



The Netherlands

**Progress towards SDG Target 8.7
2025**



Progress on SDG Target 8.7 - Netherlands

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1. Annual progress on roadmap priorities

The Netherlands' roadmap and progress report is a joint effort, containing input of the Dutch government, social partners, and NGOs. The input of different partners is separately mentioned throughout the report. This progress report is based on divergent resources, amongst which discussions of the national focusgroup Alliance 8.7 are an important part. Under the section on the assessment of the achieved progress and paragraphs on the collaboration with international partners, the various types of resources and partners are further specified.

1.1 Since January 2025, what progress has been made to your #1 national roadmap priority?

1. "Encourage businesses and offer instruments to tackle child labour and labour exploitation in their supply chain, nationally and internationally"? *

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

The ILO project ACCEL Africa, financed by MFA, has been implementing its activities aiming to eliminate child labour in key supply chains (cocoa, coffee, cotton, gold, and tea supply chains) since November 2018. To sustain continuity and improve sustainability, the project launched a second phase on July 2023 (until June 2028, 60 months). During this second phase, the focus countries for intervention are: Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda, covering the cocoa, cotton, tea, coffee and artisanal gold mining supply chains. Building on the success of the 1st Phase, the 2nd Phase of ACCEL Africa is committed to:

- strengthen policy, legal, and institutional frameworks (outcome 1)
 - institutionalise innovative and evidence-based solutions, and; (outcome 2)
 - scale up strategies through knowledge sharing, partnerships, and financing (outcome 3)
- In Ghana, from August to November 2025, the ACCEL Africa supported the Ghana Employers' Association to conduct a sector-focused assessment on Responsible Business Conduct and compliance in the cocoa and gold sectors. The findings informed the development of four tailored training modules for enterprises covering awareness raising, policy formulation, systems implementation and supply chain accountability. These modules provide employers with practical instruments to improve child labour due diligence and responsible supply chain management and will be deployed by GEA.
 - In Kenya, the project supported the Federation of Kenya Employers to carry out training on Responsible Business Conduct and Essentials in Occupational Safety and Health to companies in tea and coffee-producing counties. In Kisii, Kericho, Meru and Nyeri, 28 companies and 56 OSH committee members were trained to identify hazards, assess risks, improve workplace safety and integrate OSH into child labour prevention systems.
 - In Côte d'Ivoire, the project worked with the General Confederation of Enterprises of Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen employers' capacity on OSH. Three trainers were trained through the ITCILO on the Essentials of OSH, and the training was later replicated for representatives of cocoa cooperatives in Grand-Zattry and M'Batto. This helped employers and cooperatives apply responsible business management practices, including safer working conditions in cocoa supply chains.
 - In Nigeria, ACCEL Africa partnered with the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association to train organized private sector actors, nano and MSMEs on the use of a child labour reporting template, OSH and Responsible Business Conduct. The project also used the NECA Career Fair to advocate with youth, MSMEs and private enterprises on decent work and fundamental principles and rights at work.
 - In Uganda, the project documented concrete workplace-level changes by companies supported through child labour due diligence training. For example, Mt. Elgon Agroforestry Communities Cooperative Enterprise improved workplace lighting, installed ergonomic coffee sorting desks, introduced on-site childcare facilities and strengthened child labour policies aligned with Rainforest Alliance standards. This is one of the clearest examples in the report of training being translated into changed business practice.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and International Labour Organization: Setting adequate wages

The Setting Adequate Wages (SAW) Project¹ promotes wages that ensure a fair share of economic gains for all. Implemented in Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, India and Viet Nam, the project supports wage-setting mechanisms—particularly minimum wages and collective bargaining—through stronger use of data on the needs of workers and their families and economic factors. It also provides technical assistance to advance the estimation and operationalization of living wages in line with ILO principles. By contributing to the setting of adequate wages, the SAW project contributes to address one of the root causes of child labour.

Throughout 2025, the SAW project made meaningful progress in supporting businesses to address low wages in supply chains, both nationally and internationally, through its work on strengthening wage setting institutions, promoting living wages, enterprise capacity-building, and supply chain social dialogue.

A key area of work has been improving enterprise understanding of wage trends, compliance requirements, and good practices, including living wage concepts and estimation methods. In Viet Nam, in collaboration with the Viet Nam Textile & Apparel Association (VITAS), training sessions reached 98 participants from 52 garment enterprises across multiple provinces. In parallel, engagement with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) reached over 400 business representatives, providing guidance on national wage regulations, international labour standards on wages, minimum wage compliance, and living wage principles.

The project also advanced social dialogue in key supply chains. In Côte d'Ivoire's cocoa sector—where risks of child labour and labour exploitation persist—an exploratory mission in November 2025 engaged producers, cooperatives, workers' representatives, and local authorities. This led to a roadmap for establishing Local Social Dialogue Platforms to promote structured engagement among stakeholders. By strengthening dialogue and coordination, this initiative is expected to support more sustainable business practices, thereby enhancing the capacity of enterprises in the cocoa supply chain to pay higher wages over time and, therefore, address one of the root causes of child labour and other decent work deficits.

In the banana sector in both Costa Rica and Côte d'Ivoire, the project supported tripartite and sectoral dialogue aimed at reducing gaps between prevailing and living wages. In Côte d'Ivoire, training in January 2025 strengthened the capacity of around 20 trade union representatives in living wage concepts, collective bargaining, and wage analysis—laying the groundwork for a first sectoral living wage agreement expected by 2026.

The project also reinforced the link between living wages and child labour prevention. At the 16th Annual Meeting of the ILO's Child Labour Platform in Telangana², India, the SAW project delivered a keynote address on the role of living wages in preventing child labour.

Overall, these efforts contribute to encouraging businesses and offering instruments to address decent work deficits through adequate wage policies, evidence-based social dialogue, and stronger supply chain governance.

Netherlands Enterprise Agency: Fund Against Child Labour & Subsidy Programme Responsible Business Conduct

Under the Subsidy Program for Responsible Business³ (SPVO in Dutch) 22 consortia consisting of Dutch companies, their local supplier and a NGO are addressing child labour in their own international supply chain. These projects focus on several activities including: awareness raising and child labour sensitization, setting up and strengthening child protection mechanisms, access to education and child labour monitoring. These projects take predominantly place in the agricultural sectors.

As part of child labour remediation several projects that receive subsidy from the Fund against Child Labour⁴ (FBK) aim at increasing access to formal – and non-formal education. As a result in 2025 53.931 children were supported to access schooling. The limited availability of quality education in the target countries, both in terms of infrastructure and staffing, remains however an important challenge in the prevention and

¹ [Setting adequate wages | International Labour Organization](#)

² [CLP 2025 Annual Meeting – The Child Labour Platform](#)

³ [Subsidy Programme for Responsible Business | RVO.nl](#)

⁴ [Fund against Child Labour \(FBK\) | RVO.nl](#)

mitigation of child labour cases. Parents are often less inclined to invest in education when schools are operating under poor conditions. Within the framework of FBK, initiatives that strengthen collaboration with local authorities, support school-going children with school kits, and, where appropriate, contribute on a limited scale to improving school facilities are encouraged. At the same time, it remains important that primary responsibility for education stays with the government. Companies are therefore encouraged to play a supportive role, without taking over the core responsibilities of public authorities.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA): Align Dutch (national) RBC-legislation with the OECD Guidelines at the EU level

The EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) entered into force in July 2024. The Netherlands began transposition into national law but paused after the European Commission announced the Omnibus I proposal, which would amend and simplify CSDDD obligations. Omnibus I entered into force on 18 March 2026 and simplified these obligations. During the negotiations of the Omnibus I, the Netherlands successfully advocated for alignment of the CSDDD with the risk-based approach of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct. This improves the impact of the legislation and strengthens the level playing field for companies. This also means that companies have to identify and take appropriate measures to risks such as forced labour and child labour. Transposition of the CSDDD in the Netherlands has now resumed with the expectation that the national legislation (*Wet internationale verantwoord ondernemen, Wivo*) will be presented to the Parliament in 2027.

The EU Forced Labour Regulation (FLR) entered into force on 13 December 2024 and prohibits the placing and making available on the EU market, or the export from the EU market, of any product made using forced labour. The legislation covers all products and all industry sectors. Rules for companies will apply on 14 December 2027. In preparation for the FLR, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) commissioned independent research that provides an overview of countries and product categories that may pose a high risk of forced labour in Dutch imports. The report also provides tools for companies to identify and address forced labour.⁵The MFA has started the transposition of the FLR into national legislation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Responsible Public Procurement Policy

The Dutch government aims to address social and environmental risks in international supply chains. Therefore, it requires suppliers to carry out a due diligence process for contracts involving large-scale assignments in designated high-risk procurement categories. The application of the International Social Conditions (ISV) forms part of the government-wide procurement strategy "Procurement with Impact" and aligns with Dutch RBC-policy. The application of ISV in contracts has slightly increased in 2025. To further advance this, the government has expanded the number of risk categories from eight to ten in January 2026, based on research into high-risk sectors (see [link](#)).

Research has also been conducted into the role of external parties, such as audit firms and sustainability initiatives, in the implementation of ISV. Based on the research, a guide has been developed to improve the application of ISV and clarify the role of external audit services (see [link](#)). Furthermore, a tool has been created for contract managers to assess the six steps of due diligence in a procurement process and to engage with suppliers about their due diligence efforts (see [link](#)). Moreover, the ISV specification texts for supplier contracts are now published in English as well (see [link](#)).

Lastly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, continue their efforts to strengthen policy coherence within public procurement policy. Therefore, the ISV agenda and actions have been reviewed, and it has been explored how to better align public procurement policy with the OECD Guidelines.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Implementation of the National Action Plan Business & Human Rights

The National Action Plan Business & Human Rights 2022 – 2026 (hereafter NAP) forms an integral agenda for businesses and human rights. It gives direction to the efforts of the Dutch government in this field, based on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The NAP includes 33 action points, divided over three pillars: 1) the obligation of the government to protect human rights, 2) the responsibility of businesses to respect human rights and 3) the right to effective remedy. The action points are being implemented in the period from 2022 to 2026 under the applicable policy of involved ministries.

⁵ [Assessing Forced Labour Risks in Dutch Imports | Report | Government.nl](#)

In 2025, progress has been made on various action points related to support businesses to tackle child labour and labour exploitation in their supply chain. Via development cooperation, Dutch companies are being supported in the implementation of relevant rules and regulations for Responsible Business Conduct, like for example the Forced Labour Regulation (FLR). In sectors like cocoa, palm oil and textiles best practices for due diligence are being identified, shared and scaled up via multistakeholder partnerships with active participation of production countries.

Non-governmental organizations: Arisa

In 2025, Arisa continued its work on preventing and eliminating child labour in agricultural supply chains in India through multi-stakeholder projects focused on education, labour rights, and responsible business conduct.

Through the *Growing Change* project in Madhya Pradesh, implemented together with G-Star, Pratibha Syntex, Vasudha Swaraj, and MV Foundation, the project supported access to education and addressed root causes of child labour in cotton-growing areas. During the reporting period, 155 children were newly enrolled in school, 6 Adolescent Girls' Resource Centres supported 155 girls with life skills, awareness on gender equality, and educational guidance, and 14 community mobilisers were trained to support families with school enrolment, attendance monitoring, and access to documentation and services. The project also supported local governance and child protection structures, including Child Rights Protection Forums involving around 100 community members and Mothers' Committees involving 48 women. These structures help identify risks of school dropout and child labour and strengthen awareness of children's rights within communities. Alongside education-focused activities, project partners support farmers and farm workers through awareness raising and capacity building on labour rights, minimum wages, occupational health and safety, and access to social security schemes. The project also works with organic cotton farmers on improving productivity, reducing input costs, and diversifying income sources to contribute to more sustainable livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to child labour. The project started in June 2025 and will run for 3 years.

Arisa also concluded the WISH project (*Wage Improvements in Seed Hybrids*)⁶ in India's vegetable seed sector, a four-year multi-stakeholder initiative implemented together with BASF | Nunhems, Syngenta Vegetable Seeds, Enza Zaden, HM.CLAUSE, SeedWorks, and local NGO partners, with support from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). The project focused on addressing root causes of child labour and labour rights violations in hybrid vegetable seed production, including low awareness of labour rights, weak implementation of labour standards, and structural pressure on wages and working conditions. The project combined research, community engagement, and capacity building. A large-scale baseline study conducted in 2021-2022 (across 28 villages, covering more than 4,100 households and approximately 600 suppliers) provided detailed insights into wage gaps and child labour risks in the sector. Building on these findings, local partners delivered (in 2024 and 2025) more than 1,450 training and awareness sessions on labour rights, minimum wages, and child labour prevention, reaching over 10,000 stakeholders, including farmers, workers, labour contractors and community members. An independent evaluation conducted at the end of the project confirmed measurable social impact in the project areas, including increased school attendance rates and reduced school dropout rates among children in farming communities. The project demonstrated the value of collaborative approaches in addressing complex social challenges in agricultural supply chains.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Terre des Hommes, together with the Dutch Cosmetics Association (Nederlandse Cosmetica Vereniging/NCV) and 5 of its member companies, has a tailor-made RVO project to tackle child labour in the mica supply chain in the state of Jharkhand, India. This is a three-year project, running from January 2025 until December 2027. The main objective of this project is to set up cooperatives in Jharkhand, India, where mica-dependent families can sell their mica and receive a fair price for the mica, being an equivalent of a living income. This is important because poverty is one of the root causes of child labour.

In the first project year, we developed a training on human rights due diligence according to the OECD Guidelines to enhance the NCV-member companies' knowledge on HR DD. Furthermore, based on 1-1 interviews with the 5 member companies and an online survey, we assessed the gaps in the HR DD of the companies and drafted a report detailing the findings and opportunities for improvement.

⁶ [BASF, Syngenta, and Arisa multi-stakeholder samenwerking start fase 2](#)



This year, we will develop, based on the recommendations of this report, a due diligence tool for the companies with a specific focus on child labour in the mica supply chain from India.

Global March Against Child Labour Netherlands

During Jan - Dec 2025, Global March made progress towards Priority 1 through the implementation of the Child Labour Free Childcare NL (CLFC NL)⁷ partnership- one of the most sector-wide collaborations bringing together 12 partners, including the largest childcare companies in the Netherlands, both sector branch organisations (BK and BMK), the Waarborgfonds Kinderopvang, and expert NGOs including Global March Against Child Labour and Terre des Hommes. This partnership, supported by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) under the Sectoral Partnerships Pillar 1 programme, formally entered Phase B implementation in July 2025 following the successful completion of Phase A in 2024.

Phase B (July 2025 – June 2027), marks a transition from risk mapping to concrete implementation, driving forward four key steps of the UNGP-guided HRDD process: integrating RBC into company policies, identifying and assessing supply chain risks, designing remediation measures, and strengthening transparent reporting. A key milestone achieved in 2025 was the completion of an in-depth supply chain assessment in the Piura region of Peru, focusing on the mango sector linked to childcare supply chains. Conducted by Global March Against Child Labour, the assessment confirmed that child labour in the sector is not an isolated compliance issue, but a structural challenge linked to informal labour arrangements, poverty, seasonal work dynamics, and weak institutional coordination. The field assessment covered high-risk areas, including Morropón and Tambogrande and involved extensive stakeholder consultations with labour authorities (including SUNAFIL and CDRPETI), CSOs, producer cooperatives, smallholder farmers, and certification bodies such as Control Union. The assessment identified a critical coordination gap between labour inspection systems, schools, child protection actors, and supply chain stakeholders, while also highlighting cooperatives and buyers as key leverage points for sustainable change.

The findings are now informing the next phase of implementation, including updates to company's Codes of Conduct, the development of remediation and prevention measures in Peru, and stronger engagement with supply chain actors for responsible sourcing of mangoes.

1.2 Since January 2025, what progress has been made to your #2 national roadmap priority?

“Promote national and international dialogue on SDG8.7 in relation to (global) supply chains on the one hand and root causes on the other”?

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

- In Côte d'Ivoire, the project supported the implementation and ownership of the new National Action Plan 2025–2029, reinforcing coordination between public institutions, private sector actors and civil society. It also supported the establishment of the Technical Advisory Committee for Occupational Health and Safety Issues, a tripartite platform bringing together state institutions and social partners to discuss and propose solutions on OSH in workplaces.
- In Ghana, the project supported the Child Labour Unit to convene a national Partners Forum, bringing together government, workers' and employers' organizations, civil society and private sector actors. The forum helped strengthen coordination, trust and information-sharing among partners, while improving alignment of interventions with national child labour elimination priorities. Further to this forum, in May 2026, Ghana was confirmed as an [Alliance 8.7 pathfinder country](#).
- In Kenya, ACCEL Africa 2 supported Kenya's continued engagement as an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country. The project assisted the first reporting process on the national roadmap and supported the National Technical Working Committee on Child Labour and Alliance 8.7 to review 2025 progress and approve the 2026 annual work plan.

⁷ [Kinderopvang slaat handen ineen tegen kinderarbeid! - BMK](#)



- **At regional level**, the project organized the forum “[Developing meaningful trade union partnerships to eliminate child labour with a supply chain approach](#)” in Accra in May 2025. The forum brought together trade union representatives from eight countries and created space for peer learning on the role of workers’ organizations in addressing child labour in supply chains. It also led to the documentation of good practices and the establishment of a cross-country knowledge-exchange mechanism.
- **At global level**, ACCEL Africa 2 contributed to Alliance 8.7 and Child Labour Platform discussions on supply chains, due diligence and root causes. The project co-organized an [Alliance 8.7 webinar](#) on public-private collaboration to combat child labour in the cocoa sector. It also contributed to the Child Labour Platform Annual Meeting and to a February 2026 online side event on building more effective due diligence systems to tackle the root causes of child labour in supply chains.
- The project also contributed to the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour with two innovations in place a virtual reality movie that brought the realities of the field to the global conference, and a gender lab; and through online side events. These contributions helped connect global supply chain discussions with the structural drivers of child labour and promoted practical, evidence-based responses.

Government of the Netherlands – promoting lobby/advocacy and peer exchange

The Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SA&E) has been involved in different activities related to the promotion of national and international dialogue on SDG8.7. Some of these examples in 2025 include:

Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands Enterprise Agency – National Event ‘Eliminating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains’

On the [7th of October 2025](#), the event ‘Eliminating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains’ was hosted at the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. This event was organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). The main goal of the event was to inspire, reflect and exchange best practices on the elimination of child labour in global supply chains in preparation towards the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour.

In his opening speech, the director International Affairs (SA&E) highlighted amongst other things the approach of the Netherlands in advancing decent work through the ILO and the Alliance 8.7 and welcomed that the political declaration of the 2nd UN World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) reaffirms the strong commitment of the Netherlands to the eradication of child labour. This was followed by an online scene setter by the ILO presenting the latest Global Estimates on Child Labour. According to the [ILO](#) there is a downward trend in the numbers of children in child labour worldwide since 2020. In 2024, 138 million children were in child labour worldwide, down from 160 million four years ago. Despite a gradual decline, the numbers of child labour worldwide are still devastatingly high. With this pace SDG8.7 – the eradication of child labour, forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking will not be met in 2030.

After the scene setter, the KIT Institute (knowledge institution) presented a [study](#) into the effectiveness of five known approaches to mitigate child labour: cash transfers, informal saving groups, professional labour service, household approaches, and Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZ). This was followed by two parallel discussions in breakout sessions. In break-out session I Tony’s Open Chain (business perspective) zoomed in on the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System in the cocoa sector. In break-out session II Arisa (ngo perspective) shared their approach to child labour free zones. Both approaches underscored the value of adopting a holistic, multi-level strategy that engages a diverse range of stakeholders – including communities, household, employers, and local authorities. All these projects are financed by the RVO Fund against Child Labour (FBK).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs closed the event with remarks by the Director for Sustainable Economic Development (MFA/DDE) Marchel Germann, elaborating amongst other things on the role of responsible procurement practices, due diligence laws and the role for Dutch businesses.



Key take-aways from the event

- The macro level recommendations that came forward for governmental organizations are as follows:
 - Take an integrated approach, including all policy areas known to be relevant, i.e. education and corruption;
 - Both businesses and NGOs recommend to lobby for EU due diligence legislation that ensure a level playing field and/or implement national due diligence legislation aligned with OECD Guidelines while the EU falls short. A collaborative rather than punitive approach is advised;
 - Ensure sufficient resources to implement legal frameworks;
 - All actors recommend ensuring policies are coherent, straightforward, and focussed on long term support for the international community;
 - All actors recommend keeping supporting sectoral- and multi-stakeholder initiatives, as well as NGOs.
- Business is recommended the following (encouraged by governments):
 - To not await legislation and start with the OECD Guidelines, and to go beyond legislation where relevant;
 - Implement due diligence beyond tier 1, including the informal sector;
 - Provide and share due diligence best practices;
 - Promote legislation as a means to level playing field and communicate other benefits;
 - Focus on (pre-competitive) sector collaborations and upscaling of successful interventions;
 - Improve engagement with communities throughout the value chain, i.e. through cooperatives;
 - To commit to long-term projects, beyond pilots and prioritize child labour as a severe, adverse human right impact.
- Lastly, the attendees of the event advise NGOs to prioritize the following:
 - Maintain their critical and independent role in society and challenge business and governments, which includes bringing issues to light;
 - Collaborate with the private sector (sectoral-based) for joint action;
 - Improve local presence and pilot bold approaches.

Another example in which the government of the Netherlands has contributed to international dialogue on SDG8.7 is by financing an exchange amongst Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Countries within the context of the tripartite consultations leading up to the 6th Global Conference on Child Labour. With a contribution of 25,000 EUR NL supported the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat in organizing an digital exchange amongst Pathfinder Countries from all regions during the annual meeting of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour in 21-21 October 2025.⁸

Furthermore the Netherlands actively supported the inclusion of SDG8.7 language in the Doha Declaration of the Second World Summit for Social Development. Next to that, the Netherlands actively advocated for a stronger paragraph with language on the elimination of child labour in global supply chains in the Marrakech Global Framework for Action Against Child Labour during the tripartite consultations in November and December 2025. The Netherlands furthermore actively supported the inclusion of language on the ILO conclusions on wages, including living wages in the Marrakech Global Framework for Action Against Child Labour. During the 6th Global Conference in Marrakech, representatives of the government of the Netherlands (SA&E & MFA) have also taken part in different side-events⁹, showcasing best practices from NL funded child labour programmes such as ILO Accel and ILO Setting Adequate Wages. Finally, the Netherlands also joined the final stage of the drafting group, taking the seat of the West European Group to finalise the Marrakech Global Framework for Action Against Child Labour.

Discussions through the national Alliance 8.7 focusgroup form an important part of the Netherlands' progress on SDG8.7. The focusgroup contains representatives of NL ministry of Social Affairs, MFA, Dutch NGOs, trade union, employers' organization, a knowledge institution and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency. In 2025 the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment hosted two sessions (in 24/11/2025; 27/03/2025). For example, the session in November 2025 was mainly used to brief and

⁸ [Pathfinder Country Exchange 2025 | Alliance 8.7](#)

⁹ 1) Alliance 8.7: Ten years of partnership and Action, 2) Stronger voices, fairer incomes, brighter futures: decent work pathways to ending child labour, 3) Sustainable financing solutions for the elimination of child labour: towards coherent and sustainable national strategies. [ILO Live - 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour](#)



update focusgroup partners on the preparations for the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Morocco.

Ministry of Justice and Security – National action plan “Together against human trafficking”

On the 17th of June 2024 the State Secretary of Justice and Security¹⁰, presented the national action plan ‘Samen tegen Mensenhandel’ (‘Together against human trafficking’) to the House of Representatives.¹¹ This programme focuses on preventing, identifying and helping victims of human trafficking and frustrating offenders as much as possible. The implementation of the action plan is done through six lines of action: 1) creating broad awareness of what human trafficking is, so that human trafficking is spotted earlier and can be prevented, 2) increasing willingness to report among victims, citizens and professional, 3) invest in better identification of victimization and the protection of victims, 4) improving (supra-regional and regional) cooperation, 5) improving information sharing and data processing and 6) strengthening the position of child victims.

In December 2025 the Minister of Justice and Security informed the House of Representatives on the status of the Action Plan.¹² In 2025, a public awareness campaign ‘Sluit Mensenhandel uit’ (‘Stop Human Trafficking’) has started which focuses on different forms of victimhood of human trafficking. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness about the existence of human trafficking in the Netherlands.¹³

Non-governmental organizations: Terre des Hommes Netherlands

TdH NL organised a webinar on 12 June 2025, the International Day of Child Labour, on how downstream companies can work towards a living income. The webinar showcased general actions for achieving a living income as well as specific actions for mica pickers in Jharkhand/India. Again, with poverty as one of the root causes of child labour, a living income for parents is an important step to tackle child labour.

Furthermore, within the IRBC Renewable Energy Agreement, TdH NL together with local partners, conducted two scoping studies on the occurrence of child labour in nickel from the Philippines and bauxite from India, and we organised a knowledge session for the parties of this Agreement on the findings of the studies on December 2, 2025.

1.3 Since January 2025, what progress has been made to your #3 national roadmap priority?

“Ensure effective monitoring and analysis of the impact and progress on 8.7”?

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

ACCEL Africa has supported national institutions to improve the availability, quality and use of child labour data, while also strengthening monitoring systems linked to national action plans, Alliance 8.7 reporting and project implementation:

- In Côte d’Ivoire, the project supported the Directorate for the Fight against Child Labour in coordinating SOSTECI, the national observation and monitoring system on child labour. In preparation for the modular child labour survey, the project helped harmonize indicators in line with international statistical standards and supported the development of an indicative list of indicators for monitoring and preventing child labour. This work also aimed to improve interoperability between public systems and private monitoring and traceability systems in supply chains.
- In Ghana, the project supported the integration of the ILO child labour module into Round 8 of the Ghana Living Standards Survey. It also monitored data collection between July and October 2025 and trained national stakeholders from the Ghana Statistical Service, the Ministry of Labour, Jobs and Employment and the Child Labour Unit to analyse the child labour module and translate findings

¹⁰ Together with the State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sports, the Minister of Development Cooperation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment.

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

¹² [Voortgangsbrief Samen tegen mensenhandel december 2025 | Kamerstuk | Rijksoverheid.nl](#)

¹³ [Sluit mensenhandel uit - Comensha](#)



into policy-relevant outputs. The project also provided technical and financial support to the development of Ghana's Child Labour Monitoring System.

- In Kenya, ACCEL Africa supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to conduct in-depth analysis of newly available household survey data on child labour. The project also supported capacity-building on child labour measurement and analysis, and contributed to a national study on child labour, including its worst forms, to generate evidence for policy and programming. In addition, the project supported Kenya's first reporting process on its Alliance 8.7 national roadmap and the review of 2025 action plan performance.
- In Nigeria, the project supported the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and the National Bureau of Statistics to conduct a [child labour data analysis workshop in January 2026](#). The workshop strengthened national capacity to clean, analyse and interpret National Labour Force Survey microdata, generate nationally and sub-nationally representative estimates, and analyse child labour by age, sex, sector, working conditions, school attendance and hazardous work.
- In Uganda, the project supported the Policy-Oriented Situation Analysis on child labour. Initial analysis enabled the Uganda Bureau of Statistics to review existing data and confirm a declining trend in child labour, from 22.6% in 2012 to 19.1% in 2021. This evidence was particularly important in responding to questions raised by the ILO Committee on the Application of Standards regarding the possible increase in child labour prevalence in the country.

Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment

The Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment is member of the monitoring working group of the Alliance 8.7. In this role, NL has reviewed one Pathfinder Country Progress report in 2025. Next to that, the Netherlands continues to actively take part in the ILO Committee on the Application of Standards during the International Labour Conference. Participation in the monitoring working group, the ILO CAS committee, and taking part in ILO Governing Body following CAS country cases, are examples of how NL is engaged with ensuring monitoring on SDG target 8.7.

Netherlands Enterprise Agency: Fund Against Child Labour & Subsidy Programme Responsible Business Conduct

All the companies and NGOs granted with subsidy (Fund against Child Labour / Subsidy Program on Responsible Business) analyse the risk on child labour in their own international supply chain, develop activities to combat child labour and monitor on an annual basis the progress made to this effect. Strengthening child labour monitoring systems remains a 'popular' intervention in all projects.

The research on the child labour living income nexus by Koninklijk Instituut Tropen' (KIT) was published in 2025. The report concludes that companies in the cashew, coffee and cocoa sector are investing in programmes to raise incomes and reduce child labour, but income increases alone do not automatically lower child labour. In some cases, child labour even rises as incomes grow. Effective programmes therefore must address the complex link (or nexus) between income, labour, and gender dynamics to simultaneously reduce living income gaps and reduce child labour.¹⁴

Non-governmental organizations: Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Within the under question 1 mentioned RVO-project, we monitor on a quarterly basis the progress we make in getting children out of child labour into education - from pre-school learning to primary schools to secondary schools and even vocational training.

¹⁴ Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (KIT) 2025: Full report: [Addressing the income - child labour - gender nexus](#), Policy Brief: [Policy-Brief_final.pdf](#)



2 Progress on the identified next steps

2.1 What is the status of your next step #1 [Continue to support the work of the Alliance 8.7 secretariat]?

What's the status of your next step #1

["Continue to support the work of the Alliance 8.7 secretariat"]?

☐ Not achieved

☐ Planned

☒ Ongoing

☐ Completed

Comments: As described under question 2, in 2025 the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment financed the organization of an online Pathfinder Country meeting during the Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour (RILAC) annual meeting, in preparation of the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. The Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment has committed 25.000 EUR for the support of the organization of the annual pathfinder country meeting in support of the Alliance 8.7 secretariat for 2026.

2.2 What is the status of your next step #2 [Continue to prioritise international lobby and advocacy on SDG 8.7]?

["Continue to prioritise international lobby and advocacy on SDG 8.7"]?

☐ Not achieved

☐ Planned

☒ Ongoing

☐ Completed

Comments: As described under 1.2, the inclusion of language in the Doha Declaration and the Marrakech Global Framework for Action Against Child Labour have been two important milestones for advocacy on SDG 8.7 at the global level for the Netherlands.

2.3 What is the status of your next step #3 [Strengthen supply chains in which Dutch companies have a footprint]?

["Strengthen supply chains in which Dutch companies have a footprint"]?

☐ not achieved

☐ Planned

☒ Ongoing

☐ Completed

Comments: The Netherlands continues to support companies that want to address social and environmental risks in their international value chain, for example through the Subsidy Programme for Responsible Business¹⁵ through the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

2.4 What is the status of your next step #4 [Implementation of new forms of sectoral cooperation]?

What's the status of your next step #4 ["Implementation of new forms of sectoral cooperation"]?

☐ not achieved

☐ Planned

☒ Ongoing

☐ Completed

Comments: The sectoral agreements for the renewable energy, natural stone and metal sector have already started. For the metal sector agreement, a pilot is being conducted using the scaling-up model for sectoral cooperation developed by the SER, VNO-NCW and the trade unions. The textile sector agreement is currently attracting participants. To support this, two RBC-modules are being launched, focusing on the prevention of forced labour and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Exploratory discussions are also held with the hydrogen and agri-food sectors.

¹⁵ These projects run until 2030.



2.5 What is the status of your next step #5 [Certification of temporary employment agencies, Roemer Commission]?

What's the status of your next step #5 ["Certification of temporary employment agencies (Roemer Commission)"]?

☐ not achieved

☐ Planned

☒ Ongoing

☐ Completed

Comments: In 2025 the parliamentary discussion on the certification has been concluded. The new government, installed in 2026, is now preparing the institution which will certify temporary work agencies. The law will be in force from the 1st of 2027.

2.6 What is the status of your next step #6 [Revision of article 273f of the Criminal Law, Wetboek van Strafrecht]?

What's the status of your next step #6 ["Revision of article 273f of the Criminal Law (Wetboek van Strafrecht)"]?

☐ not achieved

☐ Planned

☒ Ongoing

☐ Completed

Comments: The status is ongoing. The discussion with the House of Representatives of the revision of article 273f of the Criminal Law took place on 5 June 2025.¹⁶ The proposed bill was adopted by the House of Representatives on 10 June 2025.¹⁷ During this plenary debate the House of Representatives discussed the proposed revised article and submitted amendments amongst others the legal enshrinement of the principle of non-punishment. The proposed bill is currently under the discussion in the Senate. If the Senate adopts the proposed bill, it will be officially adopted. The revision of article 273f of the Criminal Law includes the modernization of the criminalisation of human trafficking contained in section 273f of the Penal Code and includes an expansion of criminal liability through the introduction of the offense of 'serious harm', and profiting from human trafficking.

2.7 For the period of January to December 2026, what are the next steps for your country to achieve the roadmap?

Government of the Netherlands

In 2026 the Netherlands has committed itself to continue to support the work of the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat. This includes our financial commitment of 25.000 EUR in 2026 as well as our participation in the monitoring working group, the Global Coordinating Group and meetings of the supply chains action group where possible. Within the Alliance 8.7 the Netherlands prioritizes on facilitating peer learning and exchange, with a view to build capacity for achieving SDG target 8.7 and to scale up best practices to enhance impacts.

Since 2026 the Netherlands has a new cabinet. The new coalition agreement¹⁸ explicitly refers to the OECD Guidelines, amongst other things the elimination of child labour, in the context of agreeing free trade agreements. In other words, there is an opportunity to seize the fight against child labour within the cabinets broader plans to foster responsible business conduct and sustainable supply chains. This is a policy priority for the Netherlands. In 2026 the Netherlands will continue its work, through the different programs described under question 1 -3, to promote sustainable value chains in which the Netherlands has a footprint.

¹⁶ [Plenaire verslagen | Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal](#)

¹⁷ [Stemmingen moties Wet modernisering en uitbreiding strafbaarstelling mensenhandel | Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal](#)

¹⁸ [Regeerakkoord 2026-2030](#)



2.8 Which challenges would you anticipate in this process?

Some of the programs described in our roadmap, have been finalised or will come to an end in 2026.¹⁹ This can be a challenge in terms of mobilising resources for the root causes of child labour. Yet at the same time, as described above, there is room for leverage to tap into how the work on responsible business conduct can be brought further to keep the elimination of child labour high on the national (and international) political agenda. The Netherlands is currently in the phase of further exploring how this can be fostered and boosted in 2026 and beyond.

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

No.

3 Overall progress between January and December 2025

3.1 How would you rank your progress made on your roadmap priorities?

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

- ☐ no progress
- ☐ little progress
- ☒ some progress
- ☐ great progress

3.2 Considering the progress on your national priorities and next steps (you have reported) between January and December 2025 what would you like to highlight on your country's Pathfinder Country profile page on the Alliance 8.7 website and reports?

Government of the Netherlands

- On the [7th of October 2025](#), the event 'Eliminating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains' was hosted at the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. The event was organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). The main goal of the event was to inspire, reflect and exchange best practices on the elimination of child labour in global supply chains in preparation towards the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour.
- Thanks to the support of the ILO Accel project in Ghana, Ghana was confirmed in May 2026, as an [Alliance 8.7 pathfinder country](#). In Ghana, the project supported the Child Labour Unit to convene a national Partners Forum, bringing together government, workers' and employers' organizations, civil society and private sector actors. The forum helped strengthen coordination, trust and information-sharing among partners, while improving alignment of interventions with national child labour elimination priorities.

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ not applicable

3.4 What were these meaningful successes?

We kindly refer to our inputs formulated under section 1.1 till 1.3.

¹⁹ For example the ILO Setting Adequate Wages program (which runs until 2026) and the National Action Plan Business and Human Rights (which runs until 2026).



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

Government of the Netherlands

The scope of the roadmap priorities are broadly formulated, and reflect the varying inputs of stakeholders (focusgroep Alliance 8.7) during the roadmap development process. On the one hand this provides room to leverage various policy and implementation programs relevant to SDG 8.7. On the other hand, this makes it difficult to make contributions as quantifiable and result oriented as possible.

3.6 How did you overcome the challenges? What are the lessons learned?

Government of the Netherlands

As expressed in the section 3.5, the fact that the roadmap priorities involve various government departments and stakeholders can be a challenge to mobilise a joint effort – i.e. (financial) resources and capacity to make contributions results oriented. This is further being challenged by the current multilateral order in which governments and stakeholders are operating. Yet, at the same time, we do note a continued willingness to continue the fight against child labour. For example, the national event “Eliminating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains” on October 7 2025, hosted by the Netherlands Ministry of Social Event and Employment was a good example of how different government agencies (SA&E and MFA, RVO) came together and intensified collaboration to organise this event. Next to that, partners of our national focusgroup Alliance 8.7 indicate that the platform of the focusgroup continues to be a relevant channel to keep each other informed on research, activities and strategies, on what can be done.

4 Assessment of achieved progress in the last months?

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

- ☐ Surveys
- ☐ Case studies
- ☒ Focus group discussions
- ☐ Interviews
- ☒ Anecdotal evidence
- ☐ Information from third parties
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☒ Other, namely: projects which are subsidized for example by the Subsidy Program Responsible Business Conduct (NEA/RVO), and the programs subsidized by MFA (such as ACCEL Africa and ILO SAW) do have their own separate reporting mechanisms which are not covered in this report.

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

As described in the question above, progress in this report is based on divergent resources and partners (ministries, national focus group, ILO). We measure progress by linking results to actions in our collaborative roadmap. Several programs mentioned throughout this report have their own separate reporting cycles.

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

We kindly refer to our answer under question 2.8.

4.4 Please specify the names of other stakeholders (e.g. government agencies, social partners, civil society organizations) and their involvement, if any, in assessing your progress. What was the level of involvement?

We kindly refer to our answers under section 1.1. till 1.3.



5 Collaboration with international partners

5.1 Did you collaborate with any international partners?

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

5.2 Please describe the name and describe the collaboration with your international partners. We kindly refer to our answers under section 1.1 till 1.3.

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

5.4 Please tell us more about the sub-regional/regional/global initiatives you've supported. We kindly refer to our answers under question 1.1. till 1.3.

6 Collaboration with domestic partners

6.1 Did you collaborate with any domestic partners?

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

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

Nationally we cooperate through the focusgroup Alliance 8.7, including:

Arisa
Global March Against Child Labour
Terre des Hommes Netherlands
Koninklijk Instituut Tropen (KIT)
FNV (trade union)
VNO-NCW / MKB Nederland (employers' organization)
Netherlands Enterprise Agency
Free a Girl

In addition to that, different ministries are part of our national roadmap and have as such contributed to this report:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Justice and Security
Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
Netherlands Labour Inspection (NLA)

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No



6.4 Please tell us what has improved in your collaboration with your domestic collaborator(s) and efforts.
The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment hosted a national event on October 7 2025 on 'Eliminating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains' in preparation of the sixth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. In the preparation of this event there was increased collaboration between the ministries of MFA, SAE & NEA and between the stakeholders that contributed to the event (such as Tony's Chocolonely and Arisa and with the ILO).

6.5 Was the pathfinder process considered useful?

☒ Yes

☐ No

7 Future prospects

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ If you answered "yes" to this question, specify the nature of the change you wish to apply to your roadmap priorities: _____

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

☐ Need to update the priorities

☐ Need to update roadmap goals/targets

☒ Other, namely: Our roadmap priorities are still relevant, yet some of the actions under our three main priorities will need to be updated 2026 onwards, as some of the programs in our roadmap will come to an end in 2026 (or have been terminated in 2025) such as the ILO Setting Adequate Wages program and the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.