

Concept note for a thematic session on

Integrated area-based approach: to tackle child labour at the root and ensure the right to education

at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, Durban, South Africa

Tuesday 17 May from 16:45 to 17:45 pm

The side event is organized by

- 1) The Global March against Child Labour
- 2) Education International
- 3) The Work: No Child's Business Alliance, consisting of UNICEF Netherlands, Save the Children Netherlands and the Stop Child Labour coalition

Background

We are working together with our country offices, partners and members in the global north and global south. At this side event, we will bring experiences from the following countries: Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, India, Jordan, Malawi, Mali, Peru, Uganda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

We represent the voices, concerns and aspirations of national and local civil society organisations, trade unions, communities and children across the world including Africa. The CSO Group members have been working for years, towards ensuring that children and families have a life of respect and dignity, where all human rights are enjoyed and realised. We share our vision and call for urgent action towards ensuring that all children can enjoy their childhood, free from exploitation, and are able to tap their full potential through education and learning to create value for themselves, their communities and society upon adulthood.



It is our strong belief that to combat child labour the international community – governments, employers' and workers' organizations, and the private sector – have a role to play. Important developments are underway, like Human Rights Due Diligence legislation for companies, but the problem of child labour is more complex and broader than just the international supply chain. An area-based approach is prerequisite to reach all children: not only the ones that are working in supply chains but all children in the area that are trapped in some form of work that interferes with their right to education, the right to learn and to play, and enjoy their childhood.

In this event, we will share experiences and best practices from the above mentioned countries in getting children out of work and (back) into school, amongst others by strengthening child protection systems and using area-based approaches such as creating child labour free zones/child friendly villages, developing and using child labour monitoring system, and involving headmasters and teachers into developing child friendly schools and learning practices, etc. Representatives from these countries will present how they are dealing with the challenges that they are facing (incl. Covid-19), share voices and concerns of the children, their parents, education stakeholders and communities, and show how they are proceeding in realizing children's rights to access education and future decent work. We will also discuss how we involve governments and companies to play their role, and link to the specific sectors in which we work: gold, cocoa, garments and textile, natural stone, coffee and shrimp.

During the event, we enhance direct interaction and discuss and identify trends and lessons as well as solutions and concrete actions to upscale joint efforts towards the 2025 SDG goal 8.7.

