The COFFEE Project

Cooperation On Fair, Free, Equitable Employment

MEXICO

BACKGROUND

The COFFEE Project is a four-year initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (USDOL-ILAB). The project aims to reduce the risk of labor issues in coffee supply chains by working with the private sector and other relevant actors. Activities include the development of a toolkit to improve labor conditions, capacity building, and pilot projects in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico. Pilot projects were developed through research and stakeholder consultation and involve the piloting of tools and cost-effective, sustainable, scalable approaches to reducing labor risks.

Extensive Verité research in the Mexican coffee sector identified various risks related to child labor, forced labor, recruitment, and working and living conditions, particularly among migrant workers. These findings, along with dialogue with Mexican and international stakeholders have highlighted the need to proactively identify, address, and prevent labor risks. This pilot project has been designed to respond to this need. Scan the QR code to learn more about the COFFEE Project.

VERITÉ

Our Partnership Model

With support from prominent coffee companies that collectively purchase over 60 percent of the world's coffee, including four of the top five roasters, the COFFEE Project serves as a hub for innovation, dialogue, and raising the bar on labor conditions.

PILOT PROJECT

As part of the COFFEE Project, Verité is piloting a training curriculum in Mexico that will increase the capacity of stakeholders in coffee supply chains to identify, address, and prevent labor risks in the Mexican coffee sector. This program is focused on building the capacity of agronomists, field technicians, certification and monitoring bodies, civil society organizations, and government institutions.

The curriculum comprises 12 self-paced online modules covering international standards, Mexican labor legislation, identification of forced and its risk indicators, child labor, recruitment, conditions of work, practical skills for the detection and corroboration of labor risks in the field, and root cause analysis and programming. The online training modules are accompanied by five instructor-led virtual workshops, in which experienced Verité trainers clarify concepts, answer questions, and walk participants through real-world case studies to build their ability to identify and address labor risks on coffee farms.

The curriculum was designed to be adaptable to the needs of companies, government institutions, and civil society organizations. Participants must complete at least five core asynchronous modules and two instructor-led trainings. The elective offerings expand and complement the core curriculum for those who wish to deepen their skills and knowledge.

CSOs, certifiers, and government institutions can gain free access to these training materials by contacting Verité. Verité can also provide free access to private sector project partners that are committed to building knowledge among their employees, agronomists, field technicians, suppliers, and external monitors to detect and remedy labor issues in their supply chains.