



## Say Goodbye to Child Labour

### Manual 'Stepping Stones for Child Labour Free Zones' presented to Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

**The Hague, June 11, 2015** – Ahead of the *International Day against Child Labour* on 12 June, Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Lillianne Ploumen, has today been presented the manual "5 x 5 Stepping Stones for creating Child Labour Free Zones" authored by the Stop Child Labour coalition. The manual has in May already been presented in a *Child Labour Free Zone* Uganda.



Child Labour Free Zones are areas where the entire community works together to get children out of work and bring them to school. In establishing these zones

Stop Child Labour closely cooperates with partner organisations primarily in India and Africa.

Stop Child Labour coalition co-ordinator Sofie Ovaa: "This book gives clear guidance to organisations wishing to establish Child Labour Free Zones. It focuses on the various situations in which this is possible and offers practical tips for organisations to involve the complete community."

#### About the manual

The past three years Stop Child Labour has worked within the project 'Omar's Dream' to create and expand Child Labour Free Zones in Africa. With this project, initiated in 2012 with funding from the Dutch Postcode Lottery, more than 27 thousand children have been removed from work and returned back in school.

The experience of our local partners in realisation Child Labour Free Zones was the inspiration for the manual, also enabling others to get started with this approach.

#### 168 million working children

According to the latest figures, there are still 168 million children working and not attending school. Also in Europe there is still a lot to tackle the issue. It is often unclear whether child labour has been involved in the production of items that are for sale here. Companies should therefore have more insight into their supply chain and have pro-active policies to combat child labour. Should they fail to do this, then it is up to the government to introduce appropriate legislation. Therefore Stop Child Labour advocates for mandatory due diligence and reporting for companies at risk to make use of child labour. That is the only way consumers can eventually make a conscious choice.

Stop Child Labour calls upon governments, companies and citizens to be part of the solution. Only together we can create a child labour free world.

Download the manual here: <http://www.indianet.nl/SteppingStones.html>