



► Overview

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Global Business Network on Forced Labour (ILO GBNFL) brings together the ILO with businesses of all sizes and sectors, and their networks from around the globe to eradicate forced labour.

ILO GBNFL members work to engage enterprises, including small and medium enterprises, develop practical resources and tools, and devise local solutions that help shape national frameworks to create lasting change.

The challenge

In 2021, the ILO estimated that 27.6 million people were in forced labour globally. Of these, 11.8 million were women, and 3.3 million were children. The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent humanitarian crises (i.e., conflict and natural disasters) have worsened the situation by exacerbating the root causes of forced labour, such as poverty, informality, discrimination, weak governance, and lack of access to social protection.

Forced labour is present in every region in the world. International migrant workers, which the ILO estimates at 169 million worldwide in 2020, are among those particularly at risk of becoming victims of forced labour. Of all adults in forced labour, 15% are migrant workers despite accounting for only approximately 5% of the global workforce.

Target 8.7 of the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development goals (SDGs), adopted by all UN member states, aims to eradicate forced labour by 2030. To turn this vision into reality, businesses together with governments and other relevant stakeholders need to adopt a collective and inclusive approach at global and country levels that ensures lasting impact. Businesses are serious about eradicating forced labour, as demonstrated by the extensive number of initiatives. But the task is huge and new forms of collaboration are needed.

A global business network

The [ILO GBNFL](#) is a global business network coordinated by the ILO. The ILO is a UN specialized agency that brings together governments, employers and workers to set international labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work, including the elimination of forced labour.

ILO GBNFL reaches across sectors and geographies to advance the business case for an end to forced labour. The network is aligned with and contributes to other relevant international initiatives, in particular [Alliance 8.7](#), the global partnership set up to deliver on SDG Target 8.7. The network opened for membership in 2018.



ILO GBNFL key focus areas



Connect

Break silos by linking up business actors from across sectors and geographies to eradicate forced labour.



Convene

Support businesses to engage with other relevant stakeholders, including government bodies, to find sustainable solutions to the structural drivers of forced labour.



Innovate

Create spaces where members identify gaps, develop new ways of tackling forced labour, and devise methods to scale up solutions.



Support

Share clear-cut data, information and resources to help busy businesses take steps to tackle forced labour.

► OUR MEMBERS

ILO GBNFL members are businesses of all sizes and sectors, as well as employer and business membership organizations including industry trade groups and sectoral associations. Other business-led initiatives with complementary mandates and expertise can join as partners.

By joining the ILO GBNFL members are called on to:

- **Eradicate** forced labour in all its forms in their organizations, supply chains, member organizations, sectors and beyond, by taking concrete steps.
- **Advocate** for a comprehensive and coordinated response to forced labour, including in dealings with government bodies.
- **Uphold** the principles of inclusivity and collaboration when working with other stakeholders to end forced labour.

**To join us, and for
further information**

fl-businessnetwork@ilo.org or visit flbusiness.network