



The Netherlands

Progress towards SDG Target 8.7

May – December 2023

Annual Progress of the Netherlands' Roadmap priorities	4
1. Since May 2023, what progress has been made to your #1 national roadmap priority? Priority 1: Encourage businesses and offer instruments to tackle child labour and labour exploitation in their supply chain, nationally and internationally.	4
2. Since May 2023, what progress has been made to your #2 national roadmap priority?	10
3. Since May 2023, what progress has been made to your #3 roadmap priority? Priority 3: Ensure effective monitoring and analysis of the impact and progress on 8.7	14
Progress on the identified next steps	15
4. What's the status of your next step #1?	15
5. What's the status of your next step #2? Next step 2: Research on new forms of child labour.	15
6. What's the status of your next step #3? Next step 3: Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) support office.	16
7. What's the status of your next step #4? Next step 4: Implementation of new forms of sectoral cooperation.	16
8. What's the status of your next step #5? Next step 5: Certification of temporary employment agencies (Roemer Commission)	17
9. What's the status of your next step #6? Next step 6: Revision of article 273f of the Criminal Law (Wetboek van Strafrecht)	17
10. For the period from January to December 2024, what are the priorities for your country to achieve the roadmap?	17
11. Which challenges would you anticipate in this process?	18
12. Do you need more support in the implementation of your Roadmap? If so, please describe in which way and from whom.	18
Overall progress between May and December 2023	18
13. How would you rank your progress made on your roadmap priorities?	18
14. Considering the progress on your national priorities and next steps (you have reported) between May 2023 and December 2023 what would you like to highlight on your country's Pathfinder Country profile page on the Alliance 8.7 website and reports?	19
15. Were there any other meaningful successes as a result of efforts made to achieve target 8.7? Please also consider aspects of SDG8.7 that are not covered by your roadmap (i.e. child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery)	20
16. What were these meaningful successes?	21
17. What challenges did you face when implementing your roadmap priorities and next steps?	21

18.	How did you overcome the challenges? What are the lessons learned?	21
19.	Which of the following formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence were used to assess the progress of your national priorities? Please select all that apply.	21
20.	If applicable, please tell us more about the formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence that you used to assess the progress of your national priorities.	22
21.	Please tell us the challenges you have encountered (if any) in gathering evidence to assess your progress.	22
22.	Please specify the names of other stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, social partners, civil society organisations) and their involvement, if any, in assessing your progress. What was the level of involvement (information shared, consulted, involvement in implementation, validation of results)?	22
Collaboration with international partners		22
23.	Did you collaborate with any international partners?	22
24.	Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your international partners.	23
25.	Have you supported any sub-regional/regional/global initiatives, including South-South initiatives, on the elimination of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery?	23
26.	Please tell us more about the sub-regional/regional/global initiatives you've supported.	23
Collaboration with domestic partners		24
27.	Did you collaborate with any domestic partners?	24
28.	Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your domestic partners.	24
29.	Compared to last year, do you think there was increased collaboration with domestic stakeholders?	24
30.	Please tell us what has improved in your collaboration with your domestic collaborator(s) and efforts.	24
31.	Was the pathfinder process considered useful?	25
32.	If yes: How would you describe the impact of the Pathfinder Process in your country?	25
Future prospects		25
33.	Is there a need to revise your country's roadmap priorities?	25
34.	What needs to be updated? Please select all that apply.	25

Annual Progress of the Netherlands' Roadmap priorities

This report contains progress aligned to the roadmap priorities of the government of the Netherlands 2023-2025. To measure progress on our roadmap priorities for this report, we have tried to link the results achieved to specific actions/results in our roadmap. This has been based on national focus group discussions and received input from our national focus group partners. For the purpose of clarity, the input of different partners is mentioned separately throughout this report.

1. Since May 2023, what progress has been made to your #1 national roadmap priority? Priority 1: Encourage businesses and offer instruments to tackle child labour and labour exploitation in their supply chain, nationally and internationally.

Government of the Netherlands

Accelerating Action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa (ACCEL Africa) – International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

This ILO project ACCEL Africa, financed by MFA, has been implementing its activities aiming to eliminate child labour in key supply chains (cocoa, coffee, cotton, gold, and tea supply chains) since November 2018. To sustain continuity and improve sustainability, the project launched a second phase on July 2023 (until June 2028, 60 months). During the second phase, the focus countries for intervention are: Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda, covering the cocoa, cotton, tea, coffee and artisanal gold mining supply chains.

Building on the success of the 1st Phase, the 2nd Phase of ACCEL Africa is committed to:

- strengthen policy, legal, and institutional frameworks (outcome 1)
- institutionalise innovative and evidence-based solutions, and; (outcome 2)
- scale up strategies through knowledge sharing, partnerships, and financing (outcome 3).

For the sake of brevity only a few examples of progress made under outcome 2 of ACCEL phase 2 (institutionalise innovative and evidence-based solutions) are mentioned here. Later in this report, progress made under outcome 1 will be discussed.

- **In all countries:** The ACCEL Africa project carried out a baseline survey targeting workers in lower tiers of the targeted supply chains. The survey aimed at understanding the main issues affecting the communities covered under the Project's outcome 2. The project gathered data on livelihoods, social protection, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) conditions, and socio-economic factors. Analysis of the data is informing targeted strategies for addressing the root causes of child labour.
- **Cote d'Ivoire:** Efforts to improve livelihoods and facilitate school-to-work transition have progressed with the initiation of training programs utilizing various ILO tools like the [Training for Rural Economic Empowerment \(TREE\)](#) and [Start and Improve Your Business \(SIYB\)](#).

Furthermore, through the Child Labour Platform (CLP) quarterly meetings in 2023, the Cote d'Ivoire Working Group identified Nawa as an important region to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration to act on the root causes of child labour in the cocoa, coffee, cotton, cashew, and palm oil sectors. A matrix was developed to identify synergies between private sector and public sector efforts to address child labour in the region and, on this basis, key recommendations were identified for collaborative action by the Working Group members - with the support of the ILO ENACTE (funded by EU and Swiss Cooperation) and ACCEL Africa projects.

At the same time, the ACCEL Africa project encouraged coca cooperatives, producers and buyers/exporter like Olam Food Ingredients (OFI), Beyond Beans and Tony's Chocology to work together on the promotion of a more inclusive universal health insurance coverage.

- **Kenya:** the project has discussed with Lipton Teas Infusion PLC (formerly Ekaterra) and James Finlay, to introduce the project, its components, and areas for potential collaboration. Both companies shared positive comments regarding supporting the project, particularly in the areas of social protection and occupational safety for their employees and dependents. They also shared basic details about their employee populations and the large number of dependents.
- **Mali:** In continuation of capacity-building efforts from the ACCEL phase 1, ACCEL is adapting and simplifying ILO Coop training tools for cooperatives in Mali. An implementation agreement with the chamber of mines has been drafted to cover issues related to increasing the service provision of the 150 gold mining cooperatives (100 created and 50 regularized) supported by the Project.
- **Uganda:** The ACCEL project contributed to the establishment of a framework for quarterly meetings with multinationals (which source coffee from Uganda) to address child labour in Uganda's coffee supply chain, as part of the Child Labour Platform (CLP). A new CLP Country Working Group was therefore established, focusing on Uganda. The following five prominent companies are involved:
 - SUCAFINA
 - Louis Dreyfus Company
 - Ofi
 - JDE Peet's
 - Volcafe

The first meeting of the Uganda Working Group took place during the 14th annual meeting of the CLP on 30 Nov.-1 Dec. 2024 in Geneva. The Government of Uganda, Touton Group, and Lavazza were represented.

The meeting of the new country working group considered three recommendations to accelerate action to address child labour in the coffee sector: 1) advance social dialogue and institutional capacity to eliminate child labour in the coffee supply chain; 2) strengthen

respect for FPRW; and 3) promote the development of skills and decent work opportunities for young workers. Working Group members voiced their support for the proposed recommendations and provided their reflections and suggestions for the next steps. Particular emphasis was led on strengthening the capacity of the existing Child Wellbeing Committees (CWCs) to prevent, monitor and remediate child labour in collaboration with social partners' organization and CLP members; promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration between the labour inspectorate, social partners' organizations and CLP members on the elimination of child labour and the promotion of decent work for adults in the coffee supply chain; promoting advocacy and awareness raising campaigns on the prevention of hazardous child labour and hazardous work; and increasing awareness and understanding of gender equality and women's rights in the coffee supply chain.

- **Egypt (under the project's 1st phase):** The project worked on the development of a partnership between the Cotton Research Institute, the National Council for Women, the Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises Development Agency, the Banque Misr and the Egyptian Agriculture Bank to support 520 cotton farmers (out of which 353 are women) to receive ILO Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GETAhead) training, 495 of these beneficiaries received meza prepaid cards, 210 opened e-wallets, 29 opened new bank accounts and 65 micro projects were started by loans provided by the participating banks.

Fund against Child Labour (FBK) – Netherlands Enterprise Agency (NEA)¹ and MFA

In 2023² the Fund against Child Labour (FBK) financially supported³ 53 Dutch enterprises, in partnerships with NGOs, (local) suppliers and other stakeholders to:

- Carry out risk analysis on child labour in their international supply chains;
- Raise awareness on identifying and addressing child labour;
- Share practical tips/suggestions and actionable solutions;
- Develop and implement plans involved to activate and support businesses and other stakeholders to tackle child labour in their supply chains.

Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) support centre – MFA and NEA

In September 2022, the MFA in collaboration with the NEA, launched the Dutch RBC support centre. The RBC support centre provides support to businesses in applying due diligence-measures in their operations and value chains, on the basis of the six steps of the OECD guidelines. The Dutch RBC-support desk is constantly developing to professionalize its services.

¹ In Dutch: Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO)

² The Fund against Child labour was completed in 2022. Grants awarded in 2022 relate to projects that continue until 2027. The projects are now in the process of implementation. Towards the end of the projects' duration in 2027 it will become possible to share more insights on the results. We kindly refer to the website of the FBK for the different country specific projects that received the grants: <https://projects.rvo.nl/programmes/nl-kvk-27378529-29557>

³ Companies are able to apply for a subsidy grant of maximum €475000.

In the context of developing services and in addition to answering questions from companies, in 2023 work has been done to improve the customer journey, create and offer an overview of existing due diligence tools, enhance knowledge development around upcoming RBC-legislation, roll out an communication plan and to further develop the monitoring system. Furthermore, strategic partnerships have been built for access to broader expertise and knowledge about countries and risk sectors. MFA has also given NEA a new mandate, to broaden the services it offers to Dutch companies, for generating a due diligence tool, an instrument to provide insight into RBC-related legislation and improved communication practices such as broadcasting webinars.

Responsible Public Procurement policy - MFA

In line with the Dutch RBC policy, the International Social Conditions (ISV)-agenda includes endeavours to further align public procurement with the OECD guidelines and UNGPs'. For this purpose, first steps have been taken in adapting the ISV specification texts (used by contracting parties) to align them with the international RBC-guidelines. Secondly, the research which examines if the ISV-conditions for participation in central government procurement above the EU public procurement thresholds, currently obliged in 8 high-risk sectors, can and must be extended to other public procurement categories or products has started. Outcomes are to be expected in Q3 2024. Lastly, the voluntary use of ISV among contracting authorities has increased, as well as new ways to use ISV such as an award criteria.

Social Partners

Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV)

FNV continued International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC) initiatives and projects with partners within stakeholder initiatives for child labour free area's. Risk analysis was conducted in supply chain countries, for example TruStone in Turkey⁴, the Ornamental Stone Sector in Brazil⁵ and Egypt⁶.

The confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW / MKB)

In June 2023, VNO-NCW/MKB hosted an event named 'Child labour in the supply chain: together we can take responsibility and undertake action' (translated)⁷. The interactive event, moderated by well-known Dutch presenter Sander de Kramer, laid out how businesses can explore the possibility of child labour in their supply chain, as well as what they can do about it. Emphasis

⁴ This includes an evaluation of human rights risks in natural stone extraction and production activities in Türkiye for TruStone. Please see this link to the evaluation report: [Human right risks in natural stone extraction and production Turkey \(imvoconvenanten.nl\)](#)

⁵ There were two studies conducted on the working conditions in the Ornamental Stone sector in Brazil, please see these two links: [Study-working--conditions-Esprito-Brazil.pdf \(imvoconvenanten.nl\)](#) ; [Study-economic-territorial-Brazil.pdf \(imvoconvenanten.nl\)](#)

⁶ There is no link to the Egyptian risk analysis as that would possibly bring people inside Egypt in danger.

⁷ The link to the press release of the event is only available in Dutch: "[Kinderarbeid in de bedrijfsketen: samen pakken we verantwoordelijkheid en ondernemen we actie](#)" - [Ondernemen.nl](#)

was placed on how this is a topic that can be tackled together. Some highlights from the event were:

- A workshop organised together with SER (Sociaal Economische Raad, Social Economic Council in English), on how to initiate a conversation about child labour with suppliers;
- A session for industry organisations specifically, and how they can address child labour as a sector as opposed to individually;
- A presentation by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency on available funds for businesses;
- Best practices shared by organisations that previously were supported by VNO-NCW and MKB-Nederland in addressing child labour in their supply chain.

Approximately 55 participants attended the event, including representatives from industry organisations as well as individual businesses.

Non-governmental organisations

Responsible Mica Initiative - Terre des Hommes (TDH)

TDH is a civil society organisation that aims to stop child exploitation, in particular since 2016 in the mica (critical mineral) supply chain. The Responsible Mica Initiative has reached a milestone of more than 100 companies joining as members this year. Furthermore, TDH NL played an active role in the International RBC Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector and raised awareness among its members on child labour in the mica supply chain. Also, TDH NL together with a coalition of other civil society organisations and trade unions submitted an open letter to the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU in May 2023, urging them to prioritise the Forced Labour Regulation. TDH NL published a feedback document on the European Commission's website on the Critical Raw Materials Act that fed into the legislative debate.

Global March against Child Labour (GMACL)

In 2021, the GMACL became one of the implementers of a project "Protecting the Rights of the Children in the Coconut Oil Supply Chain in the Philippines" to investigate the possible existence of child labour in the coconut supply chain. The cooperation partners in this project are Cargill, Wilmar, Cordaid, The Integrated Rural Development Foundation, Dignity in Work, GMACL, MVO, and Vernof. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency supported this project via a subsidy from the Fund against Child Labour (FBK). After playing the role of a technical expert on child labour in the 1st phase of the project in 2021, GMACL is now leading the second phase, which focuses on preventing and combatting child labour in the coconut supply chain. Setting up a multidimensional Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) in partnership with schools and local authorities, allows them to track whether children attend school in coordination with schools and other local authorities. The system will enable us to identify the existence of child labour and empower relevant stakeholders to take action.

In 2023⁸, the project partners are focusing on poverty alleviation using new business models to help farmers increase their income and strengthen their livelihoods. The project is built upon a rights-based, participatory, and community-led basis. Furthermore, it also helps to strengthen the human rights due diligence processes of the private sector. So far, the project has reached 400 smallholder coconut farmers successfully connecting some of them with sustainable buyers willing to pay increased prices for coconut coming from the project area due to its improved quality. Additionally, the CLMRS has led to identification of child labour and out of school children in the community that are currently being provided the required support with the help of child labour monitoring committee in the project area. An MoU has also been signed with the municipal government to establish a help desk using the CLMRS as a good practice to identify, monitor and remediate cases of child labour and out of school children.

Work: No Child's Business Alliance (WNCB)

In this multi-year program, with the financial support of the Dutch government till end-2024⁹, various NGOs are working together on an area-based approach to tackle the root causes of child labour combined with a supply chain approach to eliminate child labour in production and supply chains of international (Dutch) companies. The Work: No Child's Business Alliance consists of Save the Children NL, UNICEF NL, the Stop Child Labour Coalition, in close collaboration with partner organisations and country offices in India, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Mali, Uganda and Vietnam.

Some examples of collaboration of WNCB with the business sector in partner countries include:

- India: multi-stakeholder dialogue in Rajasthan (India) between companies, civil society organisations and the government on preventing risks in the natural stone chain.
- Vietnam: partnering with IKEA to [promote youth development within their supply chain](#).
- Uganda: in Karamoja, Uganda, mining business and government stakeholders have been [trained about child labour and have tools](#) to take measures that lead to decent work and protection of children's rights.
- Mali: the WNCB alliance developed an action plan for the government and other stakeholders based on a study on child labour in artisanal gold mining.
- Netherlands: WNCB engaged with the Vereniging van Beleggers voor Duurzaam Ondernemen (VBDO) to discuss and promote the use of actionable tools to improve the data and monitoring to safeguard children's rights in the asset portfolios of institutional

⁸ The reporting period of the alliance is not in line with the reporting period for this project. As projects are ongoing it is very difficult to say if a period falls before or after May. This is a process that has started earlier and continuing. Within the reporting period the 400 smallholders have been targeting. More information can be found here: [Protecting the rights of children in the coconut oil supply chain in the Philippines | Project Database CMS \(rvo.nl\)](#). Details cannot be enclosed because of non-disclosure agreement.

⁹ Formal confirmation of this financial extension was not yet approved in the Reporting year 2023.

and private investors. 11 investors participated in the discussion. In 2024 this is to be continued and it has build upon [previous developed materials](#).

2. Since May 2023, what progress has been made to your #2 national roadmap priority?

Priority 2: Promote national and international dialogue on SDG8.7 in relation to (global) supply chains on the one hand and root causes on the other.

Government of the Netherlands

Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SA&E) & Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

- SA&E and MFA participated in different meetings of the Alliance 8.7, such as the Global Coordinating Group, Pathfinder Country Annual Workshops, the supply chains action group (MFA) and the monitoring working group (SA&E).
- On a national level SA&E and MFA organise multistakeholder consultations approximately four times a year; the 'Focus group Alliance 8.7'. Our focus group includes CSOs, NGOs, trade unions, employers organisation and a knowledge institute to share insights, monitor progress and develop common activities. Please see question 23 – 28 for the partners of our focus group. In the period of reporting one focus group sessions took place (October 2023). For instance, during this focus group session the idea was discussed to discuss how to optimise the momentum of the CSDDD regulation within the context of the Alliance 8.7.
- Chairing of the focus group is open to all partners. As such, the focus group which was held in February 2024 was hosted and chaired by VNO-NCW, i.e. the confederation of the Netherlands Industry and Employers. This progress report is an example of the output that was created through collaboration with the focus group.
- In December 2023 the Ministry of SA&E contributed €20.000 to the Action Group on Supply Chains to support home-host country dialogues on the elimination of child labour and forced labour in supply chains.
- The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) provided a presentation at the MFA sharing results of academic research on unpacking the relationship between income and child labour in cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire. Subsequently we invited the KIT to [present their results](#) to our partners from the focus group Alliance 8.7. This took place during the national focus group meeting in June 2024. The facilitation of this type of peer exchange through a.o. the focus group can be considered as a result. In the upcoming progress report an update of the shared insights can be elaborated upon.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment provided a presentation on the approach of the Netherlands as a pathfinder country during the national pathfinder country workshop of the Republic of Türkiye (October 2023). Facilitating peer exchange in order to scale up best practices is a priority for the Netherlands as a Pathfinder Country in the

Alliance 8.7. In August 2024 an incoming delegation of the Turkish DG Labour, ILO Türkiye office and social partners of Türkiye visited the Netherlands for a study visit on the elimination of child labour in seasonal agriculture. In the report of 2024 the shared experiences and outcomes of the study visit will be further elaborated upon.

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (NEA)¹⁰ and MFA

The Fund against Child Labour (FBK) participated in several national and international dialogue sessions in relation to combating child labour in international supply chains: FBK is a member of the Alliance 8.7, the Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa ((D)ISCO) and other platforms for sustainable value chains. In collaboration with other NEA programmes and/or Dutch embassies, FBK organises dialogue sessions nationally and internationally. Lastly FBK participated in various expert sessions.

In 2023 NEA launched a new instrument: Social Sustainability Fund (SSF) that continues to support (financially) Dutch enterprises in collaboration with their local suppliers and NGOs to eliminate child labour in their international supply chains. As well as improvements towards living income, living wage and good working conditions.

ACCEL Africa: ILO and MFA

Progress made under outcome 1 (strengthening policy, legal, and institutional frameworks) of the 2nd phase of ACCEL include:

- **Cote d'Ivoire:** ACCEL has been involved in strengthening the national coordination framework for the fight against child labour in order to allow, in a transparent and dynamic process, a productive dialogue around the implementation of Phase 2 to support the efforts of stakeholders by responding to their needs. For this purpose, in November 2023, the project organized an information workshop and presentation of planned activities which brought together the key stakeholders. ACCEL has also been contributing to the evaluation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to combat trafficking, exploitation and child labour with a view to developing a new NAP. The ILO team has been participating in consultations as a member of the technical committee and shared [a NAP assessment tool](#) developed by the ILO. Finally, ACCEL has been providing technical support to the General Directorate of Labour to launch the strategic planning for the labour inspection in March 2024 (indeed launched as planned). The strategic planning aims to provide a lasting response to both structural and cyclical challenges for strengthening the enforcement mechanism through labour inspection in agriculture. Furthermore, the project is supporting the evaluation of the NAP both financially and through technical assistance in monitoring and evaluation.
- **Kenya:** ACCEL in collaboration with other ILO projects is part of the National Technical Working Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour (TWC) convened by the Ministry

¹⁰ In Dutch: Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO)

of Labour and Social Protection to review the Draft National Policy on the Elimination of Child Labour and the National Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour (NAP). Additionally, the project has been involved on the development of the technical working committee and has contributed in the Technical support in the creation of the Kenya Road Map towards Kenya becoming a member of Alliance 8.7. Financially, ACCEL Kenya has supported one Activity - Conference Services for the review of the Alliance 8.7 roadmap.

- **Mali:** ACCEL engaged with the Confederation of Cooperative Societies of Cotton Producers to explain project goals and achievements, receiving full commitment from the new management team for collaboration. Detailed support plans are developed for regional and local branches. [The project also collaborates with the National Employers' Council and trade union organizations to strengthen their capacities and support actions against child labour in supply chains](#). This includes establishing a knowledge-sharing platform and conducting advocacy campaigns.
- **Uganda:** Towards the development of Uganda's third-generation Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP III), the ACCEL Africa Project played a pivotal role in facilitating the process. Through the project's financial and technical contributions, ACCEL Africa ensured that child labour concerns were thoroughly integrated into the program. In the final DWCP III document, child labour is addressed under Priority 2: Human Well-being and Resilience, specifically in section 2.2, subsection 2.2.I. This inclusion ensuring a focused approach towards mitigating child labour issues within the broader context of human well-being and resilience.

The DWCP III has been approved by the tripartite constituents and has passed through the International Labour Organization (ILO) approval processes. The remaining step is the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the ILO Office and the constituents. The MOU is currently undergoing clearance by the Government, specifically the Office of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development. Once cleared and signed, the DWCP III will be officially launched.

Additionally, the project supported the review and approval of the National Child Labour Policy 2006. By November 2023, the draft of the National Child Labour Policy was presented and approved by the National Steering Committee.

Collaborating with the Vizion Zero Fund, in November 2023, the project organized a national-level campaign planning workshop to launch the OSH campaign in Uganda. The ACCEL project supported advocacy efforts for the ratification of the ILO Conventions on occupational safety and health (C.155, C.187, C.184). A Safeday event in 2024 with a panel discussion on OSH in the coffee supply chain and a screening of the #CoffeePeople documentary were organized, followed by another panel discussion in April.

Social Partners

The confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW / MKB)

Through an external advisory desk, VNO-NCW/MKB executed research amongst SMEs to find out why SMEs *are* or *are not* working on children's rights (and against child labour), as well as what would help them in making the first steps. From May 2023 onwards, the results from this research were bundled and turned into an advisory document. In total, 121 participants completed the full questionnaire, as well as 9 companies who underwent in depth interviews.

The research showed that companies weren't particularly aware of the risk of child labour in their supply chain, nor what they could potentially do about it. For this reason, the 'ask' for support wasn't yet very pronounced or specific. During the interview process, the researchers noticed this interest/awareness grow. Some of the outcomes were:

- 46% of respondents would like to receive more information about upcoming regulations
- 39% wanted examples from companies like theirs and what they were doing.
- 15% would like to collaborate more with others (companies, branche organisations or NGOs)
- 15% Would like more information on why/how it would help *them*.

Non-governmental organisations

Terre des Hommes (TDH)

In Madagascar, TDH NL participated in a meeting of the Alliance 8.7 group, during which information was provided on the progress of regional consultations for the revision of the national action plan to combat child labour. TDH NL also participated in a workshop of the Anosy Region child labour working group to update the regional plan of action to eliminate child labour in the mica sector in Anosy Region. Furthermore, TDH NL supported the ministries of Labour and Population in Madagascar in organising the celebration of the International Day Against Child Labour. Together with the Civil Society Platform for Children in Madagascar. TDH NL also organised the celebration of the International Day of the Rights of the Child, during which it advocated for adoption of the child protection policy and supported children to host debated on TV and radio in Antananarivo.

Work: No Child's Business Alliance (WNCB)

WNCB attended the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights and the annual meeting of the ILO Child Labour Platform, and informed the private sector about the integrated approach to eliminate child labour, combining an area-based approach with a supply chain approach. WNCB shared knowledge, expertise and best practices in meetings, conversations and [publications](#).

In collaboration with Global March against Child Labour, WNCB supported the organisation of regional symposia on promoting the area-based approach to address root causes of child labour

and boosting sustainable community livelihoods. The events took place in: Kampala, Uganda (June 2023) and Kathmandu, Nepal (December, 2023). An upcoming regional meeting is planned in Accra, Ghana (29th-30th May 2024). WNCB partners are participating in these meetings and share practical examples of successful action in their intervention areas.

3. Since May 2023, what progress has been made to your #3 roadmap priority? Priority 3: Ensure effective monitoring and analysis of the impact and progress on 8.7

Government of the Netherlands

- As mentioned under priority 2, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment participated in the monitoring working group of the Alliance 8.7 and organised national consultations through the focus group with the aim to share insights, monitor progress and develop common activities. Please see question 10 for a further elaboration of the Dutch government's priorities to help ensure effective monitoring and analysis.
- As mentioned under priority 1 and 2, the Fund against Child Labour, facilitated by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, supported 53 Dutch enterprises in strengthening their due diligence systems. This included the set-up of effective child labour monitoring systems and track progress.
- The ILO project ACCEL Africa, financed by MFA, was able to support Mali and Egypt in conducting National Child Labour Surveys (NCLS):
- **Mali:** The ACCEL Africa project supported the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) to update the national child labour data collected through the modular and permanent household survey in 2020-2021. The project supported the INSTAT to finalize and publish a report which is expected to be published in November 2024.
- **Egypt:** The ACCEL Africa project supported the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) to conduct NCLS in 2023. It is expected that a new NCLS report will be published in Egypt before the end of year 2024.

Social partners

As mentioned under priority 1, trade union FNV continued risk analysis in the TruStone supply chain countries in Turkey, Egypt and Brazil.

Non-governmental organisations

In the reporting period, TDH NL has carried out a baseline evaluations for two new projects in Madagascar focussed on ending child labour in the mica sector: Its EU funded JOFA ACTE project and its FAMAHA2 project funded by two Dutch Foundations.

Progress on the identified next steps

In your 2022-2023 annual report, the following next steps were identified for the period May 2022-April 2023.

4. What's the status of your next step #1?

Next step 1: Implementation of the revised national action plan for businesses and human rights.

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments:- Two years after the publication of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP) in 2022, several action points have now been completed, notably the establishment of the Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) support centre that helps Dutch companies with questions regarding RBC and the implementation of due diligence. Also, significant progress has been made on the other action points of the NAP, including new guidelines for embassies on how to address a shrinking civic space and threats against human rights defenders. Additionally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is collaborating with its strategic partners and implementing organisations to strengthen partnerships between value chain actors in consumption and production countries affected by RBC legislation, capture insights to inform the implementation of RBC legislation and the development of accompanying support measures. In the area of effective remedy, the Netherlands took the first steps towards developing a digital guide on remedy and redress. Every year, the House of Representatives receives a progress report, regarding the implementation of points for action from the NAP. In October 2023 the first letter to parliament on progress on the revised NAP was submitted to the House of Representatives. In June 2024 a stakeholder consultation was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to also share and discuss the progress with representatives of the business community, civil society organisations and experts. The next progress report will be sent to the House of Representatives in the second half of 2024.

5. What's the status of your next step #2? Next step 2: Research on new forms of child labour.

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments: In April 2023, the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment sent the report (conducted by Regioplan) on new forms of child labour, such as kidfluencers, to parliament. The

follow-up of recommendations is described in the Cabinet's response¹¹. The current legislation and regulations, and therefore also the enforcement, are not well tailored to modern forms of child labour such as young influencers, young entrepreneurs and children in family vlogs. To establish clear and easily enforceable standards in legislation, research is conducted. This research gives a better understanding of the extent and risks of online child labour for the safety and health of young influencers and entrepreneurs. The results are expected after the summer of 2024. After that the development of a legal framework with the Dutch Labour Inspectorate (NLA) and other ministries will start.

Another example of a new form of labour that has already led to new legislation and regulation, and which was advised by Regioplan, concerns flash delivery (commercial fast delivery of groceries on a vehicle (such as a bike)). In response to signals of the Netherlands Labour Authority, it is not allowed anymore for children under the age of 16 to carry out work in flash delivery, since it is stressful and involves working at peak times in traffic, which can lead to accidents. The [ban](#) has been in effect since October 2023.

6. What's the status of your next step #3? Next step 3: Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) support office.

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments: In September 2022, the RBC support office has become operational. The RBC support centre has already provided support to various businesses in applying due diligence-measures in their operations and value chains, on the basis of the six steps of the OECD guidelines. There is an on-going process of improvement on the services and the coordination of knowledge on guidelines, tools, step-by-step plans, initiatives and training courses for businesses.

7. What's the status of your next step #4? Next step 4: Implementation of new forms of sectoral cooperation.

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments: On November 6, 2023, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development send a briefing to the national parliament with the framework and conditions for the new form of sectoral cooperation. Currently this is being finalised.

¹¹ [Arbeidsomstandigheden | Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal](#)

8. What's the status of your next step #5? Next step 5: Certification of temporary employment agencies (Roemer Commission)

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments: The legislation is currently at the stage of the parliament. Expectations are that parliament will discuss the legislation in 2024.

9. What's the status of your next step #6? Next step 6: Revision of article 273f of the Criminal Law (Wetboek van Strafrecht)

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments: The legislation is introduced to parliament. Expectations are that parliament will discuss the legislation in 2024.

10. For the period from January to December 2024, what are the priorities for your country to achieve the roadmap?

Government of the Netherlands

It is the goal of the Netherlands to contribute to the elimination of child labour in all its forms. First, this includes strengthening international supervision on child labour and its root causes through the ILO (amongst others convention no.138 on Minimum Age and Convention No 182. On the Worst Forms of Child Labour; decent work agenda; core conventions), and international advocacy and exchange on best practices through a.o. the Alliance 8.7. Second, this includes combatting child labour in international value chains in which the Netherlands has a special interest because of footprint (and added value) in terms of trade and investment.

The Netherlands will continue to partake in the Alliance 8.7 working group on supply chains (MFA), in order to share and upscale best practices from Dutch programs such as Accel (Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa) and Social Sustainability Fund (SSF) and to strive to more donor coordination (priority 1 and 2). SA&E will continue the participation in the monitoring working group of the Alliance 8.7 to encourage efficient monitoring and analysis of the impact and progress made on SDG8.7 (priority 3). SA&E explores the possibilities to financially support the Secretariat of the Alliance 8.7 in their task to encourage peer – to – peer learning, for instance through identifying and disseminating best practices from the annual reports of pathfinder countries.

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (NEA)

In 2024 NEA will continue to support Dutch enterprises to eliminate child labour in their international supply chains through the Fund against Child Labour (FBK) and the Social Sustainability Fund (SSF). The SSF is in 2024 open for new applications. Gathering insights into (business) solutions is a priority in 2024 with the goal of sharing actionable insights that will inspire other Dutch enterprises to accelerate responsible business conduct.

Social Partners

Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV)

FNV will continue ongoing work in International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC) agreements with the global union federation, sectors and branches.

11. Which challenges would you anticipate in this process?

Government of the Netherlands

Limited capacity and resources can be a constraint for both the government and other stakeholders to keep the elimination of child labour, forced labour and human trafficking high on the international agenda. However, the current Corporate Sustainability due diligence (CSDDD) EU directive could help to keep momentum for the provisions on SDG8.7.

Social Partners

Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV)

If supply chain partners are not encouraged by the law and the public it will not be easy to motivate them to take further steps in improving their supply chains to tackle child labour. CSDDD is a starting point, but businesses need encouragement.

12. Do you need more support in the implementation of your Roadmap? If so, please describe in which way and from whom.

Social Partners

Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV)

Support from Dutch government through the IRBC's, continuing involvement, support and also financial support for participation CSOs.

Overall progress between May and December 2023

13. How would you rank your progress made on your roadmap priorities?

- No progress
- Little progress

- Some progress
- Great progress

14. Considering the progress on your national priorities and next steps (you have reported) between May 2023 and December 2023 what would you like to highlight on your country's Pathfinder Country profile page on the Alliance 8.7 website and reports?

Government of the Netherlands

- The Netherlands has and will continuously advocate for universal ratification and implementation of all fundamental principles and rights at work of the ILO. Furthermore, the Netherlands has and will encourage international advocacy on SDG8.7 and exchange of best practices (in order to scale them up) through the Alliance 8.7. One example of the Dutch involvement in the Alliance 8.7 during this reporting period is a financial contribution to the Action Group on Supply Chains for support of home-host country dialogues on the elimination of child labour and forced labour in supply chains.
- In October 2023, the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment published a ban on flash delivery (commercial fast delivery of groceries on a vehicle, such as a bike) carried out by children under the age of 16 years has been put into place. This was in response to signals of the Netherlands Labour Authority, recognizing this type of work as stressful and involving working at peak hours in traffic, which can lead to accidents.
- The Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa (ACCEL Africa) project supported the modernisation of the labour inspectorate in Mali to address child labour in cotton and gold supply chains. The ILO program ACCEL Africa is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and aims to eliminate child labour in key supply chains (cocoa, coffee, cotton, gold, and tea supply chains). In July 2023, the ACCEL Africa Project entered its second phase (until June 2028, 60 months). ACCEL engaged with the Confederation of Cooperative Societies of Cotton Producers in Mali to explain project goals and achievements, receiving full commitment from the new management team for collaboration. [The project also collaborates with the National Employers' Council and trade union organisations to strengthen their capacities and support actions against child labour in supply chains.](#) This includes establishing a knowledge-sharing platform and conducting advocacy campaigns.

Non-governmental organisations

Work No Child's Business Alliance (WNCB)

WNCB continued its efforts to drive national and EU-level legislation to combat child labour as well as its engagement with Dutch government actors, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (funder of WNCB) and policymakers to keep tackling child labour through a comprehensive, combined supply chain and area-based approach on the agenda. WNCB and its [individual partners](#) actively advocated for CSDDD legislation including reference to children's rights. (NB: the European

Parliament approved in April 2024 the adjusted EU CSDDD proposal, which maintains reference to children's rights, which are covered by the inclusion of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in the annex of the EU CSDDD).

Mondiaal FNV (Netherlands trade union Confederation) and AOb (trade union for Education professionals)

In Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe the 'Promoting Social Dialogue to eradicate child labour and strengthen quality education' project was operative between 2021 and 2023. The objective of the project is to improve local social dialogue to, in conjunction with improving the quality of education – especially through professional development of teachers-, allow children to return to school from work or prevent them from dropping out of school and going into child labour. Result: a total of 3025 working children returned to school (1532 boys, 1493 girls); at least 714 children at risk of dropping out have remained in school. Absenteeism fell everywhere. Other interesting result: in all countries, local dialogues were set up, sometimes for the first time, or further developed. The well-functioning local 'social dialogue spaces' – regular consultations between all relevant stakeholders- that trade union SNEC set up in the project regions have been copied by the government to 254 other communities in Mali. A follow-up project was prepared in 2023, launched in early 2024, with Burundi instead of Morocco.

Terre des Hommes – Non-governmental organisation

In India TDH NL provided 1886 children who are vulnerable to child labour in mica mining with access to quality pre-school learning, supported 1012 mica mining families with access to market linked additional livelihood options and established child protection committees in 45 mica mining villages. In Madagascar, TDH NL supported two mica mining communities to create associations/cooperatives under the government initiative named as 'Zone d'Encadrement' where they can get a permit to extract and export mica from their lands giving them more ownership of the resources and subsequently, the prices.

Furthermore, the efforts of Terre des Hommes to stop child labour by addressing its root causes and the systems that enable it in an inclusive approach has resulted in setting up new projects. Terre des Hommes has entered into discussions with local authorities and community leaders to make them aware of the danger of child exploitation, not only for themselves but also for the entire society. Together with the Mica related projects in India and Madagascar, in 2023, 14 projects across Bangladesh, Kenya, and the Philippines were implemented to stop child labour.

15. Were there any other meaningful successes as a result of efforts made to achieve target 8.7? Please also consider aspects of SDG8.7 that are not covered by your roadmap (i.e. child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery)

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

16. What were these meaningful successes?

We kindly refer to examples mentioned under questions 1 to 3.

17. What challenges did you face when implementing your roadmap priorities and next steps?

Social Partners

FNV

Continuity of finance.

Non-governmental organisations

Terre des Hommes

Challenges TDH NL faced include: shrinking of civic space in some of the countries where we operate, lack of access to basic services (primary education, health care, water) in areas where child labour is prevalent and slow progress of formalisation of the mica sector.

Work No Child's Business Alliance

The Dutch elections in November 2023 resulted in the rise of a right-wing majority in Parliament, with reduced interest in promoting national and international policies favouring corporate sustainability and human rights due diligence practices, including children's rights.

18. How did you overcome the challenges? What are the lessons learned?

Non-governmental organisations

Work No Child's Business Alliance

WNCB sought strategic cooperation and partnerships with other civil society actors to influence policy developments, and successfully added the topic of child labour messaging in advocacy campaigns by these strategic partnerships.

19. Which of the following formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence were used to assess the progress of your national priorities? Please select all that apply.

- Surveys
- Case studies
- Focus group discussions
- Interviews
- Anecdotal evidence
- Information from third parties
- Not applicable

- Other, namely: separate reporting cycle for grants and subsidies of the MFA.

20. If applicable, please tell us more about the formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence that you used to assess the progress of your national priorities.

In general, in order to measure progress on our roadmap priorities for this report, we have tried to link the results achieved to specific actions/results in our roadmap. This has been based on received input and discussions in the focus group. Moreover, several programmes/projects that get financial support from MFA have to fulfil the reporting cycle and perform (midterm) evaluations. As for example with the Work No Child Business Alliance, for which a final evaluation is currently ongoing.¹² The evaluation of the first phase of the ILO Accel project is finished and available [via the ILO evaluation repository](#).

21. Please tell us the challenges you have encountered (if any) in gathering evidence to assess your progress.

The evidence for progress is based on input from our focus group and its partners. This concerns a wealth of diverse and mostly qualitative data. A difficulty that comes along with that is to draw conclusions which are quantifiable for the purpose of this report.

22. Please specify the names of other stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, social partners, civil society organisations) and their involvement, if any, in assessing your progress. What was the level of involvement (information shared, consulted, involvement in implementation, validation of results)?

Please see question 19 and 20 for our evaluation approach and see questions 23 to 28 for the specification of the partners we collaborated with. We also kindly refer to the answers in question 1 to 3 for an elaborate description of the involvement and collaboration with our international partners.

Collaboration with international partners

23. Did you collaborate with any international partners?

- Other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder countries. See more [Pathfinders | Alliance 8.7 \(alliance87.org\)](#).
- ILO
- United Nations Agencies (other than ILO)
- International civil society organisations
- Other, namely: _____

¹² The evaluation report will be made public via the WNCB website once finalized.

24. Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your international partners.

We kindly refer to the answers of question 1 to 3. Furthermore, we like to highlight collaboration with other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder countries:

- Other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder country: the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment provided a presentation on the Dutch experience of being a Pathfinder country in the Alliance 8.7 for the Türkiye Alliance 8.7 workshop (October 2023).
- Other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder country: TDH NL participated in a meeting of the Alliance 8.7 group in Madagascar.
- Other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder country: As a chair of the Child Labour Cluster and member of the Technical Working group on Child Labour, TDH NL is involved in the process of Kenya to become a Pathfinder Country.
- International civil society organisations: Together with the Joining Forced Alliance, TDH NL is implementing the EU funded JOFA ACTE Programme (2023-2025) in Madagascar which aims to contribute to a reduction of child labour. The Joining Forces Alliance is composed of the 6 largest child-focussed international NGOs (ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International).
- UN Agencies: In 2023, TDH NL, UNICEF and Dutch company VDL implemented the RVO (Netherlands Enterprise Agency) funded FAMAHA project which aims to contribute to the elimination of child labour in Madagascar's mica sector.

25. Have you supported any sub-regional/regional/global initiatives, including South-South initiatives, on the elimination of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

26. Please tell us more about the sub-regional/regional/global initiatives you've supported.

We kindly refer to our answers in question 1 – 3.

Collaboration with domestic partners

27. Did you collaborate with any domestic partners?

Please select all that apply.

- Private sector
- Employers' organisations
- Workers' organisations
- Local civil society organisations
- Ministries within your government
- Survivor organisations and networks

28. Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your domestic partners.

Nationally we cooperate in the focus group, as well as in specific programs with the (local/international) partners of our focus group members.

- Work: No Child's Business Alliance
- Global March Against Child Labour
- Terre des Hommes Netherlands
- CNV International
- FNV
- VNO-NCW / MKB Nederland
- Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO): Fund against Child Labour and Social Sustainability Fund
- Netherlands Labour Inspectorate (NLA)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Justice and Security
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment

29. Compared to last year, do you think there was increased collaboration with domestic stakeholders?

- Yes
- No

30. Please tell us what has improved in your collaboration with your domestic collaborator(s) and efforts.

Cooperation with our domestic partners takes form through various platforms, including a focus group on Alliance 8.7. The cooperation was already good and therefore we do not note an increased collaboration compared to last year.

31. Was the pathfinder process considered useful?

- Yes
- No

32. If yes: How would you describe the impact of the Pathfinder Process in your country?

We use discussions through our national focus group as a platform to share insights, monitor progress and develop common activities on our roadmap priorities with all the different stakeholders involved. For example, a presentation on the Pathfinder Accountability Framework was held by NGO Global March. Also results on research by the Royal Tropic Institute KIT on living income and child labour in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire was presented in the focus group.

Future prospects

33. Is there a need to revise your country's roadmap priorities?

- Yes
- No

34. What needs to be updated? Please select all that apply.

- Need to update the priorities
- Need to update roadmap goals/targets
- Other, namely: _____
- Not applicable.