



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

Overview

Implemented by Winrock International and partners Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB) and Verité, CLEAR II is a global four-year project funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) that works with governments and provides technical assistance to support a global reduction in child labor. Collaborating with host governments, CLEAR II is working to bring about meaningful reductions in child labor in Panama, Jamaica, Belize, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Liberia, and Honduras. Implementing targeted activities, CLEAR II partners with governments to support their goals to implement actions 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 Liberia

The government of Liberia has consistently shown an interest in reducing child labor in the country. In 2017 the USDOL findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor reported that the country had made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate WFCL. During that year the government finalized the National Action Plan on Child Labor. CLEAR II is leveraging the government's commitment and Winrock's previous relationships with stakeholders through the ARCH project to achieve the project's goal.

To identify activities that will support Liberia's efforts to eradicate child labor, CLEAR II has consulted with the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and the National Commission on Child Labor (NACOMAL) along with other key stakeholders to implement activities that will aid the governments ongoing efforts. These activities also contribute to the fulfillment of the following objectives:

1. Improvements in legislation that address child labor issues, including bringing local and national laws into compliance with international standards
2. Building a Child Labor Monitoring System (CLMS)
3. Coordination across enforcement agencies
4. Develop National and Regional Action Plans to eliminate WFCL.

Project Activities in Liberia

Establish a Legislative Reform Committee

Through collaboration with the CLEAR II project, the National Commission on Child Labor in Liberia (NACOMAL) established a Legislative Reform Committee (LRC) to review and analyze child labor laws to make recommendations for reform and support advocacy to the Liberian legislature for the validation of policy. Since launching in 2017, the LRC has been working on legislative analysis and drafting regulations on laws pertaining to children. It includes members from the government, including the Ministries of Labor and Education, and other key stakeholders (see Figure 1). The LRC has developed draft Hazardous Work Lists and Light Work Lists for children, revised and analyzed child labor laws, and contributed to the development of regulations and guidelines for children laws.

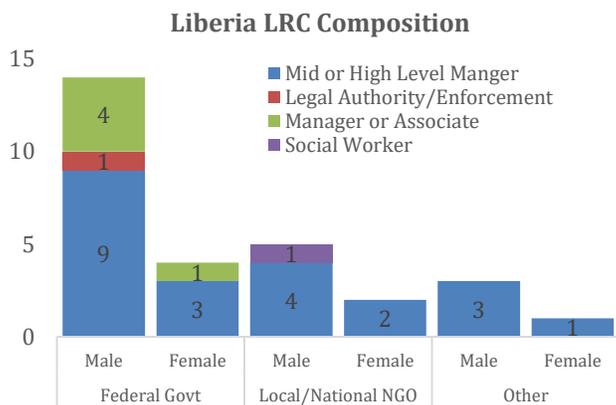


Figure 1 shows a breakdown of members in Liberia's Legislative Review Committee by gender and organizational affiliation

Child Labor Monitoring System

Throughout the project, CLEAR II has collaborated with the Ministry of Labor to assess and address coordination gaps in the existing child labor monitoring system. Through these efforts, a CLMS

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Working Group was established, which developed a recommendation memo for the government to consider when developing an effective CLMS plan. Moving forward, CLEAR II will continue to work with the government, providing technical assistance in establishing a successful CLMS.

Labor Inspectorate Curriculum and Training

While working closely with the Ministry of Labor and NACOMAL, CLEAR II developed a labor inspectorate curriculum tailored to the Liberian context. The curriculum was shared with government partners for feedback and after finalization, the project organized a Training of Trainers. Moving forward, CLEAR II will work closely with NACOMAL to promote institutionalization of the curriculum. This strategy will improve coordination amongst stakeholders in enforcing CL regulations and ensure sustainability.

National Action Plan

Building on ongoing partnerships with the Ministry of Labor, CLEAR II also supported the development of a National Action Plan Implementation Plan in 2017 through a participatory process which involved stakeholders from various government bodies and civil society. The project provided further support to NACOMAL as it disseminated the NAP to regional representatives where it can be adapted by counties based on the local context. The project will continue to support government partners as they seek to gain official endorsement of the NAP and begin implementing the plan.

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