



A World Class Approach to Sesame Farming

FIFTY EIGHT



Partnership Against
Child Exploitation

Sustainable Development Goals



The African Union Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP)

SUSTAINABLE LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRADE RELATED CAPACITIES

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND DISSEMINATION

INCREASING FOOD SUPPLY AND REDUCING HUNGER

An industry-wide, investor-led approach for engaging with the worst forms of child labour in sesame should look to develop pathways towards a system of industry trading flags for child labour, initially piloting within the sesame industry in Ethiopia. Following successful implementation of a pilot, it could be scaled to all other minor agricultural commodities traded in Ethiopia, to exemplify a world class approach to addressing child labour in farming. Leveraging Ethiopia's significance in the global sesame trade, efforts should then focus on updating the due diligence process for global sesame trading to incorporate the principles of the child labour flagging system.

Investors should be working closely with international businesses and other global industry actors to help bring visibility to the issue of child labour in sesame production throughout the value chain. The focus should be on a positive rather than negative messaging approach around child labour, highlighting the realities for children involved in farming, and emphasise how age appropriate, safe work can complement formal education to provide good vocational training. However, removing children from the worst forms of child labour and hazardous work is of paramount importance, and finding pathways to economic alternatives for

children and their families would enable them to reduce industry reliance on child labour.

Coalitions should be formed of investors, international businesses, and civil society organisations to work with institutions in Ethiopia such as the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) and the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA). A pilot could be developed alongside sesame agricultural clusters to provide timely finance, high quality farming inputs and training in advanced farming methods. Standards should be agreed throughout the cluster about the types of work children will be permitted to perform to keep them safe and healthy and ensure sufficient time for attending school and recreation.

This set of standards would become the benchmark for the child labour flagging system, certifying that child safety has been centralised throughout the farming process. Businesses and Investors should partner with the ECX to facilitate their adoption of the child labour flagging system, allowing sesame to be traded as certified 'child safe' for a higher market price. This could pave the way for other types of commodity traceability in the country, such as organic certification.

The recommendations are coded to signify the key stakeholders that must be engaged to ensure any alternative pathway programmes are well researched, designed, effective and sustainable. See the key at the footer of each page.

Where there is application for other fragile contexts outside of DRC, you will see this icon:



Partners



Other fragile contexts

A: A WORLD CLASS CHILD LABOUR APPROACH - KEY CONSIDERATIONS

As one of the strategic goals of a child labour flagging system is to improve income for farmers, any project should be implemented in conjunction with interventions that:

- Promote business clustering and other value addition with a strategic aim of reducing child labour to
- 1. Improve market access
- 2. Harness the potential of the private sector
- 3. Improve the legal and regulatory framework around child labour in-country

In implementing recommendations, the following should be considered:

Selecting appropriate locations to pilot



Primarily in the Amhara region, in the Metema / Quara / West Aramcho areas. **There are also areas of the Tigray region (Segede / Kafta Humara / Wolkait) that may be suitable, depending on the outcome of the ongoing conflict.**

Identification of key actors



Cooperative and cluster leadership, community leaders and local government, Ethiopian government bodies such as the ATA and ECX and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ethiopian sesame export companies, global sesame traders.

Multi-stakeholder cooperation



Communication throughout the value chain is crucial, therefore actors at every stage must be engaged. Partners must be committed to long-term and sustained investment and implementation in order to reduce harm to children, maximise resources and increase the chances of long-term community transformation.

Corruption Proofing



Clear accountability and continuous monitoring and evaluation must be put in place within programme design to ensure children are removed from the worst forms of child labour from the outset and continue to benefit from the advantages of the business cluster.

Relevant to

Other Fragile Contexts

Sector Partners

Local governance

Civil society organisations

National Government

Business

Investors

B: AREAS OF IMPACT

In the Ethiopian sesame sector

- Dissemination of information regarding the worst forms of child labour practices within the sector
- Share knowledge and experience with other agricultural commercialisation clusters to proliferate the child safety flagging system

The local target area

- Identifying and establishing the worst forms of child labour practices
- Develop child safety standards within clusters with input from local leaders, Community Care Coalitions (CCC), teachers and parents
- Establish a child safety flagging methodology

Country-wide

- Engage the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) and Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) to further develop their Agricultural Commercialisation Clusters (AGG) initiative into a child labour flagging system, as a pathway to eliminate the worst forms of child labour throughout Ethiopian agriculture.
- Develop the pilot to use as a model to drive a global change in child labour in agriculture.

Other fragile contexts

- Develop a bottom-up value chain analysis to facilitate the application of similar approaches to tackling the worst forms of child labour in agriculture and other sectors globally.


Relevant to

Other Fragile Contexts 

Sector Partners

Local governance 

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National Government 

Business 

Investors 

Stakeholder Benefits	
Community Livelihoods	<p>Community building around livelihood and lifestyle improvement for children</p> <p>Improved income for farming communities</p>
Government	<p>An outward-facing, modernised agricultural industry that is marketable and replicable globally</p> <p>More robust internal agricultural market that can be scaled up throughout the country</p>
CSOs & Organisations	<p>Consistent long-term direction and project ownership</p> <p>Use knowledge and expertise to help children participate in improving their own prospects</p>
Private Sector	<p>Enables a systemic, industry-linked approach to improving the lives of children in the supply chain</p> <p>Companies can become more engaged with suppliers at grass roots by helping fund and equip training and research and development, giving them a better product and a more reliable supply chain</p>



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See more recommendations and research at valuechains.pace-consortium.org