

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION (RTA) PROJECT: Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour

Seed Grant for Master's and PhD students

The "From Research to Action" (RTA) project aims at accelerating the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support to efforts to tackle child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking around the world. To safeguard the rights of all workers, including migrant workers, this project commits to engage researchers and promote new interest to strengthen the evidence base for achieving SDG 8.7.

The RTA project will award ten seed grants for research from a variety of disciplines on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking issues. The project will provide seed grants up to a maximum of US\$10,000 each for the period of 9 months. The project start date is within the first month of the award date and subject to funds availability and the approval of extension of the RTA project by the Donor.

ILO and IOM are committed to a diverse and inclusive workplace. Applications are particularly welcomed from qualified candidates from the Global South, female, and underrepresented populations in the research community.

The grants are designed to provide an entry point for students, early career researchers as well as skilled researchers from a variety of research disciplines – such as, but not limited to, anthropology, business, child development, economics, health, public policy, psychology, sociology, gender studies, law, criminology, social work, and statistics – into rigorous research of direct relevance for policies relating to child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.

The seed grant is intended to help researchers develop novel studies to fill knowledge gaps and produce research suitable for publication in academic journals or reports through reputable policy research institutes. Though, the intended goal of the grant-funded research is to reach beyond the research community to inform policy. It is the intention that the grants will also serve as a beacon to draw new scholarship and talent into the growing network of specialists and interdisciplinary collaborators with a focus on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking studies.

Scheme at a glance

The application is open to researchers of all nationalities who want to advance knowledge in the field of child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking. The grant may be used to fund new research or proposals to integrate the topic areas into existing research projects.

For research that is already underway, applicants must justify how the ongoing research is relevant to child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking. Applicants must specify which part of the research will be supplemented by the seed funding and how the topic areas are part of a core research question.

The applicant must demonstrate the ability to complete the proposed research within 9 months by including a workplan and budget in the application.

The grantees will receive feedback on their research from ILO, IOM, and a scientific committee formed by experts and academics working on the issue of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking

We particularly encourage researchers:

- at the start of their research careers
- who want to develop novel ideas related to child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking within their discipline or area of expertise
- who want to conduct interdisciplinary research

Senior researchers are encouraged to apply if the team has at least one junior researcher (PhD or master's student) who can benefit from the research process. In this case, the letter of supervision is not required.

The seed grant will be informed by inputs from a scientific committee formed by experts and academics working on the issue child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking. The seed grant principal applicant will be issued with an external collaborator contract for a period of 9 months.

The selection of proposals and attribution of seed grants are subject to funds availability and the approval of extension of the RTA project by the Donor to cover the duration of the research activity.

The ILO reserves the right to disqualify any entry that contains hurtful, misleading, libellous or vulgar content, or that contains any material that could constitute or encourage conduct which would be considered a criminal offence, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any national or international law or ILO standards.

Eligibility criteria

- The principal applicant must either have a PhD degree, or enrolled in a PhD or master's program.
- The principal applicant must be affiliated to an eligible host organization, i.e. University or Research Institute

Application process

Applicants must complete the [online application form](#) in English and send the following documents in one PDF document to rtaproject@ilo.org with the subject title "RTA seed grant application, [Last name], [first name]".

The complete package must include:

- A cover Letter summarizing the applicant(s)' experience and motivations;
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae including a list of publication (if any) for each applicant;

- A research proposal of 3-5 pages specifying the objectives of the work, the methodology and its relevance in the field of child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking;
- A recommendation letter from the proposed supervisor (not required for senior researchers);
- Proof of enrolment or affiliation to the university or research institution.

Research proposal components

- Abstract: 250 words
- Clearly state the problem/importance of research/research question
- Detailed description of proposed research methodology
- (For junior researchers): List advisor(s) and provide short description of their experience in the area of research
- (For senior researchers): Describe how the research would fit into the program of work at the research institute
- Develop timeline for research completion within 9 months
- A budget proposal and description for the proposed expenses

Application deadline: 16 April 2021, 16h (GMT + 1/in Geneva).

Requests for the complete project description, as well as any questions, can be addressed to rtaproject@ilo.org.

Selection process

Applications that satisfy the eligibility requirements are subsequently subjected to a review process by the scientific committee formed by experts and academics working on the issue of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.

Intended outcomes

The seed grant recipients are required to a) submit a draft report or working paper suitable for future publication (e.g. journal articles); b) commit to publication and/or discussion of their results, in a summarized, user-driven format, through a knowledge sharing platform; c) presentation of the results to a wider audience of experts through a virtual webinar or conference during the grant period.