



Session Report for a Side Event

at the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, Marrakech, Morocco

I. Session Details

Session title: Addressing the income – child labour - gender nexus in global value chains

- Date & time: 10-02-2026; 14:30-16:15 CET
- Format: (In-person / Online): Online
- List of session partners / co-organisers: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), represented by Maggie de Jongh; KIT Royal Tropical Institute, represented by Selma van der Haar;

II. List of speakers

(Name – Organisation)

- Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), represented by Maggie de Jongh;
- KIT Royal Tropical Institute, represented by Selma van der Haar;
- ETG/Beyond Beans Foundation, represented by Delight Komla Tendeka;
- ILO ACCEL Africa project, represented by Minoru Ogasawara;
- Rainforest Alliance, represented by Emmanuel Bukomeko;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, represented by Charlotte Bernhard;

III. Short Summary

This online side event aimed to unpack the relationship between household income and child labour and identify and map evidence for high-potential approaches for simultaneously addressing poverty and child labour. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) opened the session briefly highlighting the Subsidy Programme for Responsible Business (SPVO), one of the instruments of the Dutch government to support companies to strengthen their child labour strategies. Under SPVO's knowledge and learning agenda, KIT conducted a research in 2025, where they identified four key mechanisms that shape the relationship between income and child labour: income level, economic resilience, household labour dynamics and social norms and cultural meanings. They discussed high-potential approaches including cash transfers, informal savings groups, professional labour services, household approaches and Child Labour Free Zones.

After this presentation, KIT moderated a panel discussion with representatives from the company, ETG, ILO ACCEL and the NGO, Rainforest Alliance, where they share their field experiences.

This was followed by a Q&A session with online participants. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs closed the session reflecting on the Dutch government support to eradicate child labour and the role these various actors can play.



IV. Key Takeaways

(Max. 200 words | Max. 6 bullet points) min 48

- The relationship between income, child labour and gender is complex and that no single intervention can effectively address all dimensions of the nexus. They all come with inherent risks and trade-offs. Careful design and combination of interventions is key to address these risks and find synergies.
- Gender is cross-cutting poverty and child labour. The unintended negative consequences of interventions disproportionately affect women and girls. Moreover, work done by girls is often overlooked in company programmes as it takes place outside of the farm in the house or family businesses.
- While child labour mitigation has become a more prominent part of responsible business conduct, projects often stay at pilot scale and efforts from value chain actors and governments are oftentimes not aligned. The KIT research identifies long-term commitment, strong partnerships and openness to share results and learn from each other's mistakes and success as key elements for addressing child labour at scale.

V. Notable Quotes

(Max. one quote per speaker)

- **Selma van der Haar, KIT Royal Tropical Institute**

"Long term commitments, strong partnerships and openness to share results and learn from each other's mistakes and successes are key elements to address child labour at scale."

- **Delight Komla Tendeku, ETG/BBF**

"We prioritize continuous learning and evidence-based program design, avoiding reinventing the wheel by building on proven approaches. This commitment is demonstrated to partners and governments through ongoing improvements. For example, in the Income Accelerator Programme, we integrated the VSLA+ methodology (including GALS + CHILD training) into existing VSLAs, rather than creating new VSLA's, to maximize impact and efficiency."

- **Minoru Ogasawara, ILO ACCEL Africa**

"We encourage companies to join Child Labour Platforms. ILO facilitates companies to collaborate via country working groups, stimulating sectoral dialogue and working together for synergies."

- **Emmanuel Bukomeko:**

"In a Child Labour Free Zone, child labour prevention becomes a community norm and system, not a temporary project or supply-chain add-on"

Follow-up / Outputs (optional but recommended)

- Key messages to feed into Conference outcomes + Suggested follow-up actions or partnerships.

Countries must **maintain their commitment to eliminating child labour**. Given legislative developments, this also provides incentives for companies to engage more. Child labour is a complex issue tied to poverty, but simply increasing wages or prices is not enough. To achieve a **living income**

that reduces child labour, we need a **holistic approach**: stabilizing incomes, diversifying livelihoods, boosting productivity and quality, and addressing gender dynamics in households and value chains.

It is encouraging to see programs and collaborations—like those supported by the Dutch government (for example SPVO, ILO ACCEL, and partnerships with IDH, Solidaridad, trade unions, and others)—taking these factors into account. **Multi-stakeholder approaches** are essential, involving governments, worker organizations, businesses, CSOs, and international bodies. This event and this conference highlight the value of **sharing good practices and scaling up successful strategies**.

Collaboration and learning from each other are key to eliminating child labour, achieving living incomes/wages, and building sustainable value chains. Strong supplier relationships also make commercial sense, ensuring resilience and secure supply chains for the future. The goal is to spark new ideas, strengthen partnerships, and secure long-term commitments.

Identified good practices / policy implications

- Context is key in your program design; when the context allows time savings of 70% by digitalizing VSLA's; mature VSLA's can also be linked with Micro-Finance Institutions
- To avoid increasing women's workload, consider strengthening existing income generating activities versus supporting new ones and support development of financial literacy skills;
- Scale pilots based on demonstrating credible impact. Give clients insights into costs and long term sustainability levers so they can make informed decisions that align with their sustainability goals;
- Child Labour Free Zones should include a component of improving income generating activities or otherwise compensate the loss of income from the child's work and enable them to pay for school fees can be born;
- CLFZ should be a long term approach by design as they aim to change existing norms and address child labour over time. RFA certification creates commercial incentives for long term engagement. Companies need to commit beyond pilots and integrate it into their sourcing- and risk management strategies.
- To address the risk of an increased labour burden, ILO ACCEL Africa carefully considers the existing workload of women and how older siblings often drop out of school to support for younger siblings. We support the development of strong VSLA groups that create or support early childhood care centers. We consolidate this model aiming to strengthen and replicate it in collaboration with the government.
- Ensure to include local leaders in the program design to avoid resistance and mobilize them to share messages of equality
- Health related income shocks often lead caretakers to withdraw children from school and engage them in child labour. ILO ACCEL collaborated with cooperatives to reach out to informal economy workers like cocoa farmers. They collaborated with insurance agencies for strong enrollment campaigns and with the private sector to cover insurance fees. The Conseil Café Cacao of Ivory Coast decided to keep covering insurance fees of all registered cocoa farmers in the country. This is an example of how ILO ACCEL influences policy decision making to address root cause of child labour.