



ORGANIZATION

Bank Information Center (BIC), United States of America
pledges to

**Establish policies to prevent, mitigate,
and respond to child labour in multilateral
development Bank Projects**

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Name:

Leading by Example: Establishing Policies to Prevent, Mitigate, and Respond to Child Labour in Multilateral Development Bank Projects.

Description:

Conduct an advocacy campaign to push the multilateral development banks (MDBs) to adopt and implement globally accepted best practices for the prevention, mitigation, and response to child labour in development projects.

Implementation plan:

Our work will primarily focus on World Bank-funded projects and the ongoing implementation of Child Labour Standards within the Bank. There is an unfortunate history of child labour in Bank projects, often as a result of lax enforcement of standards by borrowing countries. Under the Bank's new safeguards, the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), child labour is prohibited in project works (Environmental and Social Standard 2 - ESS2). However, as much of the implementation of these guidelines is conducted by borrowing governments, and without adequate guidance, information on best practices, and monitoring, it is uncertain if the standards will be implemented properly. Accordingly, we have formed a working group of civil society organizations to feed into the World Bank's ongoing development of guidance for the implementation of ESS2, as well as conducting monitoring and advocacy of the same. Our goal is to influence the World Bank to adopt and implement best practices for prevention, mitigation, and response to child labour in Bank-funded projects, and to follow up by monitoring Bank projects for effective implementation and instances of child labour.

Impact:

Among multilateral development banks (MDBs) the World Bank is generally considered to lead in terms of environmental and social safeguards. However, it lags significantly behind accepted best practices, which presents an opportunity to set new standards across MDBs. By pushing for the highest possible standard within the World Bank, it will set the bar for future safeguards reviews at other multilateral. Currently, the African Development Bank and Asian Development Bank are conducting safeguards reviews to establish the new environmental and social standards for their project financing. If the World Bank adopts high standards for child labour, it will provide a template for regional MDBs and facilitate CSO advocacy for the adoption and implementation of those standards.

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