



International  
Labour  
Organization

## THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT (WOSM) COMBATS CHILD LABOUR

One hundred and sixty-eight million girls and boys – or one in ten children – worldwide are engaged in child labour. Eliminating this scourge is a human rights imperative and an urgent social and economic necessity. This goal requires unified efforts from all actors in the worldwide

movement: governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations, international organizations, enterprises and civil society – including youth organizations such as the Scout Movement.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

**Partners:**

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

**Beneficiary country:**

Global

**Timeframe:**

Annual projects from: 2004 – Present

**Budget:**

In-kind

### THE RESPONSE

Children and youth bring essential energy, ideas and action to the worldwide movement against child labour. When armed with awareness and knowledge of social injustice, young people are a driving force for change. The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the ILO joined forces in 2004, united by a shared vision of pursuing social justice, peace, and the empowerment of young people as an agent for sustainable development. In 2012 a new Memorandum of Understanding extended the partnership for another five years.

The partnership connects the 40 million-strong Scout Movement with the ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), with a particular focus on its Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media programme (SCREAM). SCREAM is an education and social mobilization initiative that empowers children and youth by equipping them with knowledge and skills to participate actively in the campaign against child labour and for social change.

The partnership has resulted in joint action in many areas. In particular, the WOSM and the ILO have taken the SCREAM education pack

to a large number of Scouts at the grass-roots level – including training on SCREAM and Scout-led activities – to raise awareness of children’s rights, and child labour in particular.

Beyond advocacy, Scouting has demonstrated its potential to reach out to children in or at risk of child labour and to change their lives. Under this partnership, National Scout Organizations have extended Scouting to children in difficult circumstances, and Scout outreach projects have provided children in child labour with access to social care, recreational opportunities and informal education as a bridge to mainstream schooling.

The WOSM and the ILO have also been working together to promote the annual World Day Against Child Labour (WDAKL) (12 June) for several years, rallying Scout organizations worldwide in support of the cause and encouraging jointly planned activities. In addition, the ILO’s participation in Scout Jamborees and international conferences has raised interest in – and awareness of – the objectives of the partnership and provided an impetus for further collaboration.

*“Scouting provides life-changing opportunities for children living and working on the streets through large initiatives such as our Ticket To Life project in the Asia-Pacific, and Extension Scouting in Africa (among others). Our partnership with ILO/IPEC has helped us to offer Child Rights Education using our non-formal methods to Scouts all over the world.”*

Scott A. Teare,  
Secretary General  
of the WOSM



## RESULTS

Over the course of the partnership, the enthusiastic participation of youth in jointly planned ILO-Scout activities and events has contributed hugely to efforts to combat child labour.

Scouts have been trained in SCREAM in Colombia, Egypt and the Democratic Republic of Congo – to name but a few countries – and have led or participated in joint activities on and around the WDAFL, including in Turkey, Zambia and Senegal.

Scouts across the world have also reached out to children in or at risk of child labour through Scout projects, for example:

**Kenya:** 1,200 Scouts led an extension programme, which reached out to street children or children living in difficult circumstances and taught them life skills and vocational skills. A clinic was established, providing free services to members of the programme and to residents of a neighbouring informal housing settlement with a population of 1.1 million;

**The Asia-Pacific region:** Inspired by the Scout extension programme in Kenya, "Ticket To Life" is a flagship project implemented by the WOSM Asia-Pacific Regional Office.

The project (in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka) focuses on child rights education and integrates street children into society, through Scouting. Scout units have been established in areas where street children live; thousands of Scouts have joined the programme; and inspiring stories of how children's lives have been transformed are emerging;

**Egypt:** For several years, Scouts in Alexandria have been running a Scout unit in the busy industrial areas of the city for children and youth working in factories. Following their engagement with Scouting, children's behaviour has changed and a number of them have returned to school. The ILO partnered with Scouts to host a world seminar in Egypt (2005) to showcase this success and to inspire Scouts all over the world to initiate similar projects.

Looking forward, the WOSM and the ILO will strive continuously to strengthen the role of young people as advocates against child labour, and to engage Scouts even more in activities that reach out to children in or at risk of child labour.

*"As the partnership enters this third phase, we look forward to steering our joint work towards an even more strongly rights-based approach, concentrating on engaging Scouts, particularly in the Global South, in activities which reach out to children in or at risk of child labour."*

Guy Ryder,  
ILO Director-General



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### BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

Partnering connects over 40 million Scouts in 200 countries and territories throughout the world with the ILO. This powerful engagement helps Scouts take a more active role in the worldwide movement against child labour. In particular, the ILO encourages the use of the educational tool SCREAM in the Scout educational programme.

The WOSM and its members are invited to participate locally, regionally and globally in relevant ILO/IPEC activities. Equally, ILO/IPEC takes part in large Scout gatherings such as World Scout Jamborees.

The ILO recognizes that Scouting is globally advocating and supporting children's rights and that it is working in a strategic partnership with the ILO/IPEC for the progressive elimination of child labour.

The ILO and the World Scout Bureau facilitate contact between ILO/IPEC field offices, national Scout organizations and local Scouting groups, thus encouraging joint action in the field.