

2023 Annual Report

CATALYSING CHANGE



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Michiel Reerink
Board President
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FOREWORD

2023 was a landmark year for the ECLT Foundation. With your support, we continued to positively impact children and farmers in countries where we operate. Our work in research, advocacy, capacity-building, and technical assistance led to significant breakthroughs in tackling some of the systemic issues that perpetuate child labour.

We unveiled a new strategy, launched an e-learning academy, revised our business model, and developed a Country Prioritisation Risk Matrix to assess and prioritise countries based on child labour risk.

Concurrently, mandatory human rights due diligence regulations, especially in the EU, gained momentum, and the focus on child labour in global agricultural supply chains intensified. These developments further underscore our 2023-2027 strategic objectives: increasing State capacity for strong child protection systems, enhancing business capacities and implementing evidence-based projects to end all forms of child labour in agricultural communities.

Supporting State capacity

In 2023, the ECLT Foundation continued to support States to increase their capacity for strong child protection systems in agricultural communities. By year's end, collaborating States had completed baseline assessments of child labour policies and due diligence systems. In addition, two tobacco regulators adopted Agricultural Labour Practices Codes, setting minimum labour and human rights standards on farms on which tobacco is grown in their respective countries.

In line with the objectives in our 2023-2027 strategy, we believe enhanced State capacity and an enabling environment policies, standards and regulation are prerequisites for any sustainable efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture.

Supporting business capacity

We launched an e-learning academy to enhance the skills of professionals in the tobacco and agribusiness sectors, reinforcing our commitment to strengthen companies' capacities to achieve SDG targets 4 and 8.7. We also held technical webinars on child labour in agriculture and welcomed the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D), which emphasises the importance of our Pledge of Commitment.

Implementing integrated area-based projects

We implemented area-based projects in major tobacco-producing countries. In Malawi and the US, we partnered with national institutions to better understand child labour in agricultural communities. In Mozambique, we piloted a Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System and developed a skills training program. In Zimbabwe, we supported the regulator to pilot a helpline for reporting child labour and other labour abuses and monitored compliance with labour standards on 2,000 farms.

We look forward to continued collaboration with our partners, contributors, businesses, unions, farmers associations, and civil society in 2024 and beyond.

ABOUT US

The ECLT Foundation works towards agriculture free of all forms of child labour: a world with thriving agricultural communities where children go to school and develop in a safe environment. Our belief is that fostering capacities and establishing enduring partnerships is the most effective approach to tackle the underlying causes of child labour.

We unite key stakeholders to combat child labour in tobacco-growing communities and in agriculture. We are a member of the UN Global Compact and have special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.



Our vision

Agriculture free of all forms of child labour.



Our mission

The ECLT Foundation catalyses the power of States, businesses and communities in collective action to eliminate all forms of child labour in agriculture.



Our objectives

1. Support States to increase capacity for strong child protection systems in agricultural communities.
2. Support businesses to increase capacity to address all forms of child labour in agricultural communities.
3. Support the implementation of evidence-based solutions for stakeholders to end all forms of child labour in agricultural communities.



10

WHAT WE DO TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR

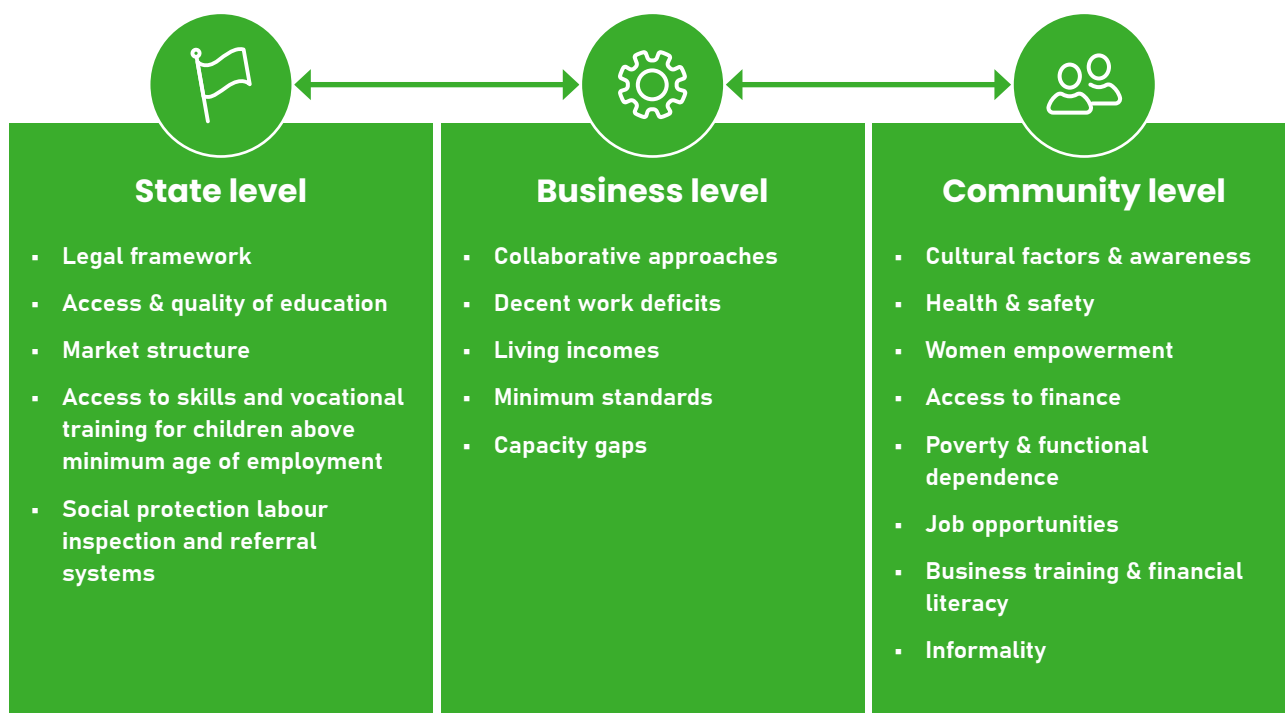
Child labour in agriculture has multiple causes and consequences, usually driven by widespread informality, poverty, legislative gaps, lack of access to decent work opportunities for children above the minimum age of employment, wages that are inadequate to meet farm workers' basic needs, incomes that are insufficient to enable the generation of discretionary expenditure by farmers, weak social protection systems, and absence or insufficient access to quality free public education.

Against this background, protecting children and preventing child labour implies taking a holistic approach that views children's rights as interrelated, interdependent, and interconnected; whilst recognising that children's rights can be violated – but also defended – by a range of duty bearers within the family, business, the community, government, and the international community. In this situation, the large-scale social change required for every child to be protected from child labour comes from better cross-sector coordination rather than from isolated interventions.

In the ECLT approach, children (right-holders) and duty-bearers (parents, guardians, farmers, governments, and other institutions) are meaningfully involved in addressing all forms of child labour in agricultural areas.

The ECLT Foundation pursues a human rights-based integrated approach to eliminating child labour, which includes strengthening households and addressing harmful social norms that perpetuate child labour, promoting responsible business conduct and strengthening legal, child protection and reporting systems to curtail it.

Our approach acknowledges that child labour occurs due to failures at three interlinked levels:





WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The ECLT Foundation works to catalyse the power of States, business and communities in collective action to eliminate all forms of child labour in agriculture.

We work with States because gaps in governance, such as lack of quality education and inadequate social protection are often central causes of child labour. Business, multistakeholder initiatives and NGOs cannot replace the government in fulfilling these essential duties of the State. Therefore, effective engagement and collaboration with the State is essential for our efforts to make a positive difference in the fight against child labour.

The second pillar of our work involves supporting business to eliminate child labour. We believe corporate accountability can play a pivotal role in ending child labour. When companies take responsibility for working conditions throughout their supply chains, they can more effectively identify and address child labour and other labour abuses.

However, business often does not have the skills, the capacity or all the tools to address complex social issues such as child labour on their own. Accordingly, collaborating with business is critical for skills transfer, scaling up of action and sustainable elimination of child labour in supply chains.

Finally, we work at community level: promoting education, encouraging savings, and piloting new approaches to improve farmer incomes and livelihoods. This work is essential because it provides us with evidence for joint learning with States and business for adoption and scale up.

SUPPORTING STATES

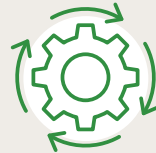
Enhancing State capacity for robust child protection systems in agricultural communities



Strengthening State capacity

One of the main reasons why child labour occurs is because the State is unable or unwilling to fulfil children's rights. We strengthen State capacity by, among other things:

- Establishing child labour monitoring systems
- Promoting social dialogue on key issues such as education, social protection, labour markets, and legal standards
- Creating and updating lists of hazardous tasks related to child labour
- Facilitating public-private partnerships to scale up integrated area-based approaches, ensuring that children in agricultural communities have improved access to State-funded social protection and referral mechanisms
- Supporting the development and implementation of National Action Plans for the Elimination of Child Labour.



Technical assistance and capacity building for regulators

To ensure responsible business practices across the tobacco industry and the broader agricultural sector, the ECLT Foundation provides extensive technical assistance and capacity building to regulators, industry groups, and multistakeholder platforms. Our initiatives aim to:

- Strengthen capacity, collaboration, and coordination among stakeholders
- Address systemic issues to embed responsible business conduct among all growers and contractors
- Prevent the displacement of child labour.

For instance, in 2023, we guided the adoption of industry-wide Agricultural Labour Practices (ALP) Codes in Malawi and Zimbabwe, including comprehensive training and capacity building, and developed measurement and reporting systems to monitor progress. These efforts aimed to reach critical mass in reducing child labour and promoting sustainable practices within the tobacco industry.



Signature of MOU with the Republic of Zimbabwe



**MALAWI TOBACCO
INDUSTRY AGRICULTURE
LABOUR PRACTICES CODE**



TOBACCO INDUSTRY AND MARKETING BOARD

**AGRICULTURAL LABOUR
PRACTICES CODE**

2023/2024 SEASON



SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

to address child labour in agricultural communities

Working with business to improve child labour policies and practices in supply chains

We collaborate with agribusiness to address the root causes of child labour in supply chains. For instance, in 2023 we provided technical assistance to the Ministry of State, Prime Minister's Office – Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities (PMO-LYED) to commission a baseline survey of child labour policies and practices of companies involved in commodities in the tea, tobacco, cotton, cashew nut, sisal and coffee sub-sectors in Tanzania.

In Mozambique, we conceived a project to equip youths above the minimum age with vocational skills so that they can access decent work opportunities.



Supporting the Pledge of Commitment

To reinforce our commitment to eliminating child labour, the ECLT Foundation supports the efforts of Pledge signatories. Consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Pledge of Commitment is a framework for our contributors to align, reinforce and, where necessary, expand current policies and practices in addressing child labour in tobacco-growing.

In 2023, we launched the third self-assessment survey to take stock of the progress made by Pledge signatories since 2014. The outcomes of the self-assessment will also inform the Pledge signatories' priorities and ambitions for the next decade of implementation.

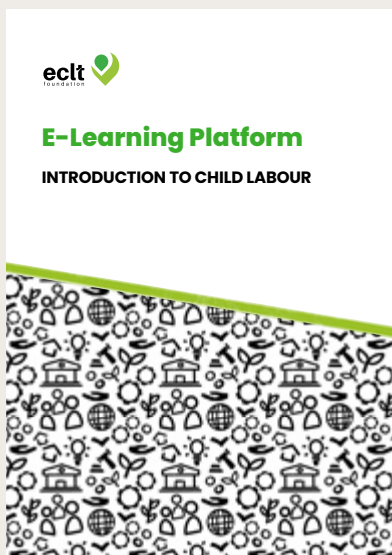
Piloting Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS)

The ECLT Foundation is pioneering the adaptation and use of Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) in the tobacco sector. Used widely in the cocoa sector, CLMRS are built around community facilitators who visit households, raise awareness on the dangers of child labour, and identify children engaged in hazardous work. If a child is found in child labour, they are recorded in the system and support is provided to the child, their family and community.

In 2023, we continued implementation of the pilot for CLMRS in Mozambique. By the end of 2023, 2,473 children were registered in the system and will be monitored going forward.



CLMRS agent in Mozambique



E-learning and training

In 2023, the ECLT Foundation developed and delivered e-learning and training programs to enhance the capabilities of professionals tackling child labour in both tobacco and general agriculture. These initiatives were designed to equip industry professionals with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively address child labour issues within their supply chains.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Implementing evidence-based solutions to end child labour in agricultural communities

Area-based projects

The ECLT Foundation focuses on implementing integrated area-based approaches in priority countries identified through our comprehensive country risk matrix.

In 2023, we advanced our initiatives to develop sustainable, community-driven solutions to address and prevent child labour in agricultural communities in Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda. As a result, 52,242 people benefited from these projects.



Pilot projects

We also test innovative approaches and tools designed to eliminate child labour, supporting their evaluation, adoption, and scale-up across sectors. These pilot projects serve as crucial testing grounds for new strategies, ensuring that only the most effective solutions are implemented on a larger scale.

For instance, in 2023, we continued piloting the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System in Mozambique. In Zimbabwe, we piloted an industry grievance mechanism and tested an ALP monitoring system among 2,000 independent growers.



Promoting multistakeholder collaboration at the community level



Community development ideas facilitate joint community actions to translate into reality, leveraging resources and coordinating efforts among various stakeholders. By fostering collaboration and developing mutually reinforcing actions and measurement systems, we strengthen the fight against child labour at the grassroots level.

In Malawi, communities were supported to develop 100 one-year action plans to combat child labour and address harmful social and gender norms. These plans, running through June 2024, include community awareness campaigns, promoting education for girls, equal household chores, gender dialogue sessions, and discussions with local leaders on the importance of giving equal education opportunities to both boys and girls.

Research and knowledge sharing

The ECLT Foundation commissions research and organises platforms and events to share knowledge and accelerate the adoption of best practices. Our efforts aim to eliminate all forms of child labour in agriculture by providing stakeholders with the latest evidence-based solutions and insights.

In 2023, we funded the East Carolina University Agromedicine Institute and the USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service to carry out a 360 degree labour assessment in agriculture in North Carolina.



In Malawi, we commissioned a rapid assessment to determine whether tenancy still exists in tobacco production despite the 2021 government ban, and if so, understand from tenants and landlords themselves the reasons for its persistence, and what needs to be done to accelerate the transition to waged employment.

In Zimbabwe, we supported research by National Employment Councils in high child labour risk sectors—agriculture, domestic work, commercial, and artisanal mining—to identify sector-specific root causes of child labour. This research aims to drive sector-specific actions for the effective elimination of child labour, contributing to the objectives of the National Action Plan for Children.



Collaboration with farmers' associations and trade unions



The ECLT Foundation identifies and pilots initiatives of common interest with farmers' associations and tobacco sector unions. These collaborations aim to align efforts, share resources, and promote collective action to combat child labour within the agricultural sector.

Through these efforts, the ECLT Foundation remains dedicated to supporting the implementation of evidence-based solutions, ensuring sustainable progress in the fight against child labour in agricultural communities.

In 2023, we presented at the ITGA Africa Region Annual General Meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

In Zimbabwe, the research initiative with NECs and development of lists of hazardous work for children that we supported involved GAPWUZ and Zimbabwe Tobacco Association (ZTA), ensuring that the voices of unions and farmers were heard and taken into consideration.

In Malawi, TAMA Farmers Trust and TOAWUM participated in the tenancy rapid assessment.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023

Since 2011, the ECLT Foundation has reached **+1.4 million** children, farmers, and families.

Here are our highlights from 2023, working in eight countries.

Guatemala
Indonesia
Malawi
Mozambique
Tanzania
Uganda
USA
Zimbabwe

1 NO
POVERTY



+345,000

USD of microloans were disbursed to smallholder farmers and community members in Malawi and Tanzania.

10,152

youth members of YSLAs were provided with financial literacy training in Malawi.

4,968

young people were financially empowered in Malawi, through participation in Youth VSLA groups.



2 ZERO
HUNGER



+37,800

children have meals provided at school in Malawi, improving school performance and food security.

87

smallholder farmers trained on production of added-value products in Mozambique.

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



100

school desks were provided in Mozambique.

1,045

out-of-school children and youth attended community-based accelerated learning centres in Malawi.

252

teachers were trained on improved teaching methodologies and literacy skills in Malawi and Mozambique.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



4,796

women were financially empowered through joining savings and loan groups in Malawi and Mozambique.

979

women increased their household income through training and participation in savings groups in Tanzania.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



5,267

children were removed or kept away from child labour and hazardous work.

3,310

children were indirectly prevented from entering into child labour by strengthening livelihoods of their caregivers.

2,298

children graduated from technical and vocational education and training in Malawi and Mozambique.

2

Agricultural Labour Practices Codes were produced.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



42,117

adults learnt about dangers of child labour and the importance of education for children.

124

community-level child protection committees were supported in Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



31

formal members of the Partnership for Action Against Child Labour in Agriculture (PAACLA) in Indonesia.

1

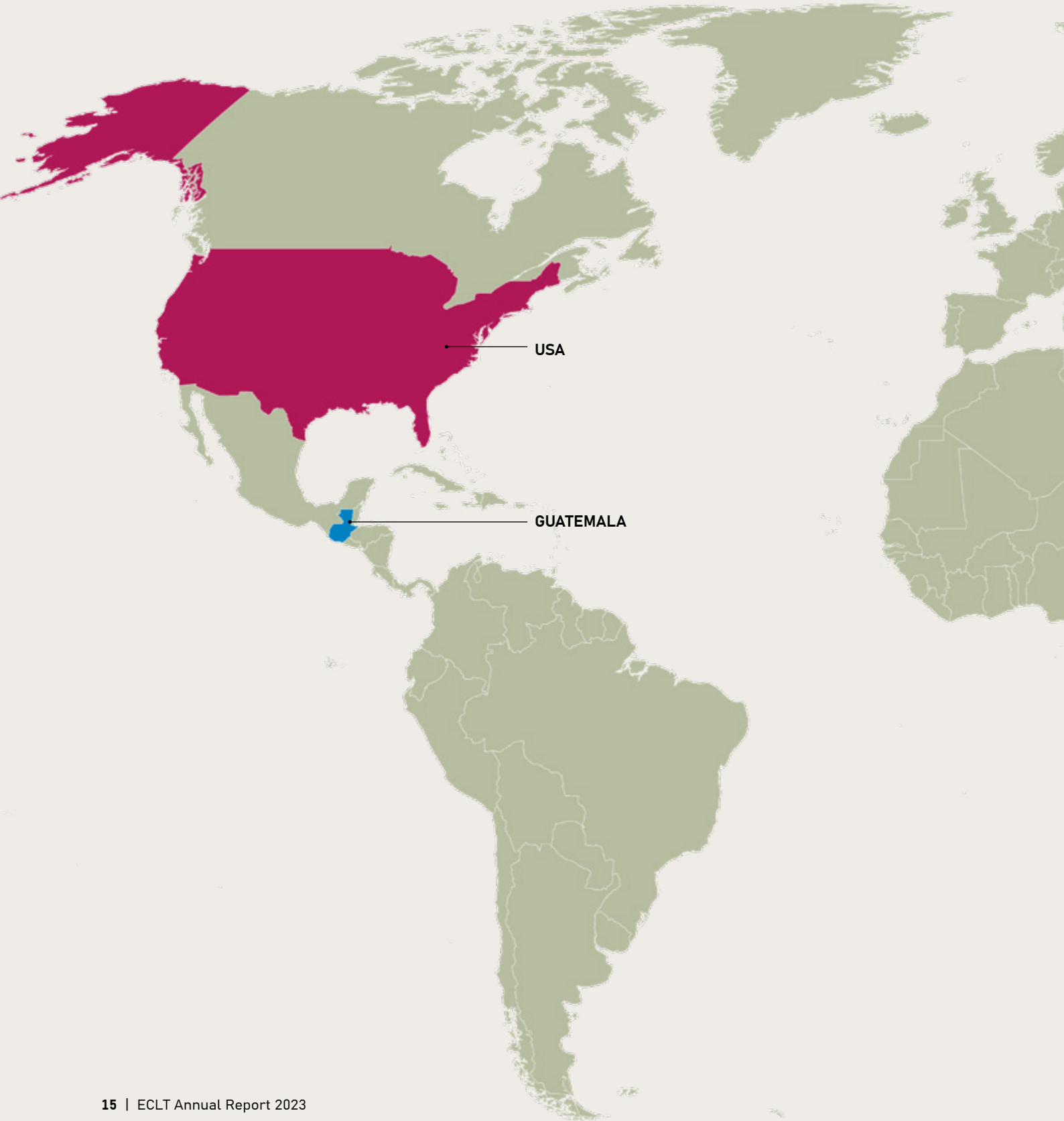
baseline assessment of child labour policies and practices in the agriculture sector was carried out.

1

tripartite-plus social dialogue forum was facilitated in Tanzania.

WHERE WE WORKED IN 2023

In 2023, the ECLT Foundation supported the implementation of integrated area-based projects, funded research initiatives and provided technical assistance to governments, business and farming communities in eight countries.



- Area-based projects, advocacy and technical assistance
- Advocacy and technical assistance
- Research initiatives



INDONESIA

ACCLAIM project overview

The Accelerating Collective Child Labour Actions for Impact (ACCLAIM) project in Indonesia, implemented by JARAK (Jaringan LSM untuk Penanggulangan Pekerja Anak) in close coordination with the National Secretariat of PAACLA Indonesia, focuses on eliminating child labour in the agricultural sector.

The project, which started in July 2023, has already achieved significant milestones, including gaining support from key stakeholders, a comprehensive baseline assessment and addition of new members to the Partnership for Action Against Child Labour in Agriculture (PAACLA). In 2023, the project launched its first phase, which focuses on advocacy at the national level. The second phase, involving the implementation of Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) at community level, is scheduled for later stages.

Baseline assessment and outcomes



The baseline assessment conducted by PAACLA, BAPPENAS, and the Ministry of Manpower, with the support of ECLT, aimed to evaluate child labour policies and practices in key agricultural sub-sectors. This involved a self-assessment survey targeting companies in the tobacco, cocoa, and palm oil sectors to identify existing gaps and best practices. This assessment led to the development of targeted improvement plans and the establishment of working groups to address these issues.

Advocacy efforts



In 2023, the ACCLAIM project initiated several advocacy activities to strengthen government capacity to tackle child labour.

These activities included consultations with the Ministry of Manpower, BAPPENAS, and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection. Support from essential national ministries and institutions was secured, and the specific roles of these ministries in implementing the ACCLAIM Project were defined and integrated into a common strategy.

Additionally, workshops and training sessions were conducted to build capacity among government officials and PAACLA members, focusing on legislative gaps and responsible business conduct to reduce family dependence on child labour across the agricultural sector.

Success story

PAACLA welcomes new members

Established in 2018, the Partnership for Action Against Child Labour in Agriculture, with the support of ECLT, JARAK, BAPPENAS and a number of multi-national companies operating in Indonesia, is a multi-stakeholder partnership that aims to harmonise efforts across government, private sector, and civil society to reduce child labour in agriculture.

In 2023, PAACLA achieved remarkable progress in fostering collaboration and expanding its membership. The PAACLA annual meeting in 2023 marked a pivotal moment for the coalition, expanding its network to include new members. By the end of 2023, PAACLA comprised 28 members, including five government institutions, nine companies, and 14 civil society organisations. Additionally, several organisations

participate as “stakeholders” or observers. The inclusion of new members this year has significantly bolstered PAACLA’s involvement in key national processes and its capacity to address child labour issues on a larger scale.

The diversity of PAACLA’s membership has proven to be a significant advantage as it brings together a wide range of perspectives and resources. Government institutions provide regulatory support and policy alignment, companies contribute practical industry insights and resources, and civil society organisations bring on-the-ground experience and advocacy skills. This combination enhances PAACLA’s ability to implement comprehensive and effective strategies to combat child labour.



MALAWI

Tobacco Industry Agricultural Labour Practices Code

Following the recommendations of the 2022 self-assessment survey *Child Labour Policies and Practices in the Tobacco Sector in Malawi*—conducted by ECLT in collaboration with the Tobacco Commission (TC)—the tobacco industry united in 2023 to form four ALP sub-working groups to address four key priorities:



Developing common child labour definition, minimum child labour standards, and minimum forced labour standards for the tobacco sector.



Developing common indicators and measurement system to track and communicate progress against child labour at industry level and developing a child labour data base for the tobacco industry.



Consolidating farmer training and communications materials for distribution to contractors, buyers, auction floor, Tobacco Commission, the Agricultural Research and Extension Trust and farmers organisations.



Developing an industry operational grievance mechanism

Out of the consolidated work from the sub-groups, the ECLT Foundation provided technical assistance and financial support for the development of the industry Agriculture Labour Practices Code (ALP). The ALP Code was approved and adopted officially by the tobacco industry on the 4th of October 2023, which marked a key milestone towards the elimination of child labour in Malawi.

Following the adoption, the ECLT Foundation provided funding for the development of the ALP training manual. The training manual will guide facilitators during the training with growers and farm workers. Moreover, the ECLT Foundation supported a training of trainers course for practitioners drawn from a cross-section of industry stakeholders, thereby building a pool of competent instructors who can then teach the material to farmers.

Aligned with ILO fundamental conventions and Malawi law, the Tobacco Industry ALP Code defines the labour principles, practices, and measurable standards that TC expects to be met on all tobacco farms in Malawi.



1,125

children directly prevented from entering into child labour.



37,683

children received school meals across 100 schools.



21

children withdrawn from child labour.



6,862

community members joined VSLAs or YSLAs.



27,902

community members, farmers, and district-level officials reached by awareness raising on the dangers of child labour and the importance of education for children.

PROCLAIM project

In 2023, the implementation of the ECLT funded PROCLAIM project in Malawi continued. PROCLAIM is a 4,5 years project implemented in Ntichsi and Mchinji Districts by CARE Malawi, Rays of Hope and the Microloan Foundation. While affected by heavy rains emanating from cyclone Freddy, the PROCLAIM project achieved satisfying results in 2023, including:

- **8.6% increase in school enrolment**
- **89%** of targeted children **attended school 60%** of the time
- **97% retention rate** of children aged 5-14 in the 100 schools under the project
- **More effective use of teaching and learning resources** and improvement of classrooms management skills by trained teachers.
- **The average income of targeted households increased by 20%**, as well as the number of livelihoods streams they can rely on. It was noted that more households used the loans from savings groups or the MicroLoan Foundation to carry out small-scale businesses.
- Thanks to the participation in the Farmer Field Business Schools, **food security and food diversity gains** were reported.
- **Continued awareness raising** allowed for all the 100 schools to have functional child labour monitoring and reporting structures and contributed to the fact that households reported adopting child-friendly attitudes and behaviours and denouncing child labour.



Success story

“I am glad to have a second chance to make something out of my life, I have learnt a lot of skills both at the CBE and Vocational skills. I have gained much needed skills and I don't even need to be employed”

17-year-old Dorothy Samalani of Nkonkha village in Mchinji district, Malawi is one of the many youths rescued from child labour. Because her parents could not afford to keep her in school, Dorothy dropped out of school 3 years ago to work on her parents' land in tobacco, maize and soya fields. Born to peasant farmers with 3 other siblings, her parents could hardly put food on the table let alone provide school necessities for her and her siblings.

In 2021, Dorothy attended a meeting called by PROCLAIM inviting all children that dropped out of school to enrol in Complementary Basic Education (CBE) centres in their area. Dorothy enrolled at Kanongo CBE where she was given the necessary school materials. At the end of the year, she could choose to either go back to primary school or venture into the vocational training pathway. Supervised by local artisans supported by PROCLAIM project, Dorothy chose to pursue hairdressing and underwent a 5-month training where she acquired skills in setting up a hair salon, face grooming, relaxing hair, sewing weaves, tinting hair, washing and setting hair, steaming and plaiting various styles. While waiting for her graduation, Dorothy has since secured a job in a hair salon at Nkonkha Trading Centre where she is able to save money to get her own place and uses some of the money to assist her parents.

MOZAMBIQUE

CLMRS pilot project

Since late 2022, the ECLT Foundation has been implementing a Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) pilot project in seven rural agricultural communities located in the district of Angónia, in the Mozambican province of Tete.

This system aims at preventing, identifying, monitoring, and remediating child labour cases by strengthening community-level child protection structures. In addition to designing and rolling out such a system in this area, the pilot project also provides direct assistance to children identified in child labour.

In 2023, the project continued supporting Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) in child labour monitoring and identification. CCPCs were also provided with equipment to facilitate ease of travel, including motorbikes and bicycles to monitor farms and carry out household visits, and official t-shirts to ensure they are well identified. At the end of the year, members of the seven CCPCs had managed to register over 2,450 children in the CLMRS, and record 260 cases of child labour.



To alleviate the damage caused by cyclone Freddy in early 2023 in two communities covered by the CLMRS, the project completed repairs in two primary schools, and provided them with 100 school desks to ensure a conducive learning environment for children. Furthermore, over 1,100 children aged 5 to 14 years old were provided with school kits, and 24 teachers were trained on improved teaching techniques to boost literacy and numeracy of students.

The CLMRS pilot project identified over 1,700 children without birth certificates, and provided financial literacy training to 87 smallholder farmers and CCPC members. This training included alternative income-generating activities and value-added product manufacturing. Birth certificates are needed for school enrollment, helping reduce dropout rates, while financial training strengthens caregivers' livelihoods to prevent child labor.





2,473

children registered in the CLMRS.



1,143

children aged 5 to 14 years old directly prevented from entering into child labour.



147

out of 260 children aged 5 to 14 years old withdrawn from child labour.



14

children aged 15 to 17 years old withdrawn from hazardous work and provided with vocational training.



109

caregivers of vulnerable children joined and formed Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).



2,924

community members, farmers, and district-level officials reached by awareness raising on the dangers of child labour and the importance of education for children.



Success story

At 25 years old, Cardoso Lúcio Marcelino is a teacher at Camilulu Primary School and a member of the Community Child Protection Committee. He is also the committee focal point in charge, capturing all data collected by the CCPC through a digital App and uploading it into the CLMRS.

After engaging with the previous ECLT-funded project in the area (i.e., RETRAIA Project, 2019-2022), Cardoso started acting as mentor teacher for after-school programmes in his school to prevent children from falling into child labour, and in 2023 he formally became the focal point of the local CCPC for digital reporting. He was trained on various issues such as child protection, child labour and its worst forms, and child marriages, but also strategies for school retention, and improved teaching techniques.



“Before getting involved with the project, I had no understanding of tasks that were considered hazardous for children. My active participation in the project was a continuous learning (journey) that made me a man prepared to contribute to the fight against child labour and its worst forms”.

Cardoso wishes to continue collaborating with its CCPC and with ECLT, and to keep on raising awareness among his neighbours, fellow teachers, and children attending school at Camilulu Primary School. He is committed to improving the life of members of his community, and protecting children from child labour, especially from hazardous work to avoid a negative impact on their attendance and performance in school. When asked about his advice to improve the results of the CLMRS pilot project, Cardoso stated that he “would suggest the project creates the necessary conditions to issue birth certificates to children in the community, so as to facilitate continuity of their education when transitioning into secondary education”.

TANZANIA

Assessing child labour policies and practices in agriculture sector in Tanzania

Concerned with child labour in Tanzania, the Ministry of State, Prime Minister's Office – Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities (PMO-LYED) and ECLT carried out a “Baseline assessment of child labour policies and practices in the agriculture sector in Tanzania” to take stock of the status of major contractors and buyers in the cashew nuts, coffee, cotton, tea, tobacco, and sisal sectors in Tanzania.

The assessment was preceded by extensive consultations between ECLT, the PMO-LYED, the Ministry of Agriculture, social partners, crop boards and companies involved in contracting and buying of raw agricultural commodities in the cashew nut, coffee, cotton, sisal, tea and tobacco crop farming agricultural sub-sectors in Tanzania. The consultations aimed at clarifying the need for the baseline assessment, the nature of questions and how the outcomes would be used. The baseline assessment was undertaken through a questionnaire administered to thirty-two (32) companies involved in the contracting and buying of the six agricultural raw commodities.



The indicated outcomes of the baseline assessment show that the players in the key agricultural sectors in Tanzania vary in maturity and in their approaches to child labour. This situation poses a systemic risk for the whole agriculture sector, and for all children and farmers and their communities in Tanzania. Based on the gaps identified, general and specific recommendations were concluded to the attention of the government of Tanzania, and of the crop boards for cashew nuts, coffee, cotton, tea, tobacco, and sisal sectors.

15 companies from the cashew nuts, coffee, tea, tobacco, and sisal sectors responded to the questionnaire out of the 32 companies invited to the assessment.



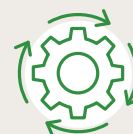
11 out of 15

Respondents reported that they have a child labour policy.



11 out of 15

Respondents reported that they carry out child labour due diligence in their supply chains.



11 out of 15

respondents reported that they provide for or collaborate in remediation.

Social dialogue



ECLT supports social dialogue by funding yearly meetings of key government ministries, workers and employers' organisations. In 2023, the Social Dialogue Forum was held in Tabora Region, Tanzania.

The Forum revisited the main challenges facing the national Child Labour Monitoring Systems process in Tanzania previously identified by the national stakeholders, including a) limited coordination/harmonisation, b) inadequate resources for monitoring, c) limited follow-up for data and information, d) the establishment and management of the child labour database, e) the corresponding measures taken so far by the responsible institutions towards addressing the challenges.

As a result, action points for the further strengthening of the CLMS process by stakeholders were agreed upon during the Forum.

In addition, the findings from the "Baseline Assessment on child labour policies and practices in the agriculture sector in Tanzania" were presented to the assembly by ECLT in plenary session, before breakout groups were formed to review and amend them. All recommendations proposed in the baseline report were formally endorsed by participants to the forum. The government and the crop boards have expressed their preparedness to work on the recommendations proposed for their respective sectors and showed openness for further guidance and technical support in this regard. Eventually, it paved the way for fruitful partnerships with the government and different crop boards.

ECLT, through its partners TDFT and TAWLAE, has been implementing the PROSPER RESET Project since 2021. Among others, the project initiatives include savings groups, model farm schools and skills training. In addition, the project operates a microloan fund from which groups access funds to finance their entrepreneurial activities. The PROSPER RESET Project team ensures adequate sensitisation of beneficiaries on the existence and benefits of the fund, the application process and standard requirements for accessing loans.



1,740

children ages 5-17 were indirectly prevented from child labour livelihoods interventions with their caregivers.



4,503

community members, farmers, and district-level officials reached by awareness raising on the dangers of child labour and the importance of education for children.



1,124

households registered an increase in their income due to their participation in the different groups supported by the project.

A total of approximately
USD 331,000
in savings was mobilized
by 56 VSLAs.

Almost
USD 58,000
were disbursed in microcredits
to 14 VSLAs through the
project's microloan fund.



Success story

A microloan of USD 1,304 enabled Dastan Tanganyika, from Ukondamoyo village, to open a new business in clothing.

Before, Dastan used to own a small shop selling locally made coffee. The new business resulted in an increase in income rather than depending on seasonal income from agriculture activities and gardening during the dry seasons. The income change led to improve the standard of living at the household level.

The new capital from the microloan also enabled him to expand his farming activities where in this rainy season planted two acres of groundnuts and sunflowers as cash crop. He hopes to increase income from the harvest of these crops.

With the increase in income from the new business, he has also been able to support four children, two in primary school and two in secondary school. He has also started servicing the loan and after paying it all back wishes to apply for another loan in order to expand his business and purchase more assets.

UGANDA

Affiliate Office partners with ILO to strengthen government capacity

In 2023, our affiliate office in Uganda, the Elimination of Child Labour in Agriculture (ECLA), entered into partnership with ILO in the implementation of the project 'Strengthening Capacity of Governments to Address Child Labor and/or Forced Labor, and Violations of Acceptable Conditions of Work in Sub Saharan Africa' (CAPSA).

By the end of the year, the ECLA had achieved several milestones:



6

sub-county councils in Hoima, Kikuube and Masindi districts had adopted by-laws against child labour and other forms of child abuse.



3

districts were supported with the development of resources and tools to enforce child labour laws.



280

Village and Savings Loans Association groups were linked to formal financial institutions, thereby building financial inclusion and sustainability.



1

Sugar company was provided with technical support to develop its child labor policy.



Collaborated with Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) to strengthen the capacity of

78

front-line service providers, including:

- District labour officers
- District probation and welfare officers
- Police, family and child protection units
- Magistrates
- Local council leaders
- Community development officers.

Front line service providers are responsible for responding to cases of child labour and forced labour.



44

children were withdrawn from child labour and sent back to school.

GUATEMALA

Supporting work-related learning for youths in rural communities

Since 2014, the ECLT Foundation has been collaborating with the Government of Guatemala and the San José La Máquina Municipality to create decent work opportunities for children above the minimum age of employment in rural communities. The project aims to equip young workers, thereby increasing their possibilities of moving away from hazardous child labour into decent work.

In 2023, the ECLT Foundation continued to provide financial support to the Employment Office in La Máquina Municipality. This support enabled the municipality to link children above the minimum age of employment with work-related learning opportunities. This initiative helps the students transition from school to the world of safe work.



USA

360° assessment of labour situation in agriculture in North Carolina

In pursuit of our commitment to pursue research and innovation on the elimination of child labour in agriculture, the ECLT Foundation has been collaborating with the East Carolina University and government agencies, agricultural commodity groups, companies, and civil society organisations in North Carolina. Together, we aim to shed light on farm labour arrangements in North Carolina's agriculture sector, identifying best practices and potential blind spots.

By the end of 2023, the US Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistical Service (USDA NASS) had administered a survey to 1,379 randomly selected growers covering more than a dozen agricultural commodities.

Adapted from human resources, the 360° assessment seeks to obtain feedback from a variety of viewpoints using quantitative and qualitative approaches.

The research project was governed by a Project Advisory Group with stakeholder representation of the agricultural sector, including government, commodity associations and civil society organizations responsible for regulating, educating, supporting and advocating for growers, farmworkers, and their families.

ZIMBABWE

Establishing measurable labour and human rights standards in Zimbabwe

The ECLT Foundation is committed to progressively enhance labour and human rights standards in the agricultural sector.

In 2023, ECLT provided technical assistance and funding for the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) to define minimum labour and human rights standards to be observed across the whole tobacco industry in Zimbabwe. Developed through a participatory consultative process, the TIMB Agriculture Labour Practices Code is based on Zimbabwean law and ILO fundamental conventions

The Code establishes benchmarks to be observed on all tobacco farms in Zimbabwe in relation to child labour, forced labour, safe work, income and working hours, freedom of association and a right to collective bargaining, non-discrimination, and compliance with the law.



“The ALP in tobacco serves as a guide for the minimum standards of working, including family and hired labour, on tobacco farms in auction floors and factories in Zimbabwe. It also provides a benchmark against which all Zimbabwean tobacco shall be evaluated for global compliance. All stakeholders are expected to apply this Code diligently and transparently to ensure the progressive elimination of child labour and forced labour, improve social and labour conditions and to uphold human rights on tobacco farms.”

Emmanuel Matsvaire, Acting CEO, TIMB



In 2023, ECLT also supported ALP Code training of trainers in Zimbabwe. A total of 46 master trainers drawn from a cross-section of the tobacco industry went through the ToT. Additionally, the Foundation supported the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) and TIMB in presenting the Code as a best practice to the National Employment Council for the Agriculture Industry.



“Our ambition is that this Code drives further improvement, compliance, and collaboration, and adds fresh impetus to our common goal: the elimination of all forms of child labour and other labour abuses in areas where tobacco is grown.”

Innocent Mugwagwa, Executive Director, ECLT Foundation.



Knowledge exchange visit to Brazil

In 2023, the ECLT Foundation facilitated a 5-day exchange visit to Brazil by senior representatives from the Zimbabwe tobacco industry and the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW). Comprising senior officials from the TIMB, the Tobacco Leaf Exporters Association of Zimbabwe, the Tobacco Research Board, Zimbabwe Tobacco Association and MoPSLSW, the primary goal of the exchange visit was to foster learning and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices in sustainability within the tobacco sector.



In Brazil, the Zimbabwe delegation was hosted by SindiTabaco and visited Santa Cruz do Sul, a key tobacco-producing region in Brazil. The delegation's engagements included meetings with various tobacco companies, growers' associations, growers, farm and factory visits.

According to a report prepared by the Zimbabwe delegation, the main lessons learnt from the Brazil exchange visit include, among others:

- **The tobacco industry can play a significant role** in addressing environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues directly through the merchant's association, including implementing and funding of practical solutions on issues such as child labour and environmental programs.
- **Growers' associations can play a more prominent role** in implementing and coordinating the sector-wide ESG efforts, purchase of inputs, equipment and implements. Thus, it is essential that industry stakeholders invest in building the capacity of legitimate growers' associations.



"I gained valuable insights into environmental, social, and governance issues in the tobacco industry during the exchange visit. I will leverage this knowledge to continually make improvements in our work to maximise the positive impact of tobacco in communities."



Rhoda Mavuka, Executive Director of Production and Operations, Kutsaga Tobacco Research Board



TRACKING OUR PROGRESS

towards our 2027 goal

In 2023, the ECLT Foundation adopted a new strategy aimed at doubling its current scale and impact by the year 2027. Delivering on this ambitious target has required that ECLT put in place a robust and transparent platform for tracking and reporting on progress towards the strategic plan. In this regard, in the last quarter of the year, ECLT adopted a new digital online and user-friendly platform called Toladata.

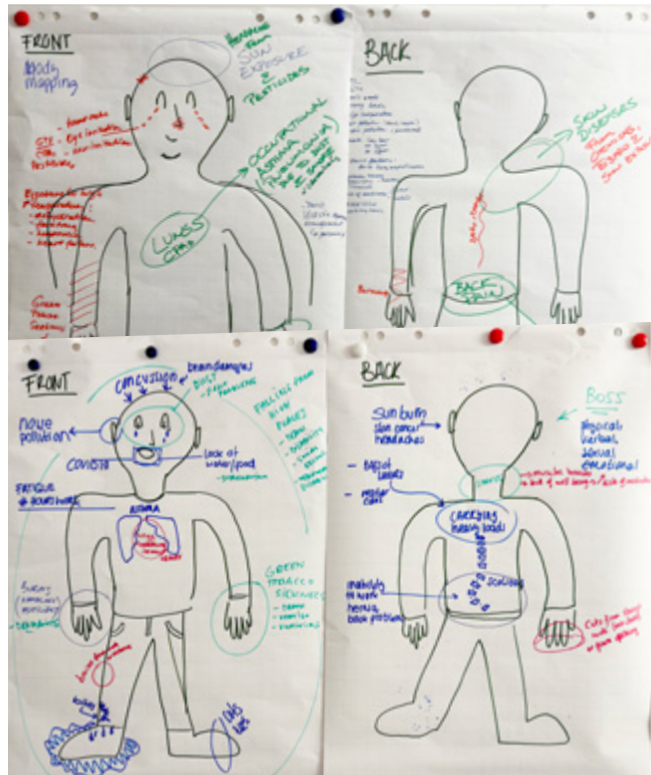
Toladata

The digital platform hosts and aggregates data across the Foundation's projects, including area-based projects, operations, advocacy, communications, and e-learning. In 2023, ECLT has worked towards the set-up of the platform to be fully operational and imported data from past and current projects. The team was trained on the platform functioning, especially the import of data.



Workplace Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment and Risk Management training

In September 2023, the ECLT Secretariat successfully completed a three-day training on Workplace Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Risk Assessment and a Risk Management. This training was delivered by Peter Hurst, a specialist in health, safety, and labour-related issues, at the ECLT office in Geneva. Peter Hurst brings a wealth of experience to the training, having previously worked with the International Labour Organisation, World Wide Fund for Nature International, International Union of Food and Agricultural Workers, and as a government and safety labour inspector in agriculture in the United Kingdom. Leveraging his extensive expertise, the training aimed to familiarise ECLT staff with common health and safety issues prevalent on farms, as well as equip them with the necessary skills to assess and respond to these risks appropriately.





“

“Under the guidance of Peter Hurst, we explored the intricate landscape of health, safety, and labour-related challenges. From the application of pesticides to access to clean water, our journey into Farm Risk Management helped us better understand the specificities and practicalities of OHS Risk Assessment and Risk Management. It demonstrated the vital role of ensuring a safe and secure work environment—for both children and adults alike.”

Ludivine Richner
Programme Officer
ECLT Foundation

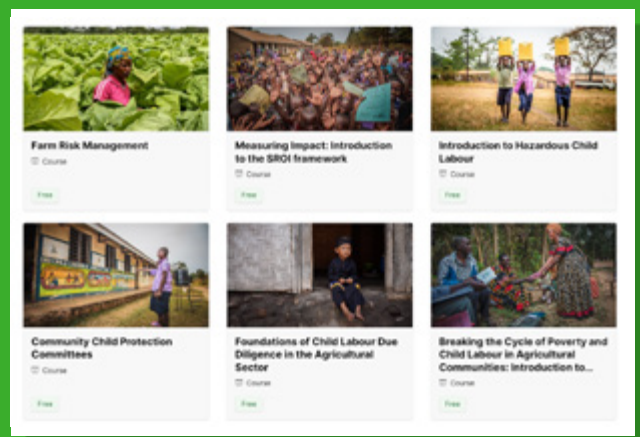


OUR E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Child labour in agriculture is a complex issue and one actor alone cannot break the cycle. To be impactful and sustainable, efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture require collaborative actions across borders and sectors, as well as a solid understanding of what the issue is.

In 2023, we launched our e-learning platform which provides learning opportunities for professionals and practitioners working in the fields of sustainability and child labour in tobacco, and agriculture, in general. The overall goal of the ECLT e-learning platform is to strengthen the capacity of governments, business and farming communities to achieve target 8.7 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Free of charge, our introductory course series intends to build foundational knowledge and skills on child labour in agriculture and set out the basic framework for stakeholders to take action alone or in collaboration with other actors.



In 2023, the ECLT e-learning platform made significant contributions towards the Foundation's mission by developing 7 courses.

Expansion of course offerings

The platform expanded its curriculum to include new courses on advanced topics related to child labour prevention, responsible business practices, and community engagement.

Increased participation

The number of registered users grew substantially, with professionals from various sectors, including government, NGOs, and industry groups, enrolling in and completing courses.

Interactive learning tools

The platform integrated new interactive tools, such as webinars, discussion forums, and live Q&A sessions with experts, to enhance engagement and facilitate deeper learning.

Impact assessments

Surveys and feedback mechanisms were implemented to assess the impact of the training on participants' work. The results showed a marked improvement in the participants' ability to implement effective child labour prevention strategies.

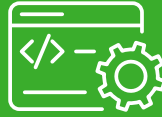
These achievements underscore the ECLT Foundation's commitment to empowering professionals with the tools and knowledge needed to eradicate child labour, ensuring a safer and more just environment for children in agricultural communities.



KEY FIGURES



7
courses online



5
technical webinars



1'242
course enrolments



1'140
learners completed
100% of the courses
they enrolled to

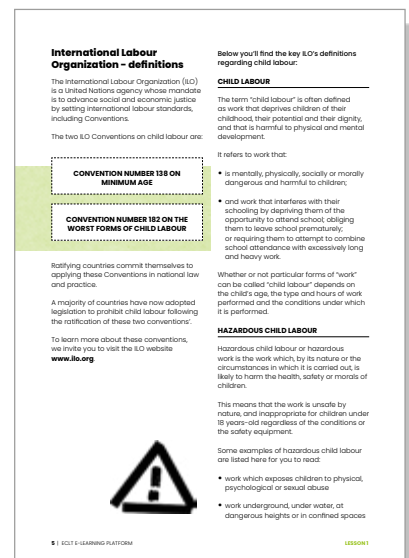
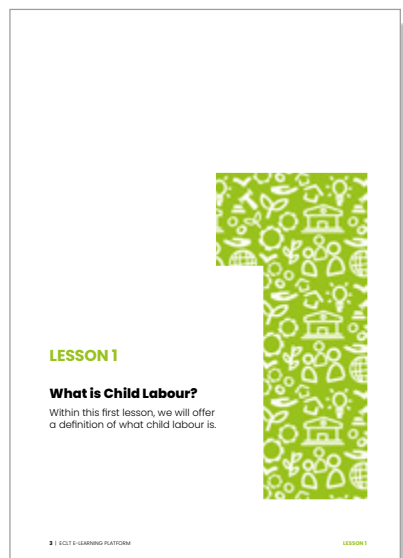
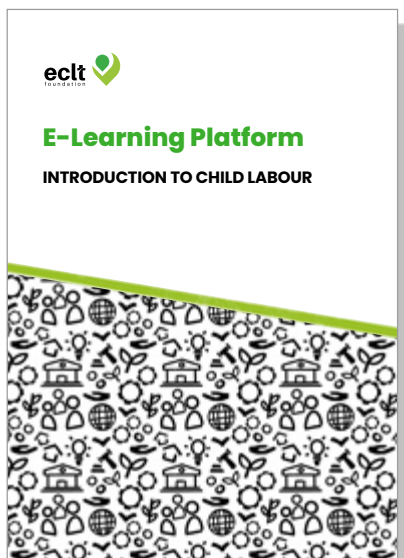


+65'000
users from 174
countries



273
certificates granted

In 2024, the ECLT Foundation will expand course offerings and provide workbooks with the e-learning modules, ensuring learners have full access to content and a structured space for notes to deepen understanding and knowledge retention.



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2023

Balance sheet USD

2023

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	4,155,768
Other current assets	253,718
Non-Current Assets	71,291
	4,480,776

LIABILITIES & CAPITAL

Short term liabilities	216,713
Restricted funds	370,868
Capital & Reserve Funds	
Foundation Capital	180,690
Accumulated unrestricted fund	4,299,200
Allocated to / (Released from) unrestricted funds	-586,695
Sub Total Capital & Reserve Funds	3,893,195
	4,480,776

Income and expenditure USD

INCOME

Unrestricted Contributions	3,683,271
Restricted Contributions	370,868
Total Income	4,054,139

EXPENSES

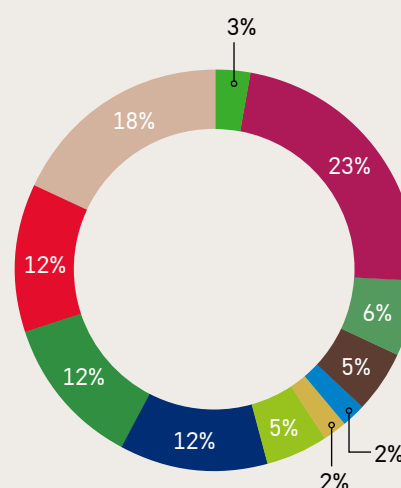
Programme:

Protect: Policy & Advocacy activities	-821,689
Respect: Pledge activities	-653,685
Remedy: Project & Research activities	-2,044,443
Total Programme expenses	-3,519,817
Operating expenses	-789,137
Total Expenses	-4,308,954

Financial Income	101,219
Financial expense	-62,230
Result before change in funds	-215,827
(Allocated to) / Released from restricted funds	-370,868
Annual result before allocation to capital	-586,695
(Allocated to) / Released from unrestricted funds	586,695
Net result for the year	0

Country/Activity expenses

Guatemala	<1%
Indonesia	3%
Malawi	23%
Mozambique	6%
Tanzania	5%
Uganda	2%
USA	2%
Zimbabwe	5%



Global - Protect	12%
Global - Respect	12%
Global - Remedy	12%
Support Cost	18%

The 2023 audit report was signed by RSM in May 2023. The Financial Statements will be submitted to the Foundation Board for approval in June 2024.



THE ECLT FOUNDATION



Staff Members

Innocent Mugwagwa
Executive Director

Franck Archinard
Finance Manager

Irena Manola
Operations Manager

Ludivine Richner
Programme Officer

Mathilde Berger
Programme Officer

Nataliya Prongué
Head of Programmes

Roi Fernández Agudo
Programme Manager

Víctor Díaz
Communications Manager

Non-Executive Advisors

International Labour Organisation
Designated technical advisor
Benjamin Smith

External Evaluators

Agricultural Research and Extension Fund (ARET)

Circle Indonesia

Centre for Development Management (CDM)

External Auditors

RSM Audit Switzerland SA

Board Members

Michiel Reerink
ECLT President

Maria Reymão
ECLT Treasurer

Anthony Jackson

Carsten Roll

Charlie Watson

Eduardo Jardim

Mathew Wilde

Mercedes Vazquez

Mette Valentin

Simon Steyne

Song Wang

Tony Dunnage

Tracy Oates

Contributors

Alliance One International, Inc.

British American Tobacco Holdings

Contraf-Nicotex-Tobacco GMBH

Hail & Cotton Inc.

Imperial Brands, PLC

International Tobacco Growers Association

Japan Tobacco International & Japan Tobacco Inc.

Landewyck Tobacco

Premium Tobacco

Scandinavian Tobacco Group

Swedish Match

Universal Corporation

The ECLT Foundation

At the ECLT Foundation, we work to catalyse the power of States, businesses, and farming communities in collective action to eliminate all forms of child labour in agriculture.

We advocate for strong policies, share best practices to multiply our impact, and engage rural families so they can benefit from farming while ensuring that their children are healthy, educated, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

A better life for **children, farmers, and families.**

Visit our e-learning platform: www.learn.eclt.org

Visit our website: www.eclt.org

The Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco-growing (ECLT) Foundation is dedicated to promoting and supporting, in tobacco-growing communities, the elimination of all forms of child labour as defined in the relevant instruments of the International Labour Organisation.

The ECLT Foundation is an independent Swiss not-for-profit organisation, registered under and operating according to the relevant legislation of the Swiss Confederation. While the Foundation values the support of its financial contributors, ECLT's policies, positions and actions reflect solely its mission. As such, the Foundation's policies, positions, and actions should not be interpreted as endorsing, promoting, or representing the positions, acts, and omissions of any of its contributors or of the tobacco industry. Additionally, the Foundation does not speak or act on behalf of its financial contributors or the tobacco industry.

The ECLT Foundation values transparency, accountability, sustainability, and integrity in its work, and is committed to contributing to the shared global goal of a thriving rural economy, free of all forms of child labour.