

Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce (CLEAR) Child Labor II Project in Belize

Overview

Implemented by Winrock International and partners Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB) and Verité, CLEAR II is a global four-year, United States Department of Labor (USDOL) funded project that provides technical assistance to support a global reduction in child labor. Thanks to host government collaboration around the world, CLEAR II is working to bring about meaningful reductions in child labor in Belize, Jamaica, Panama, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Liberia, and Honduras. CLEAR II partners with governments to carry out targeted activities that support each country's goals to make meaningful efforts to actualize recommendations described in the USDOL's most recent child labor report. CLEAR II's four focus areas include: legislation, monitoring and enforcement, national plans of action and policies and social programs.

CLEAR II in Belize

According to the USDOL 2017 report, *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, the Government of Belize has made strides in the prevention of child labor. The government's participation in social programs, such as *Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation*, has strengthened Belize's ability to eliminate child labor, while the country's legislative efforts are also making an impact.

To build on this momentum, CLEAR II has consulted with the Ministry of Labor, Local Government and Rural Development (MLLGRD) and other key stakeholders to develop a list of activities that will support the government in continuing this progress, while also contributing to the fulfillment of the following CLEAR II intermediate objectives:

1. Improvements in legislation that address child labor issues, including bringing local and national laws into compliance with international standards;
2. Advancements in monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies related to child labor;
3. Effective implementation of national plans of action on child labor.

Project Activities in Belize*

Support to Improve Legal Framework

CLEAR II will work with the MLLGRD to facilitate the formation of a Legal Reform Committee (LRC) that will be responsible for drafting and revising child labor legislation. Through technical assistance to the LRC members, CLEAR II will identify gaps in existing legislation, provide recommendations, and hold trainings on international standards and legislative drafting best practices.

Labor Inspectorate Curriculum and Training of Trainers

After conducting an assessment of the Belize labor inspectorate, CLEAR II will develop a tailored curriculum focused on the inclusion of child labor issues in the inspection process to support the labor inspectorate's efforts to improve enforcement and monitoring of child labor in Belize, including in the informal sector. The MLLGRD will identify leaders who will receive training to deliver the interactive curriculum to labor inspectors. CLEAR II will work closely with the MLLGRD to promote the adoption of training modules as well as a sustainable training plan.

Support development of a National Action Plan (NAP) to Eliminate Child Labor

CLEAR II will support the MLLGRD in the development of a workplan for the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) with an emphasis on moving the NAP development process forward, which has been identified by the Government of Belize as a priority. CLEAR II will provide support for coordinating regular meetings of the NCLC and

develop resources for the NCLC to raise awareness and build committee members' understanding of child labor issues.



CLEAR II in Belize meeting with the Child Development Foundation (CDF). Pictured left to right: Deputy Labor Commissioner, Executive Director of CDF, CLEAR II Belize Country Coordinator, LWOB Representative and Senior Labor Officer

NAP Child Protection Collaboration Workshop and Coordination Plan

In collaboration with the MLLGRD and the NCLC, CLEAR II intends to bring together child labor stakeholders to map coordination opportunities for NAP implementation. During the workshop, the project will help to create an action plan that details specific areas for cooperation, responsibilities of each party and steps to be taken to ensure follow up. The coordination plan may include roles and responsibilities, and will be led by the MLLGRD and NCLC.

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**Proposed activities for Belize pending USDOL approval*

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