



Strengthening Children’s Rights and Decent Work in the Agra Leather and Footwear Cluster

February 16 - 17, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The Fair Labor Association, Stop Child Labour Coalition, and iMentor are delighted to invite you to the multi-stakeholder convening titled **“Strengthening Children’s Rights and Decent Work in the Agra Leather and Footwear Cluster”** in cooperation with four footwear companies – Bata, Deichmann, El Corte Ingles and Astor Mueller – currently sourcing from the cluster.

OBJECTIVES

One of the objectives of the convening is to share findings from the research held in Agra during 2015 – 2016 on the footwear supply chain and issues around child labour in the cluster. Kindly refer to the attached flyer for more information on the research project. As per the findings, even though the export-oriented footwear manufacturers are making efforts to improve working conditions in their exporting facilities, in the many other production units of the cluster, child labour and engagement of young workers remains a reality. This creates both poor reputation of the cluster and reluctance on the part of international buyers to source from Agra. Hence, the primary objective of the convening is to review possible solutions, brainstorm with practitioners and devise action plans to mitigate child labour risks and promote children’s rights and decent work in the Agra leather and footwear cluster.

Sub-objectives:

- Jointly review of research results
- Get exposure to active field level programs working on the resolution of child labour issues using an area-based approach
- Start dialogue between various stakeholders and look for opportunities to cooperate

- Agreeing on next steps and short, medium, and long-term goals
- Formulate specific next steps over 2017 – 2018, including minimum performance indicators for all parties

PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS

The convening is expected to bring together more than 60 representatives from the leather and footwear sector including the industry represented by international buyers, suppliers and industry associations in Agra. Civil society organizations will be represented by national and international NGOs; grass roots level organizations, trade unions and multi-stakeholder initiatives. Government of India representatives (mainly from the state level departments) are expected to attend the event. Finally, supply chain practitioners and home-based workers in Agra who are well versed with the ground level realities shall join the proceedings. A list of invitees is available upon request.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This document lays out the schedule of events over two-days. Preparatory sessions exclusively with the civil society organizations and business will aid both constituencies to reflect and agree on their priorities and define specific contributions as well as asks from each other formulating it in positive and constructive manner. This will also provide a safe space for both constituencies to discuss specific details of their own challenges and opportunities. Hence, on February 16, two sessions will be held, one with CSOs and one with the industry members, followed by the joint multi-stakeholder convening on February 17, 2017.

Project Partners:



M VENKATARANGAIYA FOUNDATION

AstorMueller group

El Corte Ingles Bata

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

MORNING SESSION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS	
09:15	Participants Arrival and Registration
09:30	Session 1: Welcome, Objectives and Introductions
10:00	Session 2: Sharing Our Results - Discussion of Main Research Results for Feedback
11:00	Stretch Break
11:05	Session 3: CSO Solutions and Contributions - Implications from the Draft Report
12:00	Lunch: Informal Discussion of Ideas
13:00	Session 4: Preparations for Day II Stakeholder Convening
14:00	Closing
AFTERNOON SESSION WITH INDUSTRY	
14:45	Participants Arrival and Registration
15:00	Session 1: Welcome, Objectives and Introductions
15:20	Session 2: Sharing Our Results - Discussion of Main Research Results for Feedback
16:15	Coffee Break
16:30	Session 3: Industry Solutions and Contributions - Implications from the Draft Report
17:30	Session 4: Preparations for Day II Stakeholder Convening
18:00	Closing

FEBRUARY 17, 2017

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONVENING	
08:45	Participants Arrival and Registration
09:00	Session 1: Welcome, Objectives and Introductions
09:30	Session 2: Research Findings Reminder and Ideas from Day 1
10:45	Coffee Break
11:00	Session 3: Exchange - Existing Approaches on Child Labor Migration
12:00	Lunch
13:00	Session 4: Identification of Potential Actions Going Forward
15:15	Coffee Break
15:30	Session 5: Presentation of Highlights and Identification of Next Actions
16:45	Closing
17:00	Group Photograph