

STOP



CHILD LABOUR

*School is the best place to work*

# GETTING CHILDREN OUT OF WORK AND INTO SCHOOL

## Combining bottom-up and top-down strategies to stop child labour

In the run-up to the IV Global Child Labour Conference in Argentina from 14 to 16 November 2017, the Stop Child Labour Coalition<sup>1</sup> has published a position paper with a focus on combining bottom-up and top-down strategies to eradicate child labour. The paper states: *'Simply removing children from the workplace is not enough, if we do not make sure the child is in school and enjoying all its rights. Any meaningful action against child labour therefore has to be part of efforts to rehabilitate the child and ensure that it goes to fulltime education.'*

*The paper describes the roles that local communities, civil society organisations and trade unions often play as initiators of these bottom-up approaches. A **community-based approach** has proven to be an effective method to get all children in a certain area out of work and (back) into school. This enables the creation of 'child labour free zones': a specific area (village, neighbourhood etc.) where all stakeholders – community-based organisations, teachers, parents, children, local authorities and companies – work together around the norm that 'no child should work – every child must be in school'.*

The paper furthermore describes how bottom-up approaches can help to give shape to more **top-down policies and their implementation**. Local, regional and national governments can realize sustainable change as it is their duty to ensure that basic systems and facilities are in place for all children to ensure their right to education. The private sector, guided by e.g. the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, should tackle (child) labour issues in the full supply chain. International organizations can reinforce institutional policies to mainstream a community-based approach to tackle child labour, and promote joint efforts at all levels.

### Recommendations

Based on experiences of Stop Child Labour, seven recommendations are given. They include: the need for comprehensive strategies to tackle all forms of child labour, long-term support for both community-based as well as governmental programmes, more explicit recognition and involvement of civil society in fighting child labour, the responsibility of companies for remediation of working children and implementing of other labour rights, promotion of child labour free and fair public procurement and the need for effective (implementation of) child labour, education and other laws.

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<sup>1</sup> The Stop Child Labour Coalition is a coalition of six Dutch NGOs and trade unions, working closely together with local organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Find the full 8-page position paper here:

<http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/assets/Stop-Child-Labour-position-paper.pdf>