



PRESS RELEASE

National Pathfinder Country Strategic Workshop on Alliance 8.7 in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa - As part of the Ethiopian Government's commitment to combatting child labor, human trafficking, forced labor and modern slavery, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations, will organize a **“National Pathfinder Country Strategic Workshop on Alliance 8.7 in Ethiopia” on December 20, 2019, at the Intercontinental Hotel in Addis Ababa**, to be attended by ministerial departments and stakeholders.

Alliance 8.7, a global strategic partnership to eradicate forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labor, was created with the aim of bringing together all parties involved in a common effort to reach target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely "to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms."

The Alliance was officially launched in New York on September 21, 2016. The objectives of Alliance 8.7 are to accelerate timelines, share knowledge, drive innovation and leverage resources.

Within the Alliance, some countries have committed to going further and faster to achieve target 8.7. These “Pathfinder Countries” are ready to try new methods from which others can learn and accelerate efforts commensurate with the urgency of target 8.7. Ethiopia joined Alliance 8.7 as a Pathfinder Country earlier this year and is the sixth country on the African continent to organize a strategic workshop.

Ethiopia’s participation in Alliance 8.7 is in line with the government’s commitment of to the elimination of child labor and forced labor. The country has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor; ILO Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labor No. 29; the Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor No. 105; and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

In addition to the ratification of these international conventions, Ethiopia has adopted a National Plan of Action for Children, and created a National Council against Human Trafficking and Smuggling, a Federal Taskforce on Countering Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, and a National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.

The Strategic Workshop to be held on December 20, 2019 fits into this context and aims to:

1. Inform stakeholders of national priorities including national action plans to achieve target 8.7; and
2. Define a roadmap for the effective implementation of Alliance 8.7 in Ethiopia with concrete achievements.



According to the latest estimates published in 2017¹, 152 million children aged between 5 and 17 are subject to child labor worldwide. In Africa, one in five children are involved in child labor, a proportion more than twice as high as in any other region. 9% of African children are in hazardous work, again the highest of all the world's regions. Both girls and boys are affected by this phenomenon.

The same estimates² show that more than 40 million people around the world were victims of modern slavery in 2016, including 25 million in forced labor and 15 million in forced marriage. For Africa, the prevalence of modern slavery is 7.6 per 1,000 people; the highest percentage of any region in the world.

According to the National Child Labor Survey, 42.7% per cent of Ethiopian children are engaged in child labor, with the largest proportion found in the regions of Amhara and Afar.³ In a recent survey of Ethiopian returnee migrants, 60% of participants were in forced labor when abroad, with women and girls being particularly affected.⁴

Wishing to rapidly deploy efforts to accelerate action to reach the target 8.7, Ethiopia, through the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and the United Nations invite the various ministerial departments, embassies, donors, social partners and civil society, to meet during this Strategic Workshop on December 20, 2019.

For more information on Alliance 8.7: <https://www.alliance87.org/>

Otherwise please write to info@alliance87.org

¹ Alliance 8.7, "Global estimates of child labor: results and trends 2012-2016", Geneva 2017.

² Alliance 8.7, "Global estimates of modern slavery: forced labor and forced marriage", Geneva 2017.

³ Ethiopia National Child Labor Survey 2015 / International Labor Office, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FUNDAMENTALS); Central Statistical Agency (CSA). – Addis Ababa: ILO, 2018.

⁴ Migration and forced labor: An analysis on Ethiopian workers / Assefa Admassie, Seid Nuru, Tadele Ferede ; International Labor Organization, ILO Country Office for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan. - Addis Ababa: ILO, 2017.