

Press release

Paris, March 23th 2026

CHILD LABOUR AND FORCED LABOUR

The FIR has published a report on the second phase of its engagement with 10 companies

Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formally calls for “take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and ensure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025, end child labour in all its forms”. Despite this commitment made in 2015, and according to the latest global estimates from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), **27.6 million people were in situations of forced labour in 2021 and, in 2024, 138 million children worldwide – representing 8% of the global child population – remained affected by child labour.**

That is why, in 2021, the Responsible Investment Forum formed a coalition, now comprising ten of its investor members – Amiral Gestion, Amundi, AXA IM, Candriam, LBPAM, LFDE, Mandarin Gestion (formerly Meeschaert AM), OFI Invest AM, Sycomore AM, Oddo BHF AM – representing over €3.3 trillion in assets under management – to support the fight against forced labour and child labour worldwide.

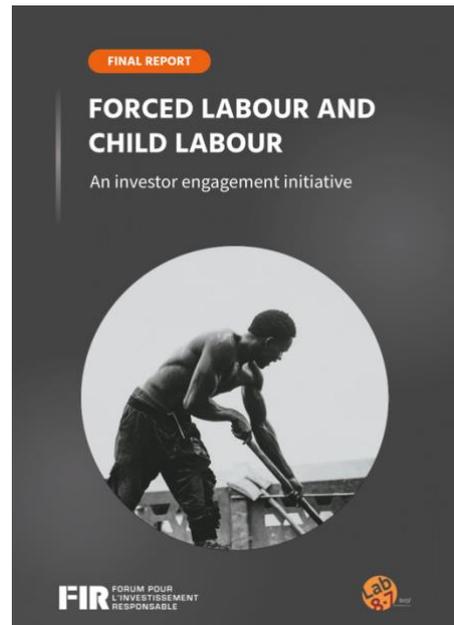
This coalition led to [a review of the first year of engagement](#) published in April 2024. Engagement with these companies was carried out using a methodology to assess their management of risks to people regarding forced labour and child labour, developed jointly with the coalition’s investor members and the NGO Ressources Humaines Sans Frontières (RHSF). This work forms part of the [Lab 8.7 programme](#) launched by RHSF in 2020.

The method aims to assess a company’s maturity in preventing forced labour and child labour through four levels of criteria:

- awareness of the issue
- the commitment made in light of this awareness
- the focus of the approach in light of the commitment
- the relevance of the measures implemented in light of the focus

For each criterion, three levels of proficiency (from 0 to 2) have been established.

Ten French companies from sectors considered to be high-risk in these areas – agri-food, automotive, consumer discretionary, construction, hospitality, industrial and community services – were selected by investors to apply this assessment methodology and engage them through constructive dialogue.



This second cycle of engagement thus concludes with the publication of a final report which demonstrates **an overall improvement in the quality of dialogue between companies and investors on the issues of forced labour and child labour, which has fostered better mutual understanding, greater transparency, and a more nuanced consideration of the expectations expressed by investors.** However, there remains significant room for improvement. The FIR encourages investors and companies to **continue their constructive dialogue with the aim of effectively reducing the risks of forced and child labour for people throughout the value chain.**

[THE REPORT IN ENGLISH](#)

[LE BILAN FINAL EN FRANÇAIS](#)

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About the FIR :

The French Sustainable Investment Forum (FIR) is a multi-stakeholder association founded in 2001 to promote and develop Sustainable Responsible Investment (SRI). The FIR brings together all SRI stakeholders: investors, management companies, financial intermediaries, extra-financial rating agencies, investor advisors, market organisations, trade unions, NGOs, associations as well as qualified personalities: lawyers, journalists, academics... The FIR is a player in the dialogue and engagement with listed companies on sustainable development issues (investor briefs, thematic studies, written questions to CAC 40 general meetings, etc.). The Forum is also the promoter of the Responsible Finance Week which is held every year in the autumn. The FIR is one of the founding members of Eurosif. www.frenchsif.org