
Committee on the Application of Standards

Information supplied by governments on the application of ratified Conventions

Madagascar

Convention No. 182

Madagascar

Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

Madagascar (Ratification: 2001). The Government has provided the following written information.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR (NAP)

Formulation of a National Action Plan

Madagascar began actively campaigning against child labour as early as 1997, when it conducted its first studies on the subject. In 2000 Madagascar ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), which set the minimum working age at 15, and in 2001 the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). Having ratified these two fundamental Conventions on child labour, the country was then able to formulate the NAP which it validated in 2004.

Broad lines of the NAP

The NAP is a framework reference document for all activities aimed at combatting child labour in Madagascar. It is a 15 year national action plan (2004–19) that focuses on the worst forms of child labour. Madagascar is one of the very few African countries to have adopted such a plan.

The NAP is in three phases: launching and implementation (2004–09), during which a framework of laws and regulations is formulated and strengthened at every level; extension (2009–14), in which the measures taken are broadened both in terms of target population and target area; and consolidation (2014–19), where the children identified during the first two phases are effectively removed from the worst form of child labour in accordance with the Plan's objectives.

The NAP lists the four worst forms of child labour as domestic employment of children, their sexual exploitation for commercial ends, their employment in mines and quarries, and their engagement in dangerous and health-threatening work in urban or rural areas.

Objectives of the NAP

The objectives of the Plan are to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour, the removal of children from such work and their reinsertion in society, the protection of all working children under the minimum age from exploitation and dangerous work, in order to reduce significantly the incidence of child labour by 30 per cent by the end of the first phase, a further 15 per cent by the end of the second phase and at least 1 per cent by the end of the third phase of the programme.

Strategic areas of the NAP

Strategic area No. 1 (creation of an institutional framework and capacity-building) involves developing coordination and follow-up structures, promoting external relations in order to foster synergy with other programmes, ensuring the long-term follow-up of working children and child labour, and strengthening the capacity of ministerial bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society partners.

Strategic area No. 2 (improvement of the legal and regulatory framework) includes harmonizing laws and regulations (Penal Code, Labour Code and other official texts) so as to bring them into line with ILO Conventions Nos 138 and 182 ratified by Madagascar, publishing and disseminating the laws and regulations governing child labour, establishing appropriate machinery and methods of intervention, strengthening supervisory bodies and enhancing the skills of their personnel, and implementing sanctions.

Strategic area No. 3 (improvement of the living conditions and income of parents at risk and of their families) entails increasing productivity in the urban and rural informal sectors so as to reduce the economic vulnerability of families whose children are liable to be employed in the worst forms of child labour, promoting bans on dangerous and health-threatening work in urban and rural areas, and extending social protection to the rural population.

Strategic area No. 4 (improvement, extension and promotion of children's access to quality education) involves promoting and improving access to education, improving and broadening access to vocational training, and promoting the access of children engaged in the worst forms of child labour to a transitional and non-formal system of education (reinsertion, rehabilitation).

Strategic area No. 5 (strengthening and improvement of public awareness and social mobilization) calls for ensuring the commitment of the public at large to the Plan's aims, securing the involvement of decision-makers, public opinion leaders, judicial and military authorities and civil society organizations, and promoting public awareness of the legislation on the subject.

Sexual exploitation of children

Strategic area No. 1 (extension, improvement and application of preventive and protective measures to combat the sexual exploitation of children) comprises the implementation of laws and regulations on children's rights (specifically, provisions relating to their sexual exploitation) and the application of provisions dealing with communication and the dissemination of information, as well as ensuring that the expectations and needs of children are duly taken into account and securing the commitment of all the parties concerned.

Strategic area No. 2 (identification and implementation of measures designed to protect sexually exploited children and favour their reinsertion in society) calls for promoting appropriate health measures and advisory services, and organizing vocational training.

Domestic work

Strategic area No. 1 (improvement, strengthening and application of prevention and protection measures for domestic workers) involves enforcing legislation and regulations on the right of the child, particularly texts on domestic workers.

Strategic area No. 2 (consideration and application of rehabilitation measures for child victims of domestic work) entails the organization of occupational training.

Health-threatening work in rural and urban areas

Strategic area No. 1 (improvement, strengthening and application of prevention and protection measures against health-threatening work) involves enforcing legislation and regulations on the rights of the child, particularly texts on health-threatening work in rural and urban areas.

Strategic area No. 2 (consideration and application of protection and rehabilitation measures for child victims of health-threatening work in rural and urban areas) entails identifying and applying appropriate social protection measures, and increasing access to occupational training.

Work in quarries and mines

Strategic area No. 1 (improvement, strengthening and application of prevention and protection measures against work in quarries and mines) involves enforcing legislation and regulations on the rights of the child, particularly texts on work in quarries and mines, and providing protection measures.

Partners and financing

Financing is obtained from funds for social actions within the framework of the Public Investment Programme; ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC); UNICEF; external funds with budget lines for social actions; and various centralized and decentralized structures.

Follow-up and monitoring

Follow-up focuses on the use of inputs; delivery of output and activities; and achievement of the aims of the project.

Monitoring constitutes three mid-term evaluations conducted every 18 months of each phase; a biennial national evaluation workshop organized by the National Committee against child labour; and final evaluation focusing on the appropriateness of the aims of the programme.

Awareness campaigns and social mobilization

Each year, the Malagasy Government participates in the commemoration of the World Day against Child Labour. Since 2005, public awareness-raising actions have been launched in many regions, through the Ministry responsible for work and its partners. Commemorations have been held successively since 2005 in Analamanga, Diana, Haute Matsiatra, Boeny, Atsinanana, Atsimo Andrefana, Alaotra Mangoro, Vakinankaratra,

Maevatanana and Sakaraha. Local authorities, religious leaders, members of the National Committee against child labour and the regional committees against child labour are all involved in awareness-raising actions related to the World Day against Child Labour. The awareness-raising programmes centre on a particular aspect of child labour or on an alternative to the problem. They target the general public and the authorities and deal essentially with the dangers and risks faced by children. Awareness is raised mainly through audio-visual adverts, posters in *fokontanies* (village districts) and disadvantaged neighbourhoods, dialogue with parents, local authorities and community leaders, and mobilization of schools through various competitions and cultural demonstrations.

Campaigns

- 2005: child labour in quarries and mines; a national commemoration in Analamanga.
- 2006: no to the commercial sexual exploitation of children; a national commemoration in the Diana region; other commemoration sites were Antsiranana, Ambilobe, Ambanja, Nosy Be, Mahajanga, Ilakaka, Tuléar, Taolagnaro, Toamasina, Antananarivo and Fianarantsoa.
- 2007: child labour in agriculture; a national commemoration in the Haute Matsiatra region; other commemoration sites were Analamanga, Vakinakaratra, Atsinanana, Diana, Atsimo Andrefana and Boeny.
- 2008: education and the fight against child labour; commemorations in Atsinanana, Analamanga, Haute Matsiatra, Boeny, Vakinakaratra, Diana, Atsimo Andrefana and Alaotra Mangoro.
- 2009: give girls a chance: abolish child labour; commemoration in the Mahajanga region.
- 2010: get into action: abolish child labour; commemoration in the Atsinanana region.
- 2011: wake up! Children in hazardous work: let's abolish child labour; commemoration in the Diana region.
- 2012: human rights and social justice: let's abolish child labour; commemoration in the Vakinakaratra region.
- 2013: no to child domestic labour; a national commemoration in Maevatanana.
- 2014: let's abolish child labour by extending social protection; a national commemoration in Sakaraha; other commemoration sites were Sava, Atsimo Andrefana, Amoron'i Mania and Vatovavy Fitovinany.
- 2015: no to child labour, yes to quality education; commemoration in the Analamanga region.
- 2016: let's abolish child labour in production lines: everyone's business (under preparation); to be held in the Sava region.

Most of the vanilla export enterprises in the Sava region have signed the Code of Conduct on child labour in the vanilla industry. Twenty-one vanilla growers' cooperatives are engaged in the fight against the employment of children in the industry.