Measuring and addressing child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking around the world

U.S. Department of Labor's Use of Research and Evaluation to Inform Policy

Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking

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Outline of discussion

- Introduction to OCFT
- List of our trafficking-related technical assistance
- Major research products:
  - Annual Reports
  - Impact Evaluations
  - Research Technical Assistance
- Measurement Challenges
- Open Questions

OCFT Mission

To promote the elimination of child labor and forced labor through policy, research, and technical assistance projects.

Working to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking worldwide.

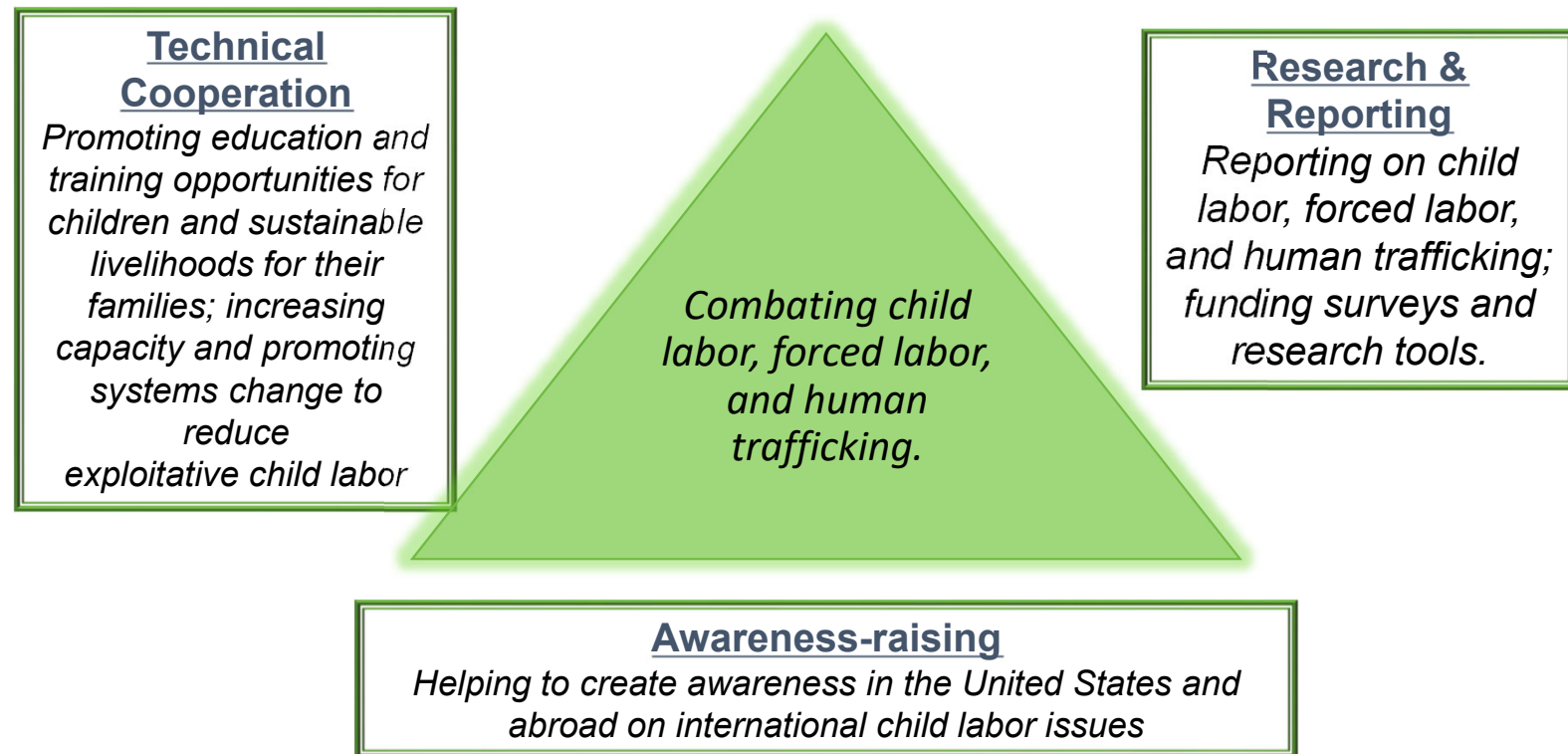CELEBRATING **25** YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH, AWARENESS, TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT
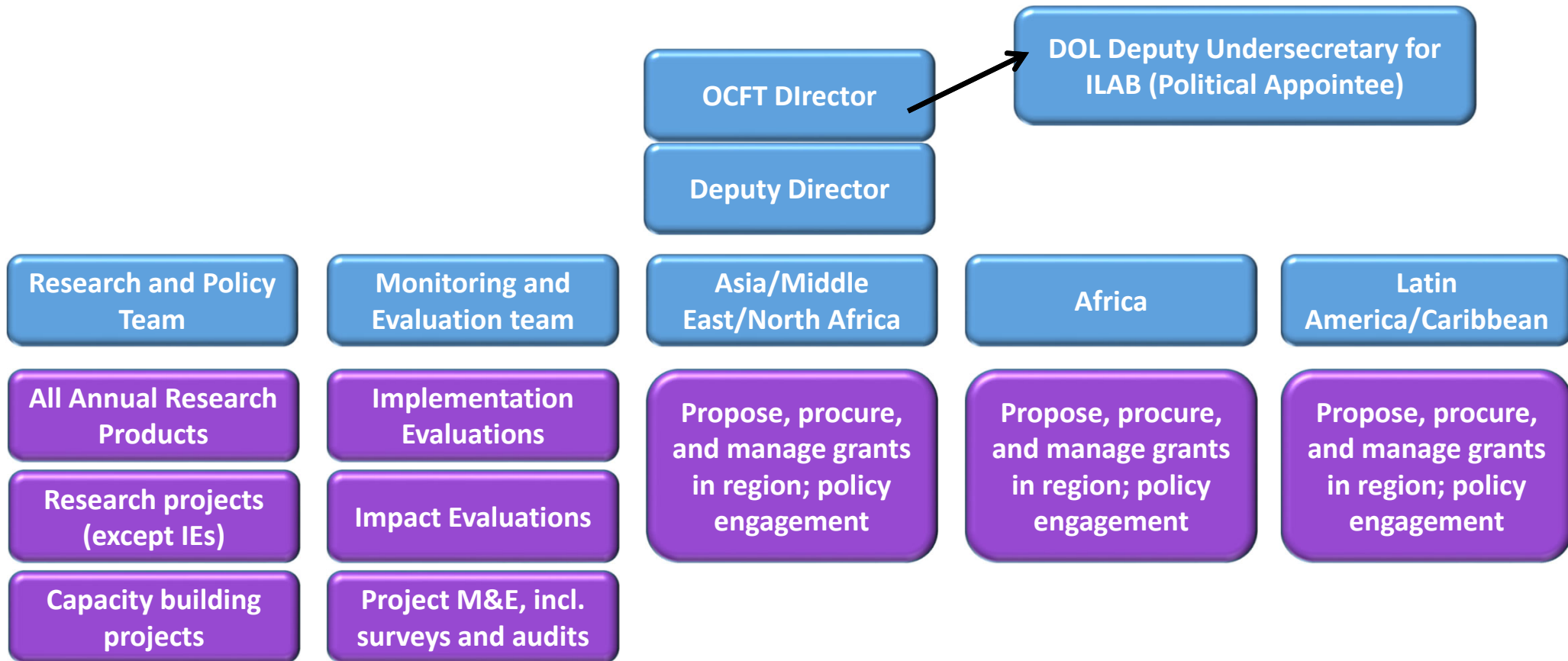
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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OCFT's Work

Technical Cooperation
Promoting education and training opportunities for children and sustainable livelihoods for their families; increasing capacity and promoting systems change to reduce exploitative child labor

Combating child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

Research & Reporting
Reporting on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking; funding surveys and research tools.

Awareness-raising
Helping to create awareness in the United States and abroad on international child labor issues

OCFT Office Structure

OCFT DIrector → **DOL Deputy Undersecretary for ILAB (Political Appointee)**

Deputy Director

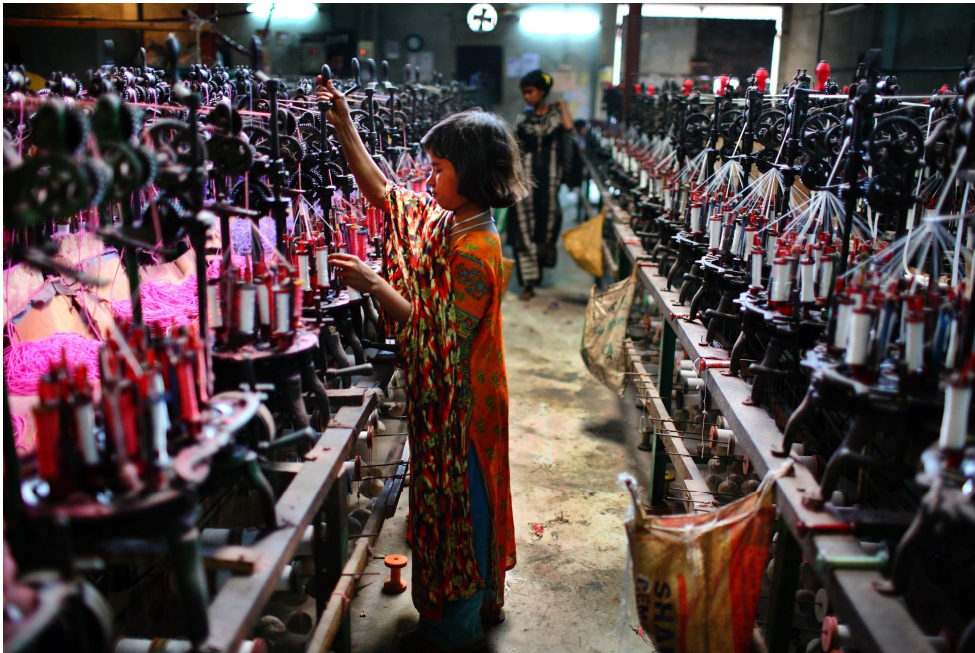| Research and Policy Team	Monitoring and Evaluation team	Asia/Middle East/North Africa	Africa	Latin America/Caribbean
All Annual Research Products	Implementation Evaluations	Propose, procure, and manage grants in region; policy engagement	Propose, procure, and manage grants in region; policy engagement	Propose, procure, and manage grants in region; policy engagement
Research projects (except IEs)	Impact Evaluations			
Capacity building projects	Project M&E, incl. surveys and audits			

Responsibilities

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OCFT's global work

Since 1995:
332 projects
97 countries
Saving 1.9 million children

OCFT's global work

Currently:
51 projects
44 countries
$259 million in active funding

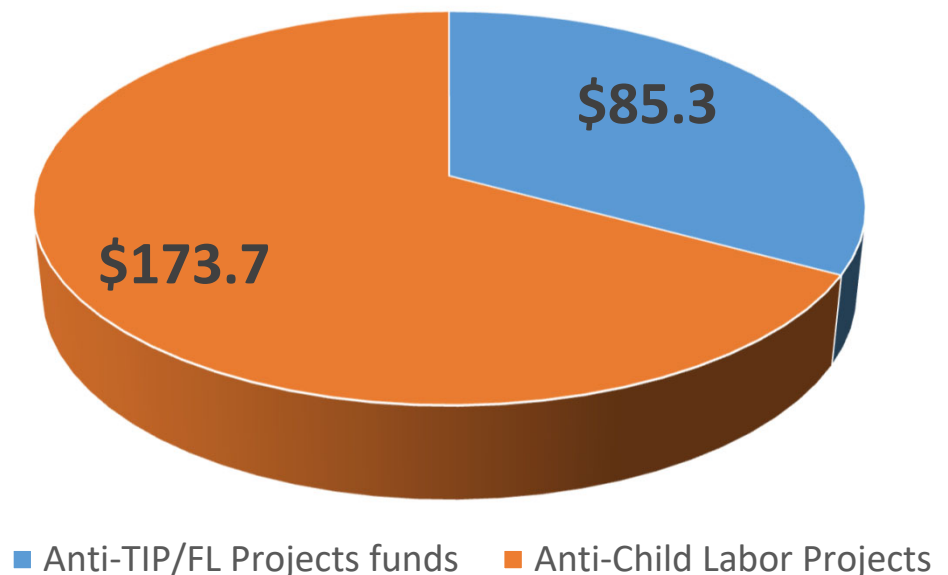# OCFT's work to combat forced labor and human trafficking

Currently:

16 projects

26 countries

$85.3 million in active funding

Over one third of OCFT's active funding involves combating forced labor and human trafficking

- Anti-TIP/FL Projects funds
- Anti-Child Labor Projects

$85.3

$173.7

Numbers in millions USD, as of April 2019. Some anti-TIP/FL projects also work to combat child labor.

Major Research Products

1. Annual reports on status of child labor in 132 U.S. trade partner countries; list of goods made with child labor, forced labor, or forced child labor;
2. Impact evaluations to understand what works when combatting child labor, forced labor, or human trafficking;
3. Funding global and country-level research on child labor and forced labor, including nationally representative surveys

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Major Research Products

1. Annual reports on status of child labor in 132 U.S. trade partner countries; list of goods made with child labor, forced labor, or forced child labor;

   - List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor, mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. The 2018 edition covers 148 goods in 76 countries.

Major Research Products

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UC Berkeley IEs

- Budget: ~USD $1million

- Three IEs: All evaluating the relative effectiveness of different formats of mass media campaigns in decreasing vulnerability to CFT among: 1) general population in Nepal; 2) law enforcement officers in Nepal; 3) general population and also domestic workers in Hong Kong.

- Results so far: low impacts on vulnerability to CFT, with results reducing over time. Interesting impacts on perceptions depending on framing of information.

Reducing Vulnerability to Human Trafficking: An Experimental Intervention Using Anti-Trafficking Campaigns to Change Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs, and Practices in Nepal

Table I-1: Treatment Conditions

Category	Treatment Condition	Number of Interviews
Individual-based Control 1	Pure Control	322
Individual-based Treatment 2	Poster (neutral information)	311
Individual-based Treatment 3	Graphic Novel: Danger	290
Individual-based Treatment 4	Graphic Novel: Empowerment	326
Individual-based Treatment 5	Radio: Danger	320
Individual-based Treatment 6	Radio: Empowerment	284
Individual-based Treatment 7	Audio-Visual: Danger	632
Individual-based Treatment 8	Audio-Visual: Empowerment	595
Group-based Treatment 9	Audio-Visual: Danger	969
Group-based Treatment 10	Audio-Visual: Empowerment	979
	Total	5,028

Archer, Boittin, & Mo, 2018.

UC Berkeley IEs

Interesting Measurement Highlights:

- Evaluated awareness-raising and vulnerability to child labor, forced labor and human trafficking using a vulnerability index based on ILO framework (Hard to See, Harder to Count)

- Novel ways to survey domestic workers (and resulting estimation issues)

- Successfully used list experiments to reduce social desirability bias related to stigma/sensitivities

    - 6.7% of respondents said they had been forced to have sex as a part of their job (only 1.3% said yes with a direct question).

    - 9.6% of respondents were forced to work without pay (direct questioning estimated 6.8%)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S **2018** LIST OF GOODS PRODUCED BY **CHILD LABOR** OR **FORCED LABOR**

Required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005

Estimating forced labor internationally

Leveraging national statistical systems using probabilistic methods and adapted sampling designs:

- Labor force survey (Nepal)
- Examining linkages between forced labor and health (Brazil)
- Measuring forced labor in sectors
  - Brick Kilns (Nepal)
  - Palm Oil (Malaysia)
  - Mining (Peru)

Estimating forced labor internationally

- Non-probabilistic methods with populations at great risk of harm:
    - Children in armed recruitment in South Sudan, Nigeria and DRC with ILO, UNICEF, IOM, Walk Free Foundation
    - Forced labor in illegal logging at Amazonian triple border

- Qualitative studies
    - Forced labor and employment relationships in Mauritania

Measurement Challenges

- More work needed to understand best methods to test respondent's understanding of indicators of forced labor, consent, or less visible forms of coercion
  - Varies by cultural context, vulnerability of population

- Sampling plan must be carefully designed to increase access to population of interest while decreasing risk of harm
  - Consider: Geography, visibility, mobility, length of forced labor, type of work

- Data collection tradeoffs: cost, sample size, length, filter questions, feasibility, risk of harm

Research tools in the pipeline

- Catalog of core forced labor questions
- Sampling manuals to guide in forced labor estimation
- Manual for mixed methods studies
- Expansion of Delta 8.7 platform

(Supported by MAP16 and Research to Action projects)

Questions for the field

Broader questions:

- What are the risk factors, indicators, and scale of forced labor and/or TIP in various geographic areas or sectors? What are effective policies and programs to prevent and address, and what are their impacts?

Research implementation:

- What are the best practices and/or questions to test for forced labor and trafficking indicators, to ensure individuals are correctly self-reporting?
- What are the best research designs or sampling approaches to access victims while protecting safety and confidentiality, including in potentially dangerous forms of forced labor and/or labor trafficking?
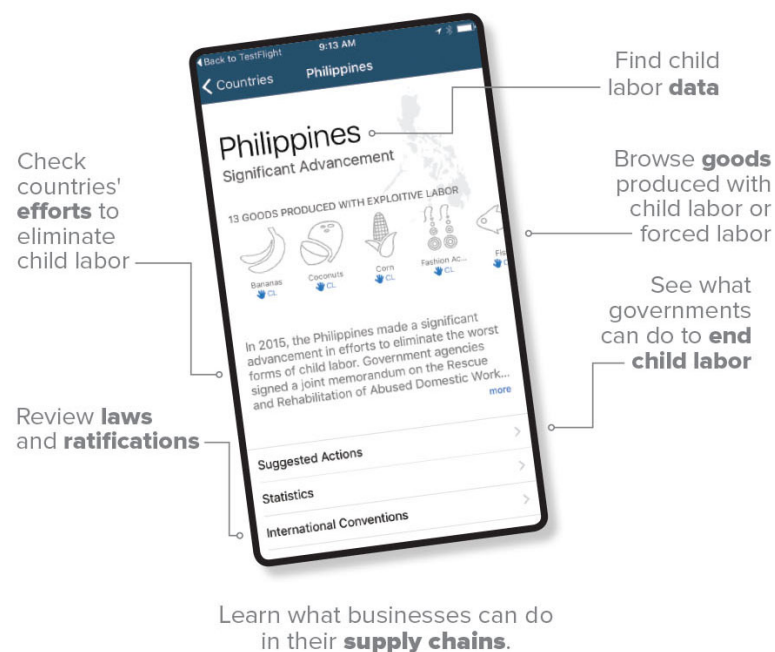
Research to Action:

- How do we communicate results and create incentives to galvanize policymakers?

Thank you!

For more information:

- https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/

- https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/projects

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