

▶ Tool No. 6:
▶ Forced Labour and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



This tool is a slide presentation that demonstrates the links between forced labour and the 17 SDGs.

The complete presentation, with annotations, can be found online by scanning the QR code opposite, or visiting:

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/publications/WCMS_762154/lang--en/index.htm



The SDGs basis

People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace & Partnership

- ▶ These 5 elements underpin the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015
- ▶ The eradication of forced labour is a specific target under the SDG 8. However, the achievement of Target 8.7 is closely related to the achievement of other SDGs.



Poverty is one of the root causes of forced labour that in turn perpetuates inter-generational poverty.

Target 1.1 (eradication of extreme poverty) and **1.2 (reduce by half poverty in all its dimensions)** can only be achieved if forced labour is eradicated.

Target 1.3 (social protection) and **target 1.4 (access to economic resources)** are direct contributions to preventing forced labour.



Target 2.1: By 2030, **end hunger** and ensure the **access by all people**, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, **to safe, nutritious and sufficient food** all year round.

Food insecurity makes people vulnerable to exploitative practices like forced labour.



Target 3.8: Achieve **universal health coverage**, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines for all.

The inability to access health care makes people more vulnerable to income shock, especially for vulnerable groups like irregular migrant workers and workers in the informal economy.

Forced labourers often work in unsafe and degrading working conditions.



Ensuring **education and training** opportunities for young people and adults is an effective measure to prevent forced labour.

Vocational training is also instrumental in ensuring rehabilitation of victims of forced labour.



Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work.

Forced labour has a gender dimension: women represent over 62 per cent of the victims. Women and men tend to be affected within stereotypical gender roles (i.e. female in domestic work and male in manual sectors, such as fishing or construction).



Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

Target 8.7 is the target for NAPs but other targets under Goal 8 must be kept in mind too.

Other relevant under SDG 8:

- 8.3:** Promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation and entrepreneurship.
- 8.4:** Endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
- 8.5:** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.
- 8.6:** By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.
- 8.8:** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
- 8.10:** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.



Low productivity, scarce resources, limited innovation, may lead unscrupulous employers to use forced labour to increase profits. This, in turn, leads to unfair competition and can induce a “race to the bottom”.

The reputational risks associated with forced labour and child labour may also threaten the very existence of an industry or enterprise.



Children and adults from ethnic minorities, socially marginalised communities and discriminated groups such as migrants, are at higher risk of forced labour.

In turn, forced labour and child labour reinforce patterns of extreme inequality.



Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

Safe, affordable housing and community services is an element of ensuring the family resilience that prevents forced labour.



The ILO Forced Labour Protocol calls for countries to take measures to support due diligence by both the public and private sectors, in Article 2(e).

Unscrupulous businesses that use forced labour face an increasing risk of reputational damage, trade sanctions and, ultimately, economic losses.

It is important people question the way in which what they consume is produced, from both global and domestic supply chains, not only as related to environment protection but also whether workers were treated fairly.

See also [Global Business Network on Forced Labour](#).



Climate change, natural disasters, food insecurity and the depletion of household resources make people more vulnerable to exploitation and forced labour.

Besides, forced labour may also be directly linked to environmental crimes: forced labour is widely used in deforestation, as well as in illegal fishing.



Deforestation, soil erosion and other (human-induced) depletions of natural resources threaten people's livelihoods, making them vulnerable to forced labour.

The global fishing industry is illustrative of the links between preservation of natural resources and labour rights: overfishing has led to depletion of the stock and coastal fishermen can no longer sustain themselves. They become vulnerable to human trafficking and forced labour aboard large, industrial vessels in the global fishing industry.



Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence.

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

Target 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

- ▶ People who flee conflict and violence are at extreme risk of falling prey to criminal networks behind human trafficking and forced labour. This has been documented extensively among refugee and migrants reaching Europe for example. Children are at increased risk of suffering violence and exploitation.
- ▶ Corruption may facilitate perpetuation of illegal practices like human trafficking and forced labour (paying law enforcement to turn a blind eye, for example).



- ▶ In a globalized world the persistence of forced labour and child labour anywhere is a problem everywhere!
- ▶ It is particularly important in the case of migrant workers that countries of origin, transit and destination work together to prevent trafficking and promote fair recruitment.
- ▶ Signing up to the SDGs requires commitment in action and allocation of resources by all countries.
- ▶ Alliance 8.7 is the key global partnership on eliminating forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery.