

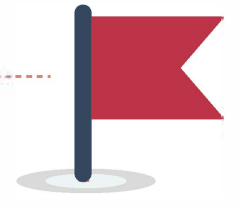
R2A & E2A Final Performance Evaluation Infographic Summary

Projects Details

Award	R2A Award	E2A Award
Total funding	USD 3,360,000	USD 3,725,000
Project Goal	Accelerate the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support of efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor around the world.	Increase the use of forced labor research in policy and programmatic decision-making to eliminate forced labour around the world
Implementation Countries	Global, plus research agendas in Chile, Malawi, Nepal, Paraguay, and Uganda	Argentina and Madagascar

Evaluation Objective

Assess achievement of project objectives and outputs, challenges encountered, intended and unintended effects, lessons learned, emerging good practices, and project sustainability.



Evaluation Methodology

A mixed-methods approach was used for both projects

- Document Reviews
- Key Informant Interviews
- Online Perception Surveys



Key Informant Interviews

Interviews were conducted virtually at the global level for R2A and at the country level for E2A in Argentina and Madagascar. Interviewees included project staff, implementing partners, ILO and USDOL representatives, and a variety of stakeholders.



Representatives from the labor ministries, national statistical offices, academic institutions, and individual research grantees.



Argentina: representatives from Executive Committee for the Fight Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims, Secretary of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Attorney General's Office of Human Trafficking and Exploitation, National Institution of Industry-Textiles, Argentina Industrial Union, General Confederation of Labor, and a range of academic institutions and researchers.

Madagascar: ILO representatives and local researchers were interviewed.



Limitations

- The evaluation team was not able to interview any representatives from the government and garment sector in Madagascar largely due to the fact that the E2A project was not able to develop relationships and engage with these stakeholders.
- In Argentina, two key labor ministry representatives who participated in the project were not available for interviews.
- Remote fieldwork conducted in Madagascar, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, and Myanmar posed technical challenges. At times, signal strength and internet connectivity resulted in poor connections, dropped calls, and interview interruptions.
- The primary limitation of the online perception surveys was that none of the stakeholders from Madagascar responded to the E2A online perception survey.

Performance Review of Project Outcomes



R2A Project Outcome

	Achievement	Sustainability
Outcome 1: Increased policymaker and practitioner interaction with rigorous research, data collection and analysis tools, and other relevant data needed to address child labor and forced labor internationally.	Moderate	Above Moderate
Outcome 2: Increased understanding by researchers of the questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to inform policy and program efforts to eliminate child labor and forced labor	High	Above Moderate
Outcome 3: Improved capacity of researchers to study child labor and forced labor issues	Moderate	High
Outcome 4: Increased engagement of skilled multidisciplinary, policy-oriented researchers that carry out rigorous studies on child labor and forced labor issues	High	Low

E2A Project Outcome

Outcome 1: Increased knowledge of the extent, nature, and characteristics of forced labor where scarce research exist	Argentina	Above Moderate	Moderate
	Madagascar	Moderate	Low
Outcome 2: Increased dialogue and engagement of decision-makers in the private sector, government, and civil society to act against forced labor.	Argentina	Above Moderate	Moderate
	Madagascar	Low	Low

Important Achievements

R2A

- Bibliography linked to the evidence gap map
- R2A platform
- Policy guidance tool
- Global and country research agendas
- Situational briefs
- Meta-analysis/literature reviews
- Evidence gap maps
- Child labor and forced labor research and data analysis online course/modules hosted by ITC-ILO
- Research grants to 16 researchers who conducted research on child labor and forced labor

E2A

Argentina

- Rapid sector appraisal
- Value chain analysis
- Forced labor prevalence survey
- Mapping of stakeholders for forced labor data and a stakeholder engagement strategy
- A set of due diligence tools
- A home-based worker case study was completed.

Madagascar

- Rapid sector appraisal and mapping of stakeholders and their information needs.
- The forced labor prevalence survey and stakeholder engagement strategy have been completed while due diligence tools are under testing.

Relevant Findings

- The evaluation was not able to find evidence that the knowledge generated by the R2A and E2A projects informed stakeholders' policies and programs. Changes in policies and programs take time and it is too early to say whether the knowledge led to or will lead to changes. There appears to be a strong interest among R2A stakeholders and E2A stakeholders in Argentina to explore ways to apply the knowledge.
- The R2A project design was relevant and effectively responded to the needs of its key stakeholders. The E2A project design was relevant and effectively responded to the needs and priorities of its stakeholders in Argentina but less so in Madagascar
- The R2A project collaborated effectively with organizations at both the global level and with the research agenda countries.
- The E2A project was effective at collaborating with key stakeholders in Argentina but less effective at engaging stakeholders in Madagascar.
- The R2A and E2A projects operated in an efficient manner. They produced outputs with the planned amount of human and financial resources.

Key Promising Practices



R2A and E2A

1

Flexible project approach that allowed for constant adaptations and adjustments to political situations, and changes requested by stakeholders and project partners.

R2A

1

International advisory boards consisting of academic institutions, international research specialists, and representatives of international organizations, serve as an important platform for research cooperation and dialogue on child labor and forced labor issues.

2

The ILO and IOM staff loan arrangement provided a key IOM researcher to the R2A project to provide input and guidance on migration issues as well as institutional linkages.

3

The selection of pathfinder countries to develop the country research agendas leveraged their commitment to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through improved research and knowledge.

4

Building project interventions and products into existing ILO systems and procedures that created efficiency and contributed to the sustainability of these interventions and products.

E2A

1

The active participation of key national stakeholders in the development of methodologies and data collection instruments and due diligence tools that not only provided valuable suggestions to improve these tools but helped create stakeholder commitment.

2

Conducting qualitative studies to ascertain critical information used to design and implement the forced labor prevalence survey.

3

Discussing and adjusting research findings with key stakeholders before making the research reports public helped increase the understanding of the findings and ensure their acceptability.

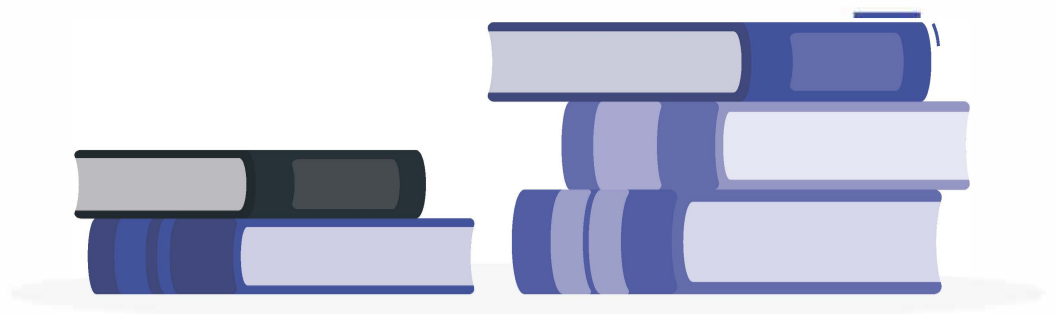
4

Breaking large research products into several smaller products facilitates targeting audiences with useful information that they can digest and act upon.

5

Building on existing institutions and structures rather than creating new ones increases efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability.

Lessons Learned



R2A

- 1** It is critical to determine the mandates and limitations of potential partners (i.e. IOM and UNU) during the project design phase to avoid contracting and other problems once the project begins.
- 2** Projects like R2A, that aim to accelerate the use of research to improve policy and programs, require specific strategies to get research and research tools in front of policymakers and practitioners.
- 3** Projects that aim to achieve knowledge and behavior changes, such as using knowledge to improve policies and programs, require M&E systems with indicators to measure changes in knowledge and behaviors.
- 4** Projects that produce research products such as the R2A country research agendas need a strategy and resources to support their effective implementation.
- 5** Ambitious projects like R2A should have adequate staffing at the global and country levels to ensure that the planned outputs and outcomes are achieved.

E2A

- 1** National coordinators, based in the countries targeted by the project, are highly important to ensure that activities and outputs advance as planned, especially outreach and engagement with key stakeholders.
- 2** Involve the private sector early in the project so it can help set the agenda and ensure their needs are being met by the project, which also creates commitment.
- 3** Anticipate and understand the stakeholders' economic concerns of forced labor research and use this information to develop proactive strategies to raise awareness about the risks that forced labor poses to export markets and what countries can do to mitigate the risk.
- 4** Some project activities do not necessarily have to be implemented in a linear sequence as planned but can and should be implemented in parallel.
- 5** The involvement of community-based organizations and other civil society organizations is important to help researchers gain access to the study population.

Recommendations for ILO and USDOL



Develop and use a mix of effect level indicators that measure how research findings are used to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.



Design forced labor research projects, including their main strategies, based on the context of the implementation country.



Hire national project coordinators to lead the engagement and dialogue around research findings (knowledge) as well as facilitate research activities.



Ensure adequate staffing to ensure effective implementation of activities and technical support to project partners.



Include a **strong research communication/advocacy strategy** to help ensure the research findings/knowledge is used by policymakers and practitioners.

Recommendations for USDOL



Provide specific and detailed instruction in the Funding Opportunity Announcements on the expectation that USDOL funded projects incorporate diversity, equity, inclusiveness, and accessibility principles into the project designs/strategies.

Recommendations for ILO



Vet potential sub-contractors to determine if they are able and **willing to adhere to US government contracting rules and regulations**. This should be done during the project design phase.



When feasible, **configure project teams with qualified researchers** to take the lead on research activities, **supported by local researchers**, instead of hiring expensive research firms.