



Compliance Assistance

- elaws — Employment Law Advisors

About DOL

Laws and Regulations

Budget & Performance Information

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Information

Newsroom

- DOL Newsletter

Events Calendar

Doing Business With DOL

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Other Resources

- Business.gov
- Career Voyages
- Disability.gov
- Disaster Recovery Assistance
- GovBenefits.gov
- HireVetsFirst.dol.gov
- MyMoney.gov
- No Fear Act — Equal Employment Opportunity Data Posted Pursuant to the No Fear Act
- PandemicFlu.gov
- Regulations.gov
- USA Freedom Corps
- USA.gov
- The White House
- Wirtz Labor Library

News Release

ILAB News Release: [09/28/2009]

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U.S. Department of Labor awards nearly \$59 million to eliminate exploitive child labor in 19 countries

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis today announced nearly \$59 million in grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor in fiscal year 2009 to combat exploitive child labor in 19 countries. The grants will help rescue more than 85,000 children from exploitive labor, and offer them hope for the future through education and training. The grants will also help improve collection and analysis of child labor data and support for the development and implementation of national action plans to address the problem.

"Protecting children from exploitation and ensuring that their education and healthy development is not compromised is our moral duty," said Secretary of Labor, Hilda L.Solis. "With these new funds, we are furthering our commitment to working with the international community to find effective and lasting solutions to this global challenge."

In Africa, the department awarded \$20.4 million in grants to combat exploitive child labor in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zambia. Groups such as the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC), the International Rescue Committee, Winrock International and the Forum of African Women Educationalists will implement projects to address exploitive child labor in sectors such as cocoa, coffee, tea and sugar.

The department awarded \$15.8 million for projects in Latin America. ILO-IPEC, Catholic Relief Services, Desarrollo y Autogestión and World Learning will implement projects in Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay. A regional South America project will eliminate forced labor and child labor through improved labor inspections, education and sharing of best practices, including many developed in Brazil.

In Asia, \$15.3 million was awarded for projects in India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines. Implementing organizations include ILO-IPEC, Save the Children, Terre Des Hommes, World Education and World Vision. These projects will combat child labor, including in the production of bricks and embroidered textiles, mining, domestic service, plantation agriculture, portering and commercial sexual exploitation.

A final \$7.4 million in grants will support policy and research projects. In addition, the department awarded a \$500,000 contract to the Center for Reflection, Education, and Action (CREA) to assist the department in identifying and disseminating best practices to eliminate child labor and forced labor in supply chains. CREA will work with a variety of stakeholders to develop a framework for evaluating business practices.

Since 1995, Congress has appropriated approximately \$720 million to the Labor Department to support efforts to combat exploitive child labor internationally. As a result of that funding, the department has rescued approximately 1.3 million children from exploitive child labor. For more information, visit the department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs Web pages at <http://www.dol.gov/ilab>.

Editor's Note: A chart with information about the individual grants is below.

U.S. Department of Labor — Bureau of International Labor Affairs Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking FY 2009 Programming to Combat Exploitive Child Labor Internationally

COUNTRY	FUNDING LEVEL	PROJECT FOCUS	IMPLEMENTER
AFRICA			
West Africa- ECOWAS (Direct Action in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana)	\$7,950,000	Towards Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) in West Africa: Supporting and monitoring implementation of national action plans in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, the development of a national action plan in Nigeria, and strengthening sub-regional cooperation through ECOWAS	International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC)
Kenya	\$4,600,000	Support for the implementation of the Kenyan National Action Plan for the Elimination of the WFCL with special focus on agriculture and older children	ILO-IPEC
Malawi	\$2,757,621	Project of Support to the National Action Plan to combat Child Labor in Malawi.	ILO-IPEC
Rwanda	\$4,499,988	Combating the WFCL in agriculture	Winrock International in association with Forum of African Women Educationalists and SNV Netherlands Development Organization- Rwanda (SNV)
Sierra Leone and Liberia	\$300,000	Cost increase of project to combat the WFCL	International Rescue Committee

Zambia	\$292,379	Cost increase of project to combat the WFCL	ILO-IPEC
Subtotal AFRICA = \$20,399,988			
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN			
Mexico	\$4,750,000	"Stop Child Labor in Agriculture": Contribution to the prevention and elimination of child labor in Mexico, in particular the worst forms in the agricultural sector, with special focus on indigenous children and child labor as a result of internal migration	ILO-IPEC
Regional South America (Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay)	\$6,750,000	Combating the WFCL through horizontal cooperation in South America (Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and Ecuador)	ILO-IPEC
Guatemala	\$4,199,601	Combating the WFCL and creating child labor free zones	Catholic Relief Services
Ecuador	\$150,000	Cost increase of project to combat the WFCL among indigenous children	World Learning in association with Desarrollo y Autogestión
Subtotal LAC = \$15,849,601			
ASIA, MIDDLE EAST, EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA (ASIA/MENA)			
Indonesia	\$5,500,000	Combating the WFCL through an area based approach	Save the Children Federation in association with World Education
Nepal	\$4,248,224	Combating the WFCL, with a focus on Forced Child Labor and Trafficking of Children into Commercial Sexual Exploitation	World Education in association with Terres des Hommes Foundation
Philippines	\$4,750,000	Towards a Child Labor-Free Philippines: Supporting the 'Philippine Program Against Child Labor' in Building on Past Gains and Addressing Challenges	ILO-IPEC
Indonesia	\$200,000	Cost increase of project to combat the WFCL	ILO-IPEC
Pakistan	\$50,000	Cost increase of project to combat the WFCL	Save the Children-UK
Philippines	\$200,000	Cost increase of project to combat the WFCL	World Vision
South Asia Regional (India, Nepal, Pakistan)	\$350,000	Cost increase for South Asia Carpets Research	Macro International
Subtotal ASIA/MENA = \$15,298,224			
Global/Multi-Region			
Global	\$3,000,000	Follow-up to the resolution on child labor statistics adopted at the 18th ICLS through methodological development and expansion of child labor data collection	ILO-IPEC
Global	\$1,500,000	Cooperation to Address the WFCL in Agriculture: Support to the International Agricultural Partnership	ILO-IPEC
Global	\$2,821,100	Support to the Global Action Plan, baseline surveys, evaluations, and project design and development	ILO-IPEC
Global	\$125,000	Cost increase for research on forced labor in select countries	Verité
Subtotal Global = \$7,446,100			
GRAND TOTAL = \$58,993,913			