

Programme title¹: Alliance 8.7 – Joining forces globally to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour

Country	Global
ILO Office	ILO FUNDAMENTALS
Time Frame	2026-June 2031
Budget estimate	39,143 US\$ per month



▶ The challenge

Alliance 8.7 is a global multi-stakeholder partnership dedicated to taking immediate and effective action to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labour, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7. Despite notable progress, the global challenge remains immense:

- **138 million children** are engaged in child labour, with **54 million** in hazardous work.¹
- **50 million** people in **modern slavery**, of which **25 million** are subjected to **forced labour**.²
- **6G,627 victims** of **human trafficking** have been identified globally.³

With the 2025 deadline to end child labour unmet and the 2030 SDG Target 8.7 deadline fast approaching, it is more urgent than ever for Alliance partners to unite and drive sustained, impactful action. Renewed investment and engagement are essential for Alliance 8.7 to continue serving as the backbone of global efforts to end these human rights violations.

The Alliance is composed of a Global Coordinating Group representing the multi-stakeholder community of the Alliance; 38 countries who are or who have manifested interest in becoming Pathfinder Countries; over 400 partners; three thematic Action Groups (on Supply Chains, led by the ILO, on Agriculture, led by FAO, and on Migration, led by IOM); and two recognized business networks (the Child Labour Platform and the Global Business Network on Forced Labour).

The Chair of the Alliance is currently held by Chile and the Deputy Chair by Côte d'Ivoire. The ILO serves as the Secretariat of the Alliance. The ILO provides ongoing

¹ This proposal is shared for informal consultation. It has not yet passed the ILO internal quality assurance process and is therefore subject to change.

support through its national offices and field specialists, who play a key role in providing technical guidance for Pathfinder Countries.

Recent cuts in development aid have significantly affected Alliance 8.7, resulting in:

- Loss of in-country support for 15 Pathfinder Countries due to project closures.
- Reduced Secretariat capacity, threatening delivery of key services as of January 2026.
- Loss of support for communications, partner engagement, cross-regional knowledge sharing, and annual workshops.
- Severe impact on partners supporting the PFC process at the country level.

Despite these challenges, the Alliances continues to operate with limited resources and the Pathfinder Community continues to grow.

Establishing a stable funding base is now critical to ensure the continued delivery of the Alliance's essential functions.

▶ **The Alliance 8.7's comparative advantage**

The international community has an unprecedented amount of knowledge about the nature, causes and consequences of child and forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery. Since the creation of the Alliance in 2016, high-level advocacy has maintained SDG 8.7 on the global policy agenda, extensive experience has been gained and new mechanisms to share information and promote coordination created. The launch of the Pathfinder Country strategy in 2018 was a significant milestone to focus the Alliance on achieving impact on the ground. The adoption of the Pathfinder Country Accountability Framework in 2023 established clear standards and expectations on what it means to be a Pathfinder Country and on the key steps in developing, implementing and monitoring national SDG 8.7 Roadmaps to accelerate progress.

Alliance 8.7 acts as a catalyst for transformative change by:

- **Influencing high-level policies** to keep SDG 8.7 issues prominent on global and national agendas.
- **Empowering Pathfinder Countries (PFCs)** across all regions to build institutional capacity and foster multi-stakeholder engagement for sustainable, nationally driven progress.
- **Enhancing accountability** through a robust reporting mechanism

and **promoting efficiency** by coordinating efforts, reducing duplication, and facilitating knowledge sharing among partners.

- **Accelerating and scaling effective action** through South-South cooperation, knowledge exchange, and evidence-based policy recommendations.

▶ **The approach**

Given the current context, Alliance 8.7 has identified three priority areas to sustain progress and maximize impact:

1. **High-Level Advocacy:**

Influence global and national policy processes and maintain the visibility of SDG 8.7.

2. **Sustaining the Pathfinder Country Strategy:**

Keep country-level action at the core of the Alliance and support Pathfinder Countries in roadmap development, implementation, and monitoring.

3. **Governance, Communication, and Resource Mobilization:**

Ensure operational efficiency, continuity of essential services, and long-term sustainability through effective governance, outreach, and resource mobilization.

► Indicative budget

The ILO estimates the budgetary requirements for the core functioning of the Alliance to be 39,143 US\$ per month over a 5.6-year implementation period (January 2026 – end June-2031). As discussed at the 21st Global Coordinating Group meeting held in December 2025, establishing an Alliance 8.7 Multi-Donor Programme from 2026 to mid-2031 would allow for contribution of all sizes from multiple donors.

The priority would be to support the core running of the Alliance as set out in the table below. Once a stable funding base is established, additional funding available could then be channelled for targeted support, for example to Pathfinder Countries or to contribute to the implementation of the Action Groups' workplans.

Outcome 1: High level advocacy (6,490 USD/month) - 16.58%
Showcasing the Alliance's leadership at and in preparations (regional and CSO consultations) for the VI Global Conference on Child Labour
Influencing global policies emerging from global fora, including the post-SDG agenda
Ensuring Alliance engagement/leadership in key events (HRC, global estimates launches)
Outcome 2: Pathfinder country support (20,054 USD/month) – 51.26%
Guidance to new PFCs and existing PFCs on Roadmap implementation and updates
Transfer of expertise between PFCs
PFC annual workshop (virtual in 2026)
PFC reporting cycle (launch, review, publication, in coordination with SDG Monitoring Working Group)
Outcome 3: Governance, communication and resource mobilisation (7,502 USD/month) – 19.16%
Governance of the Alliance (GCG, Action & Working Group meetings)
Outreach and communication (Alliance website, monthly newsletter)
Membership registration and engagement
Undertaking resource mobilization for Alliance 8.7
Programme support implementation cost (5,097 USD/month) – 13%
Overall total running cost: 39,143 USD/month