



The Netherlands

Annual Pathfinder Progress Report

May 2021-April 2022

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Introduction

Pathfinder countries are those that commit to going further and faster to achieve the objectives of Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are committed to accelerating efforts and willing to try new approaches from which others can learn to support Target 8.7's urgent deadlines. Pathfinder status is open to any country, regardless of development level.

As of April 2022, 29 countries globally have manifested interest to become pathfinder countries. Out of these 18 have established detailed roadmaps identifying priorities for action to achieve target 8.7.

To record pathfinder progress against established national roadmap priorities, the Alliance 8.7 SDG monitoring working group structured a voluntary reporting process for the Pathfinder countries. Through their 'Alliance 8.7 national focal points' pathfinder countries can respond to a set of 12 questions related to the implementation of their roadmaps.

This report provides the overview of the Netherlands' responses to these questions. It is divided in 4 sections:

1. **Annual progress against roadmap priorities:** The first section looks into the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's pathfinder country report. Pathfinder countries provide a short progress report on each of their stated priorities and next steps and to report on challenges including but not limited to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. **Evidence of achieved progress:** This second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows Pathfinder countries to provide insights into how the progress between May 2021 and April 2022 was assessed.
3. **Value of the Pathfinder process:** The third section provides the opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help putting the results reported into context. This section allows countries to report on how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progressing towards their national priorities between May 2021 and April 2022.
4. **Way Forward:** This section allows to have an outlook on the next steps on a 12 months horizon towards the achievement of the country's priorities and to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised.

Annual progress against Pathfinder's roadmap priorities

The first section looks at both the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour, and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's Pathfinder Country report. Pathfinder countries are asked to provide short feedback on all their stated priorities and next steps. Moreover, this section allows pathfinder countries to report upon challenges they have encountered over the past 12 months.

Question 1: What progress has been made against the national roadmap priorities since May 2021?

- ▶ **Priority 1: Encourage businesses and offer instruments to tackle child labour and labour exploitation in their supply chain, nationally and internationally**

Progress

With this priority, the Netherlands aims to inspire, facilitate and activate businesses. All partners involved (the Dutch government, the Dutch social partners and NGO's) actively share experiences and good practices to stimulate businesses to apply due diligence in their supply chains.

This priority focusses on the below activities:

- **The Fund against Child Labour (FBK):** [The Fund against Child Labour](#) (FBK) supports Dutch entrepreneurs with subsidy and knowledge-support to investigate the prevalence and root causes of child labour in their production chains. The research of the supply chain is followed by a 3-year project with interventions aimed at the prevention of child labour at local level and measures to prevent child labour in their businesses (due diligence).

At the end of 2021, the FBK had a total of 39 running projects focused on different sectors such as the agriculture sector (cacao, hazelnuts, coffee, coconut, ginger and spices), the readymade garment and textile sector, tourism, natural stone and health. Most projects are based in Africa and Asia. 22 of these 30 projects are in "phase B", meaning that they completed the research and are in the implementation phase. In addressing root-causes of child labour, eleven projects support children to go (back) to school resulting in 27,933 children enrolled in formal – and non-formal education. In the same reporting year, two projects supported households increasing their income through income diversification benefitting 4,502 people. Other local interventions supported by FBK are strengthening Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (9 projects); Child Labour Free Zones (6 projects) and awareness raising (9 projects). Simultaneously, all the Dutch companies involved are supported in identifying and addressing gaps in their Due

Diligence systems. In 2021, the FBK also supported 10 new project proposals with a subsidy, and they are currently in the research stage. In 2022, the subsidy-budget is 7.4 million euros, divided into 2 rounds of application.

- **The ILO ACCEL Project:** In 2021, the ILO ACCEL project continued to contribute to the elimination of Child Labour by supporting governments, employers and workers' organizations, civil society, the African Union and UN agencies in Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda. The project focused on the following value chains: Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton, Gold and Tea, and is fully funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2021, the project had the following activities:

- **Cote d'Ivoire:** development of a mechanism allowing buyers of cocoa beans to cover insurance fees of cocoa farmers for Universal Health Coverage. The health risk of workers is considered as one of the root causes of child labour.
- **Egypt:** technical and financial support was provided, together with Germany, to make sure that the Dual Education System (DES) is safe for children by eliminating all risks of child labour in their working/training environment. The DES offers vocational skills training programs and upper secondary education.
- **Uganda:** in collaboration with the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE), the project facilitated the formulation of MOUs between FUE and their member company. Including, for example, support in the efforts for raising awareness in tea growing areas and strengthening their compliance with child labour legislation.
- **Nigeria:** supporting the National Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress to enlighten and empower workers to exercise their rights at work including through joining organized unions and associations.
- **Malawi:** supporting the Teachers Union of Malawi in their efforts in preventing and withdrawing children from child labour by keeping or bringing them back at school.
- **Mali:** through the partnership with the Chamber of Mining, the project has been providing its support for creating new cooperatives of workers in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in accordance with the Uniform Act of Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA).

In relation to capacity building of (local) governments, the ILO ACCEL Project has undertaken the following actions.

- **Cote d'Ivoire:** technical and financial support for the implementation of the National Action Plan, especially supporting the national efforts for strengthening the Child Labour Monitoring and Follow-Up System (SOSTECI). The project supported the government's efforts as a Pathfinder Country in organizing the strategic planning workshop to formulate the national roadmap.
- **Egypt:** the project also supports the implementation of the national action plan. With the support of the project, the Child Labour Unit (CLU) has been established within the Ministry of Manpower. The CLU serves as a permanent mechanism for coordinating national efforts to combat child labour.

- **Mali:** supporting the evaluation of the national action plan and the development of a second version.

- **Malawi:** the project supported the launch of the national action plan and has been supporting its implementation since. Based on the National Child Labour Mainstreaming Guide developed by the Minister of Labour, the project has been working with the Ministry in order to develop a capacity building program for mainstreaming child labour concerns into different national programs and mobilizing resources. The project also supported the efforts of the government to become one of the Pathfinder countries.

- **Nigeria:** technical and financial support for the development of the National Child Labour Policy for the elimination of child labour and forced labour in Nigeria and its national action plan (2021-2025). The project also supported the national efforts to honor the commitments as a Pathfinder country.

- **Uganda:** provide technical support for the finalization of the second national action plan. The project is continuing to support the implementation of the national action plan. The project also supported the efforts of the Ministry in ensuring their responsibility as a Pathfinder country of Alliance 8.7 in terms of annual reporting.

- **Work: no child's business (WNCB)** The Dutch Government is supporting a multi-year programme in which various NGOs are working together on an area-based approach to tackle the root causes of child labour, for example by setting up Child Labour Free Zones. The WNCB Alliance consists of Save the Children Netherlands, UNICEF Netherlands and the Stop Child Labour Coalition, in close collaboration with partner organisations and country offices in India, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Mali, Uganda and Vietnam. Covid-19 has made the work of WNCB difficult, especially when it concerns the implementation in partner countries. In addition, the pandemic influenced the income of parents and caretakers, increasing the risk of child labour, early pregnancy and domestic violence. In some partner countries, schools were

closed during the pandemic. Despite these setbacks, the Alliance-partners succeeded in performing the planned activities:

- Offer support via income-generating activities, group loans and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) • Offering alternative learning activities, partners ensured that the children could continue learning during school closures
- Provide aid packages and financial support to the poorest most affected families

Awareness and sharing experiences/knowledge Some examples of successful interventions can be found here (in Dutch): [Successful Interventions NEA](#) and [Best Practices Guide](#).

The “FBK community app” has been developed and used for meetings and webinars. Finally, a pilot with a number of (FBK) companies is developed in which a system will be tested. The idea is that the prevention of Responsible Business Conduct abuses, including child labour, will be included in the price of products from these companies. This pilot started at the end of 2021 and the results will be delivered at the end of March 2022.

- **VNO-NCW/MKB Nederland** – the Dutch Employer’s Organisation – has launched a campaign in collaboration with the NEA (FBK) and WNCB to open a [website](#) to fill in a scan to assess the risk of child labour in their supply chain. The scan will provide insights on the steps that fellow-entrepreneurs are taking in the fight against child labour. The businesses can find an action plan ([plan van aanpak](#)) on the website and can apply for advice, free of charge, on how to tackle child labour in their supply chain.

WNCB also conducted awareness campaigns in all partner countries. In several partner countries there was a collaboration with the national governments:

- **Jordan and Vietnam:** development of policy frameworks for the prevention and elimination of child labour
- **Uganda:** participate in the launch of the national action plan
- **India:** WNCB-research has led to policy recommendations for the elimination of child labour in the textile industry in New Delhi
- **Cote d’Ivoire and Mali:** supporting the upscaling of an area-based approach in more regions.

- **Due Diligence in the Coalition Agreement** In the Coalition Agreement (the basis for the 2021-2025 plans of the Government) the Dutch Cabinet has stated that due

diligence legislation in the EU will be promoted and national due diligence legislation will be implemented, which will take into account the level playing field and implementation of possible EU legislation. The Cabinet welcomes the proposal of the European Commission for a Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and is in favor of swift adoption and alignment with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Due diligence legislation is the key component of Dutch policy on responsible business conduct (RBC). In parallel with legislation, the Dutch government is currently working on other measures of the “smart mix”, such as an RBC support office, a new instrument for sectoral cooperation and an agenda for sustainable public procurement and responsible business conduct. These measures are expected to be launched in 2022.

- Fight against human trafficking and labour exploitation priority in coalition agreement: In the coalition agreement 2021-2025 of the Dutch cabinet, the basis for the government plans the coming years, it is reaffirmed that the fight against human trafficking and labour exploitation remains a priority for the Dutch government.

The program ‘Fight against human trafficking’ will be continued. This program was evaluated in 2021, showing steps are being taken to tackle human trafficking. For example, more cases have been brought to the Public Prosecution Office (OM) than last year and more municipalities now have policy on tackling human trafficking. A start has also been made with an action plan aimed at young people.

In addition, the legislation will be modernised to ensure that perpetrator of human trafficking can be prosecuted more easily. The coalition agreement also states that the recommendation of the Roemer Commission on labour exploitation of migrants, will be accepted and implemented.

- ▶ **Priority 2: Promote national and international dialogue on SDG 8.7 in relation to (global) supply chains on the one hand and root causes on the other**

Progress

The following actions were taken during the reporting period to promote the national and international dialogue on SDG 8.7 in relation to the (global) supply chain on the one hand and root causes on the other hand.

- Within the framework of EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform against criminal threats of Europol), the Dutch Labour Inspectorate has taken the lead

together with France, Italy, Romania and the UK in organising joint action days of labour authorities and police forces throughout Europe. Moreover, the Netherlands (through the Dutch police) is a driver in the approach to Human Trafficking within this platform.

- On 31 March the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined the kickoff meeting of the African Union in collaboration with the ILO for the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour and the 10 Year Action Plan against child labour and forced labour of the African Union.

- All national stakeholders involved collaborated to put combating child labour in the spotlight on 12 June, the International Day Against Child Labour, each organisation supporting this goal from their own responsibility and role.

- On 14 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a side event of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which focused on the elimination of child labour in supply chains. The panel consisted of governments and companies from producing and consuming countries, with the objective to exchange best practices and to get a better understanding of each other's position and role.

- In November of 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave a duo-presentation, together with Verstegen Spice and Sauce BV, at the yearly international conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation to explain the role of the Government in supporting businesses in the fight against child labour and to share best practices.

- FBK was a speaker in the UN Global Compact webinar to introduce the issue of child labour in global supply chains and provide suggestions for practical solutions by highlighting key stakeholders' actions.

► **Priority 3: Ensure effective monitoring and analysis of the impact and progress on 8.7**

Progress

The Dutch government aims to set up an effective monitoring system for child labour worldwide in the Alliance 8.7 context, ensuring accountability, without overburdening the reporting countries. Therefore, the Netherlands is an active participant in the Alliance 8.7 Monitoring Working Group. Per request of the Monitoring Working Group, the Netherlands has developed an indicator framework for the reports of so-called consumer Pathfinder countries. Main goal of this proposal is to establish a framework that assesses the different Pathfinder countries on the topics that matter most and that require the most attention for the country-specific situation.

In addition, a variety of programs and plans have been evaluated:

- National Baseline Assessment of the national action plan and development of the second version of the action plan
- Assessment Program Against Human Trafficking ([Voortgangsbrief programma Samen tegen mensenhandel](#))
- The Dutch National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking has issued a report including recommendations on how to tackle exploitation in the Netherlands ([Slachtoffermonitor mensenhandel 2016-2020 | Rapport | Nationaal Rapporteur](#))
- Report on modernisation of the national legislation for the fight against child labour. This report also includes new forms of child labour 'kidfluencers'.

Question 2: Overall, looking at the progress made vis-à-vis your roadmap priorities, how would you classify your progress over the past 12 months?

We have made some progress towards our roadmap priorities.

Question 3: Looking at your progress regarding your national priorities and next steps, what are the main successes between May 2021 and April 2022 you would like to highlight?

Firstly, the Netherlands is proud to have become a Pathfinder country in 2021 and to have published our priorities and roadmap (with a scope of 2 years) towards the elimination of child labour. The majority of our successes are already mentioned under question 1 regarding the progress on our priorities. However, we would like to highlight the following successes.

Ministries, NGO's, FBK, employers' and workers organisations collaborated to raise awareness for combating child labour and stimulate businesses via practical tips and testimonials.

The fight against human trafficking became a priority in the Dutch coalition agreement, the basis for the new government plans after the elections of 2021. As part of this coalition agreement, the government will modernise the legislation to improve prosecution of perpetrators. In order to combat labour exploitation, the new government will implement the recommendations from the report of the [Roemer Committee](#). The Roemer Committee, researched the position of migrant workers in the Netherlands during 2020 and has issued several recommendations to strengthen the rights and position of migrant workers. In April 2022, the Government launched a pilot to offer temporary housing to victims of gross

violations of labour laws in addition to the practice to offer shelter to victims of human trafficking.

In addition, the European Commission published a legislative proposal on due diligence. EU companies will be obliged to identify, prevent or mitigate, and account for adverse impacts on people and the environment in their value chain. EU-wide legislation has the advantage of creating a level playing field and achieving more impact in the value chain. The Netherlands will continue fostering EU-wide legislation and will implement national due diligence legislation that takes into account a level playing field with surrounding countries and implementation of possible EU legislation.

Question 4: Would you like to mention other meaningful successes and opportunities toward the achievement of the target 8.7 that are not part of the main roadmap priorities (e.g. laws enacted, events, partnership arrangements, additional resources)?

Due to the Netherlands becoming a Pathfinder country we have been able to achieve a higher level of policy coherency.

After becoming a Pathfinder Country, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment established two important working groups, which provide a vehicle to coordinate policy between different Ministries, as well as multi-stakeholder coordination. The first working group is the **Interdepartmental Working Group on the Elimination of Child Labour**, with participation for the following Ministries: Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (several divisions within the Ministry), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (several divisions within the Ministry), Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Ministry of Justice and Security and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports.

The second working group regards the **Focus Group on the Alliance 8.7**. The Focus Group includes Ministries, The Netherlands Entrepreneurs Agency (NEA/FBK), Employer's organisation (VNO-NCW/MKB-Nederland), Worker's organizations (FNV and CNV), NGO's, Unicef, and the General Education Union (Algemene onderwijsbond).

Question 5: What challenges, including COVID-19 if relevant, did you face to implement the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

Covid-19 has made the work of WNCB difficult, especially when it concerns the implementation of area-based approaches due to strict and sometimes long lockdowns.

Evidence of achieved progress

The second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows the Netherlands` to provide insights into how the progress that occurred between May 2021 and April 2022 was assessed.

Question 6: How have you examined the progress against the national priorities identified in the Pathfinder country roadmap priorities?

Formal evaluation process

What formal evaluation tools were utilised to determine success/failure of the national priorities identified?

Focus group discussions

Other evaluation tools, please specify

Please elaborate on the focus group discussions that have been used to determine success/failure of the national priorities?

For this Alliance 8.7 report, all parties involved are consulted. This consultation does not only involve a governmental level, but also other stakeholders. These stakeholders are mainly consulted via the Focus Group on the Alliance 8.7.

What other formal evaluation tools have been used?

All the programs initiated by the Dutch Government and mentioned in the Roadmap have official evaluation obligations and moment, meaning the involved Ministries report about the progress of these programs to the Dutch Parliament at least on a regular basis.

Question 7: Were any other stakeholders like government agencies/ social partners/ civil society organisations involved in assessing progress?

Yes

Please specify who and how other stakeholders were involved in assessing progress.

All the programs initiated by the Dutch Government and mentioned in the Roadmap have official evaluation obligations and moment, meaning the involved Ministries report about the progress of these programs to the Dutch Parliament at least on a regular basis.

For this Alliance 8.7 report, all parties involved are consulted. This consultation does not only involve a governmental level, but also other stakeholders. These stakeholders are mainly consulted via the Focus Group on the Alliance 8.7.

The review of the national action plan was reviewed by external stakeholders before and during the drafting of the review. When it concerns the Dutch policy on International Responsible Business Conduct the Social and Economic Council (SER) was also consulted.

Value of the Pathfinder process

The third section provides the opportunity to reflect upon the pathfinder process and help put the reported results into context. This section allows to report how the Pathfinder process may have helped progress towards their national priorities between May 2021 and April 2022.

Question 8: What are the main highlights around the pathfinder process for the Netherlands?

▶ Increased collaboration on SDG 8.7 with international partners

Please describe shortly the increased collaboration with the ILO?

With becoming a Pathfinder country, we have increased our collaboration with the ILO via the Alliance 8.7 network and meetings. We have done so by actively participating in the Monitoring Working Group, and other meetings where possible.

Please specify with which Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder country/ies you had an increased collaboration? Please describe shortly this increased collaboration?

The Netherlands is looking to cooperate informally with other EU Member States to reach our priorities within the Alliance 8.7. The overarching goal is to accelerate action on achieving target 8.7. The Dutch Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, for example, recorded a video message for the conference 'Zero Tolerance for Child Labour, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking' in March 2022, organised by the French Government, to highlight the importance of the combatting child labour and cooperation.

▶ Has the Netherlands supported sub-regional/regional/global initiatives on the elimination of child labour, forced labour and human trafficking?

Yes

Please clarify how the Netherlands supported sub-regional/regional/global initiatives on the elimination of child labour, forced labour and human trafficking

Sponsoring, convening or chairing initiatives and events to accelerate action. Scaling up or testing multi-stakeholder and innovative approaches in another country

Please describe how you supported the scaling up or testing multi-stakeholder and innovative approaches in another country

We support the scaling up and testing of multi-stakeholder approaches via the projects we support: FBK, ILO ACCEL and WNCB. Please see question 1 for more information on these projects.

► **Increased collaboration on SDG 8.7 with domestic partners**

With which domestic partners did the Netherlands collaborate to achieve its priorities?

- Employers/private sector
- Employer organization(s)
- Worker organization(s),
- Domestic civil society organization(s)
- Other ministry/ies, Other

Please specify the name and how you collaborated with employers/private sector on a domestic level?

Via FBK and WNCB, employers and private sector are involved. There is a direct cooperation with Dutch companies as they are the main target group. Subsidy is available and Dutch companies are also involved in the knowledge building agenda of FBK via e.g. knowledge sessions/webinars and lessons learnt booklets. Finally, a pool of FBK company ambassadors support the fund to spread the aims and the lessons learnt of FBK amongst other (Dutch) companies and stakeholders.

There is collaboration with private sector actors in DISCO (Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa), and through other sector initiatives, like in the pensions sector, as well. In the pension sector a pilot was started to include the topic of child labour in engagement conversations of pension funds.

Please specify the name and how you collaborated with employer organization(s) on a domestic level?

There is a good collaboration with both employer's organisations (VNO-NCW/MKB-Nederland) as well as the worker's organizations (FNV and CNV). Through the Focus

Group on Alliance 8.7 parties are updated and involved with the main activities to achieve the priorities in the fight against child labour.

Please specify the name and how you collaborated with worker organization(s) on a domestic level?

There is a good collaboration with both employer's organisations (VNO-NCW/MKB-Nederland) as well as the worker's organizations (FNV and CNV). Through the Focus Group on Alliance 8.7 parties are updated and involved with the main activities to achieve the priorities in the fight against child labour.

Please specify the name and how you collaborated with civil society organization(s) on a domestic level?

The Dutch Government is – amongst others - working together with NGO's Unicef, Save the Children, Coalition Stop Child Labour, Global March, Terre des Hommes and the Work: No Child's Business Alliance in the fight against child labour. We are also in contact with the NGO's and consult them via the aforementioned Focus Group.

Please specify the name and how you collaborated with other ministries on a domestic level?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment are working in close collaboration to ensure that the Dutch priorities are achieved. When relevant, other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, are also involved. This collaboration is achieved via working groups as well as on an ad hoc basis.

Future /Now what ?

This section allows pathfinder countries to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised and to have an outlook on the next steps to achieve your priorities on a 12-month horizon. The next steps will be used for the pathfinder report next year.

Question 9: Is there a need to revise the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

Not Applicable

Question 10: What next steps are you planning to undertake until April 2023?

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

Targets until April 2023 for this next step:

During the course of 2022, we will further align the policy with parties involved and the Cabinet will take a decision about the content of the national action plan. Based on this decision, further actions will be taken.

Based on what evidence will you be able to determine that you achieved this step?

The decision on the content of the national action plan will be communicated to the Parliament.

Under which work area does this next step fall?

Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking

- ▶ **Next step 2: Follow up research new forms of child labour**

Targets until April 2023 for this next step:

The report including the Cabinet's response will be published mid-2022. The follow up steps will be included in the Cabinet's response.

Based on what evidence will you be able to determine that you achieved this step?

The publishing of the report

Under which work area does this next step fall?

Human Trafficking

- ▶ **Next step 3: RBC support office**

Targets until April 2023 for this next step:

The Dutch government wants to make it easier for companies to do business responsibly, regardless of whether it is their own choice or whether they are required to by law. As part of its responsible business conduct (RBC) policy, it is therefore developing, amongst others, a new facility to promote sector-wide cooperation and a RBC support office that will function as a one stop shop. These two important instruments are intended to provide support to the business community in conducting due diligence. The aim for the new instrument for sector-

wide cooperation is to be ready in the summer of 2022, and for the RBC support office to become operational in autumn.

Based on what evidence will you be able to determine that you achieved this step ?

This step is achieved when the RBC support office has become operational.

Under which work area does this next step fall?

Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking

▶ **Next step 4: Implementation of new forms of sectoral cooperation**

Targets until April 2023 for this next step:

The Dutch government will, as agreed in its coalition agreement, at EU-level support legislation on responsible business conduct (RBC) and will introduce national RBC legislation that promotes a level playing field with neighbouring countries and is in line with the implementation of possible EU legislation.

Under which work area does this next step fall?

Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking

▶ **Next step 5: Certification of temporary employment agencies (Roemer Commission)**

Targets until April 2023 for this next step:

The coalition agreement states that the recommendation of the Roemer Commission on protection of labour migrants, will be adopted and implemented. As part of this implementation, a certification system for temporary employment agencies is being developed by the government together with social partners and other key stakeholders. The aim is to submit a draft bill with the certification system for internet consultation by mid-2022. The government aims for the new system to come into effect as early as possible, but presumably no earlier than 2025.

Based on what evidence will you be able to determine that you achieved this step?

Submission of the draft bill

Under which work area does this next step fall?

Forced Labour, Human Trafficking

► **Next step 6: Revision article 273f of the Criminal Law (Wetboek van Strafrecht)**

Targets until April 2023 for this next step:

As stated in the Coalition Agreement, the legislation will be modernised to ensure that perpetrator of human trafficking can be prosecuted more easily. The Parliament will be informed about the progress mid-2022.

Based on what evidence will you be able to determine that you achieved this step?

The step will be achieved when the Parliament has been informed about the progress.

Under which work area does this next step fall?

Human Trafficking

Question 11: Support needed to achieve the priorities on the roadmap?

Not Applicable

Question 12: 2021 was the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. Please, in a few lines, describe the major outcomes from your action pledge.

Pledge title: Let's work together to end child labour in our supply chains, anywhere, by anyone. Period. [Pledge page see [here](#).]

With the support of the Dutch Social Partners and NGO's, the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have issued a pledge for the International Year for The Elimination of Child Labour. All parties involved have agreed to join forces and activities wherever possible during the UN year with the aim of strengthening the message to end child labour, increase the sense of urgency and accelerate actions. This message was amongst others emphasised via online campaigns, webinars, and participation in events. Information on many of these events can be found under question 1 regarding the progress on the Roadmap.

All partners involved actively share experiences and good practices to stimulate businesses to apply due diligence in their supply chains. As this is in line with our priorities from our roadmap, the results of these actions are incorporated under the previous questions. For example, the outcomes of the Dutch funded programmes WNCB and ACCEL, as well as the activities of the FBK.

In addition, the Dutch government has actively fulfilled its role as a pathfinder country and put forward the need for an integrated approach.