ALLIANCE 8.7 SUPPLY CHAIN ACTION GROUP

Implementation Report for 2018-19 Work plan
(March, 2019)

How did we start?

The Action Group on Supply Chains, chaired by the ILO, was launched in June 2017 at a strategic workshop hosted by the Government of Germany. It brought together a broad cross-section of stakeholders who agreed a series of objectives for the Action Group on Supply Chains (see Outcomes Report on the Alliance 8.7 website www.alliance87.org/action/action-groups/#supply). To maintain the momentum and support concrete results, the Supply Chain Action Group adopted a two-year work plan in early 2018 (see Workplan on the Alliance 8.7 website).

The workplan focuses on the delivery of a short list of results where the action group can add most value to the realization of the four broad goals of Alliance 8.7, namely:

1. **Accelerating action** by providing technical expertise to strengthen national strategies for achieving Target 8.7 and supporting advocacy efforts for stronger national policies and their effective implementation.

2. **Conducting research and sharing knowledge** through filling data gaps and supporting governments that require technical assistance on data collection.

3. **Driving innovation** by addressing gaps in the current response that will accelerate existing efforts and by identifying priority areas for testing innovative interventions, including harnessing promising new technologies and supporting public-private partnerships.

4. **Increasing and leveraging resources** by working to ensure existing resources are earmarked to directly contribute to Target 8.7, pooled between different institutions working towards common goals and new resources are mobilized.

Where do we stand?

By March 2019, 203 individual from 135 organisation have joined the Supply Chains Action. By December 2018, the Action Group’s work plan delivered most of the results expected for its first year of implementation:
Mapping of relevant supply chain initiatives – A mapping of forced labour and human trafficking initiatives in global supply chains was presented in May 2018. This was the result of a collaboration between several Alliance 8.7 partners, namely the Global Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking, the UN Global Compact Decent Work in Global Supply Chains Action Platform, and the RESPECT Initiative founding organisations, the International Organization for Migration, The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Babson College and the ILO. The research also includes a mapping of child labour initiatives, which will be further developed in 2019. The mapping of all initiatives is available at www.modernslaverymap.org.

Report on child labour and forced labour in global supply chains – The G20 2017 Labour Ministerial Declaration asked the Alliance 8.7 "for a joint report containing proposals on how to accelerate action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, forced labour and modern slavery in global supply chains including identifying high risk sectors, and how to support capacity building in the countries most affected".

A research consortium comprised of the ILO, OECD, UNICEF and IOM has been formed to work on a report seeking to present quantitative evidence on the phenomena of child labour, forced labour and trafficking in persons in global supply chains, identify practices and factors that heighten risks and showcase good responses from public and private actors. For this report, statistical surveys were conducted in select sectors. The surveys helped to pilot measurement methodologies and improve understanding of global supply chains, including their intersection with domestic supply chains. An advisory board has been formed to guide the research process, involving governments, ITUC and IOE.

Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking – The ILO Global Business Network Forced Labour (GBN) is an umbrella network of networks offering a forum for collaboration convened by the ILO where business and business networks come together behind a common objective of leveraging comparative advantages and collective action towards the elimination of forced labour and human trafficking. It was opened for membership at the Global Forum on Responsible Recruitment and Employment hosted by the Institute for Human Rights and Business, The Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment, and the Consumer Goods Forum, supported by Humanity United in Singapore in June 2018. Membership is open to business across all sectors and geographies, and employer and business membership organizations including sectoral associations and industry groups and is governed by a Steering Committee. The ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour currently has 4 company members and 5 business network members. For more information on the network visit: www.ilo.org/fl-businessnetwork.

New or consolidated initiatives to accelerate action – On November 2018, the CLEAR COTTON project was launched by the EU, FAO and ILO to tackle child labour and forced labour in various tiers of the garment supply chains with a particular focus on cotton production. The partnership has started to set up its operations
in collaboration with the governments in Burkina Faso, Mali and Pakistan. Social partners and NGOs will also play an active role in the implementation. For more information on the project: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/clear-cotton-project-against-child-labour-launches-brussels_en. Furthermore, a new partnership between the ILO and the Government of the Netherlands was launched to accelerate action for the elimination of child labour in selected supply chains in Africa. Six countries will participate in the project, namely Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda. The project also has an important knowledge sharing and partnership component to extend good practices and lessons learned to the region.

**What is next?**

The Action Group will review progress made and discuss its future work plan during its Global Workshop, which will take place from 14-15 May in Abidjan, Côte D’Ivoire.