels. The West Nile child labour free zone is a good lesson for all of us to upscale the child labour awareness campaigns in the Ugandan coffee sector."



CASE STUDY

© SCL/Hivos

Impact

- 988 children prevented from child labour
- 1,640 children withdrawn from child labour
- School attendance rises from 79.8 % to 97.8 % in the child labour free zone
- Evidence of replication of programme aspects in surrounding areas

TODAY — IN ERUSSI

The child labour free zone continues to bring about positive change for the children and their families. A by-law is being prepared that will help adapt the national law on child labour to local needs. Coffee production is increasing and there is evidence of raising incomes, community cohesion and empowerment of children and parents. Awareness of the consequences and roots of child labour has grown, and attitudes have changed. In 2017/18, the project partners expanded the approach to a larger area. As a learning element, they are comparing the area-based approach with an approach to focus primarily on UTZ members.

THE COBBLE STORY

Context. Budhpura, in Rajasthan, is a major source of cobbles, also for export to the Belgian, French and Dutch markets. The sector is largely unorganised; production takes place mostly in front of houses, involving whole families. The mining areas are informal and associated with a multitude of problems, including low wages, lack of quality education, child labour, diseases (especially silicosis), alcoholism, domestic violence, environmental damage and non-functioning governmental systems.

Manjari's power. A child labour free zone project was started in Budhpura in 2013 by Manjari, a local NGO. The child labour free zone encompasses nine villages and a population of 6,972, 25% of which are between 6 and 18 years old. Many are migrants. Manjari's work covered most aspects of the area-based approach: community mobilisation, involving teachers and local businesses, linking families to social schemes like health insurance and widows' benefits; strengthening government services through advocacy; and improving quality of and access to healthcare and education. Manjari helped create women's self-help groups for saving and access to credit. Last but not least, it engaged with the local business community, local and district level governmental bodies, and with the State Forum on Natural Stone.

Involving traders and companies. Local traders, organised in the Cobble Traders' Union, are aware of the negative image that child labour gives their merchandise. They prohibited the practice in their cobble yards. However, this was only effectively enforced after Manjari convinced the traders to fine any members still making use of child labour, to demarcate stockyards with 'No Child Labour' billboards and install camera surveillance. International companies Beltrami and London Stone have played an important role in convincing their suppliers to change their practices. They visit the area regularly, support the project financially, help raise awareness and convince other stakeholders to join.

Combining bottom-up and top-down approaches. Manjari's role in this respect is innovative. By positioning itself as supply chain partner for businesses and offering access to the grassroots level of workers and their families, Manjari helps businesses increase transparency in supply chains. This is necessary for complying with social and environmental norms. It facilitates communication between top and bottom, thus sensitising companies and authorities to the needs on the ground.



London Stone –

"Since being involved with Stop Child Labour, London Stone has seen a year-on-year growth of 20 up to 30 per cent. While it is impossible to quantify the exact fiscal benefits to our business of being involved in the development of child labour free zones, we can point to many factors that have undoubtedly increased sales and the value of our brand."

TODAY — IN BUDHPURA

The notion that child labour is no longer accepted in the cobble yards is now widely accepted in Budhpura – although realisation remains a challenge. Several 'model' cobble yard owners have made improvements on their sites, such as creating shadow rest places, providing toilets, clean drinking water and a kindergarten. Manjari continues to visit working sites and households (many families are given stones to chop and hack at home) regularly to check up on the whereabouts and wellbeing of the children.

STOP CHILD LABOUR

NEXT STEPS

Over the past 15 years, Stop Child Labour has developed effective strategies to work towards child labour free zones and child labour free production chains in different countries and sectors. Evidence shows that these strategies have been effective: we see change – small steps and big steps – happening in rural, urban and suburban areas under very different circumstances. In the coming years, we will build on the successful combined area-based approach through child labour free zones, fair production chains and education. We will do this by strengthening our organization and our partners via the following four strategies for change:

- Reach out to all children in all forms of child labour: visible child labour in factories, mining sites and value chains as well as hidden child labour taking place on family farmland and in homes.
- Continue social mobilisation and consensus building around the norm that ‘all children should go to school’, at least until the age of 15. We will work towards more child-friendly, quality education for all.

- Ensure that teenage children from ages 15 to 18 have the opportunity to enter decent youth employment once they reach the legal working age and prevent them from ending up in (the worst forms of) child labour.
- Engage national governments to take responsibility to ensure that all the state’s children can enjoy their right to education.

The Stop Child Labour coalition has a solid foundation. We are ready to scale up our evidenced-based strategies. Our experience has shown that a combination of sector-specific and community-driven interventions will have the greatest impact. We will join forces with new national and international partners to expand into new countries, regions and sectors, and wherever possible, we will share our knowledge, network and methodologies to strengthen global, national and local initiatives to fight child labour. By doing so, we aim to effectively prevent, mitigate and remediate child labour and bring long-term, sustainable solutions for all children and their families.

15

**CELEBRATING
FIFTEEN
YEARS** OF STOP
CHILD
LABOUR