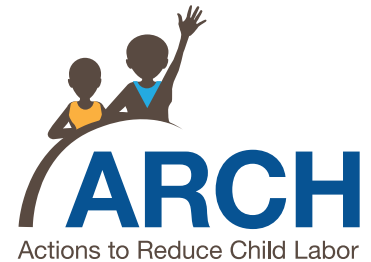




# ACTIONS TO REDUCE CHILD LABOR (ARCH) PROJECT



## REDUCING CHILD LABOR IN LIBERIA

ARCH (Actions to Reduce Child Labor in Liberia) is a four-year project designed to complement efforts by the government, employers, workers and civil-society organizations in fighting child labor in the rubber-growing sector in Liberia. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and is implemented in Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba Counties in Liberia, by Winrock International in collaboration with African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse (ANPPCAN), General Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of Liberia (GAAWUL), Firestone Agricultural Workers Union of Liberia (FAWUL), Nimba

Rubber Incorporated (NRI), Morris-American Rubber Company (MARCO) and the Government of Liberia (GOL). ARCH seeks to protect and withdraw children ages 5 to 17 from child labor and its worst forms in the rubber-growing sector. It also aims to protect legally working children — those between the ages of 15 and 17 — in rubber-growing areas in the targeted communities. ARCH addresses both the social and economic factors that drive smallholder rubber farmers to employ children in hazardous work and those that impel children to seek such work.

## ARCH OBJECTIVES

- Improve access to and retention in education, leading to the withdrawal or prevention of at least 10,100 children from child labor; 6,100 children to be withdrawn and 4,000 children to be prevented.
- Increase household income through the provision of livelihoods services to at least 3,700 households.
- Strengthen household resiliency by providing access to social protection services to 2,000 children or vulnerable households.
- Build capacity of stakeholders to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programs for child labor reduction, including establishment of over 30 functioning Child Welfare Committees and Child Labor Monitoring Committees.



- Spread awareness of child labor through radio programs, celebration events and newsletters.
- Increase the availability of reliable data on child labor, including through development of Comprehensive Monitoring and Evolution Plans, Direct Beneficiary Monitoring System, Government Performance Results Act data, Study on Occupational and Safety and Health Hazards in Agriculture, and the compilation of the “Best Practices Document.”
- Engage in institutional capacity building in order to facilitate government coordination and ownership of national policies to eliminate child labor.

## ARCH PROJECT FOCUS AND STRATEGIES

- Identifying community resources for preventing and withdrawing children from child labor through the formation and training of Child Labor Committees to identify and intervene in cases of child laborers, and to monitor their status.
- Improving access to and the quality of education and basic social services such as health, water and sanitation through infrastructure development, scholarships and increased after-school learning opportunities for students in formal school.
- Awareness-raising activities at the community, district and national level on child labor.
- Building the capacity of farmers, workers’ unions, community activists, district-level officials, ministry officials and other national bodies to enable them to use existing mechanisms effectively and to enforce policies that will improve working conditions and encourage the withdrawal of children from child labor.
- Delivering modern agricultural-vocational training to beneficiaries of all ages, and youth employment services to children ages 16 to 17 working in unacceptable conditions.
- Promoting increased knowledge, awareness and enforcement of occupational, safety, and health (OSH) standards for youth of working age and their families working in the rubber-sector.

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Labor. This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.

## RESULTS-TO-DATE

- More than 10,100 children have been enrolled in education programs, including 6,962 working children and 3,164 at-risk children.
- ARCH has involved 3,700 households in livelihood support activities. Together these families form 166 agricultural producer groups organized as a means to diversify and build home economies.
- The Model Farm School program has successfully graduated 3,323 adult beneficiaries and 505 children beneficiaries in 2016, all of whom received training on agricultural production, small livestock keeping, child labor and business skills.
- ARCH led annual World Day Against Child Labor celebrations in partnership with the National Commission on Child Labor (NACOMAL), attracting 737 participants in 2015 and 658 participants in 2016.
- ARCH contributed towards the national government’s adoption of a list of hazardous occupations for children and has closely worked with the Government of Liberia on a National Action Plan (NAP) to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.
- The project has provided 6,994 School Success Kits for children in formal school, leading to improved school attendance.
- Provided 75 in-kind grants to local communities to conduct school improvements, enhancing children’s access to quality basic education and a safe learning environment.

