## ILO contribution to the Special Rapporteur’s 2024 report on gender, peace and security

* According to the [ILO child labour estimates](https://www.ilo.org/publications/major-publications/child-labour-global-estimates-2020-trends-and-road-forward), there is a strong correlation between child labour and situations of conflict and disaster. O**ne in four children** lives in a country struck by conflict, fragility and/or disaster. Child labour in situations of fragility are **three times higher** than the world average. Many of those children are in forced labour and trafficking in persons (although no precise statistics exist).
* Many cases of forced labour, including sexual exploitation to which women and girls are particularly vulnerable, occur in situations of crisis linked to armed conflicts, disasters and disease. Although [ILO’s new report on the illegal profits](https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/annual-profits-forced-labour-amount-us-236-billion-ilo-report-finds) made out of forced labour is not specifically focusing on crisis situations, it highlights how profits amounting to some 236 billion dollars per year are made using situations of vulnerability.
* The [illegal profits report](https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/annual-profits-forced-labour-amount-us-236-billion-ilo-report-finds), clearly points to the link between high recruitment fees paid by workers and their exposure to risks of forced labour and trafficking. This is why the generation of statistical evidence of recruitment fees and costs paid by workers is of fundamental importance. As co-custodian of SDG indicator 10.7.1 on “Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination” the ILO, in collaboration with the World Bank, supported the development of a methodology to measure SDG indicator 10.7.1 though household or establishment- based surveys. The outcome of this work resulted in the publication of [*Operational Manual on Recruitment Costs – SDG 10.7.1*](https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40ed_protect/%40protrav/%40migrant/documents/publication/wcms_745663.pdf) in 2019, which applies a statistical definition of recruitment fees and related costs based on the [ILO definition of recruitment fees and related costs](https://webapps.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_703485.pdf). The ILO has continued promoting measurement of this indicator as part of official statistics through: (a) direct technical support to NSO’s to implement pilot surveys and conduct national surveys; (b) capacity-building on SDG 10.7.1 measurement through global, regional and national courses; (c) validation and refinement of the data collection tools; and (d) preparation of updated practical tools including survey questionnaires. To date, following initial pilot surveys in Mexico, [Ghana](https://www.ilo.org/media/390021/download), [Bangladesh](http://www.ilo.org/dhaka/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_766198/lang--en/index.htm), Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Maldives, [the Philippines](https://www.ilo.org/publications/measuring-sustainable-development-goal-indicator-1071-recruitment-costs-1), the Republic of Korea, and [Viet Nam](https://www.ilo.org/media/385431/download) have used the SDG 10.7.1 methodology to gather data to measure workers paid recruitment costs, generating critical empirical evidence on recruitment costs and their impact on workers’ incomes. SDG indicator 10.7.1 will be key also for the implementation to the new EU legislation on due diligence and forced labour which aims to mitigate worker exploitation by requiring companies to scrutinize and address labor issues within their value chains. It will help to emphasize the importance of mapping value chains to ensure compliance and protect workers, including from recruitment costs.
* The ILO Fair Recruitment Initiate, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, continues to promote action aimed at addressing recruitment related abuses and enhancing fair recruitment practices as critical safeguards to the risk of trafficking. As part of the FRI 10th anniversary , the ILO will soon release, as part of its global [www.fairrecruitmenhub.org](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fairrecruitmenhub.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmosler%40ilo.org%7Cfb43e1fdd474480db2a108dc8edddd36%7Cd49b07ca23024e7cb2cbe12127852850%7C0%7C0%7C638542330755322395%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=spdU253t9v8CQUjwuL%2BkbW%2FxpaMb9GUsjcIncdyWgeY%3D&reserved=0) a new global study on recruitment fees and related cost covering relevant regulatory provisions of 110 countries, as well as a “model roadmap for implementation of fair recruitment at national level”, which contains relevant promising practices form a variety of actors in different geographic contexts, to support multistakeholder national action on fair recruitment. These will complement already existing resources, grounded on ILO general Principles and Operational Guidance for Fair recruitment, including a comprehensive training manual on fair recruitment and a specific training module to enhance the role of labour inspection in detecting and addressing recruitment related abuses. It is important to note that ILO Fair recruitment Initiative applies to recruitment within and across international borders and to crises situations equally.
* In 2014, a Protocol to the ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29), 1930, was adopted based on the recognition that “trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, which may involve sexual exploitation, is the subject of growing international concern and requires urgent action for its effective elimination.” Despite a dedicated ratification campaign, the Protocol has gathered 60 ratifications so far, whereas the principal instrument to which the Protocol is attached, Convention No. 29, has obtained 181 ratifications among the 187 ILO Member States. Addressing deficits in fundamental principles and rights at work is key to achieving the goal of social justice under the SDGs (notably SDG 8 and target 8.7 and 8.8).
* The ILO and other UN agencies, together with the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children launched a [pledge on the Protection for Refugees and Migrants at Risk of or Affected by Trafficking in Persons](https://globalcompactrefugees.org/multistakeholder-pledge-protection-refugees-and-migrants-risk-or-affected-trafficking-persons#:~:text=Pledge%20description,the%20Global%20Compact%20for%20Refugees.) at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. 23 countries and other stakeholders contributed with their own pledges on the topic. There is a need to continue supporting global advocacy to accelerate prevention, protection and rehabilitation efforts addressed at children and adult victims of forced labour and trafficking in persons in crisis situations.
* Over the past three years, the ILO supervisory bodies have consistently made comments on cases of forced labour - including sexual slavery - in conflict contexts. For instance, in its comments under Convention No. 29 and its optional Protocol, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations has noted with concern the incidence of forced labour and sexual exploitation in armed contexts in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Liberia, Libya, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.
* Additionally, in its comments under the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) the Committee of Experts has noted with concern the forced recruitment of children in armed conflict in Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nepal, and Rwanda. Further information on these comments can be obtained from the ILO International labour standards Database, [NORMLEX](https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:1:0::NO:::).
* Through an EU funded project in response to the war in Ukraine, “[Ukraine works!](https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/ukraine-works-5-year-ilo-project-closes-improved-occupational-health-and)”, the ILO supported a wide scale awareness-raising campaign, and trained some 300 Ukrainian labour inspectors on psychological first aid and the risks of human trafficking and labour exploitation targeting refugees. As of January 2024, this campaign has reached 5.3 million displaced Ukrainians.