
DATA INTEROPERABILITY AND SHARING:

CREATING A DATA ECOSYSTEM TO ADDRESS FORCED LABOR IN SUPPLY CHAINS

Expert Workshop Series, North America Region

RBA Conference, Santa Clara
12:30-2:30pm, October 19th, 2023



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Welcome and Introductions

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Discussion: Challenges
3. Preliminary Findings from the Supply Chain Data Ecosystem Project
4. Discussion: Opportunities
5. Closing and Next Steps

Today's Workshop Objectives

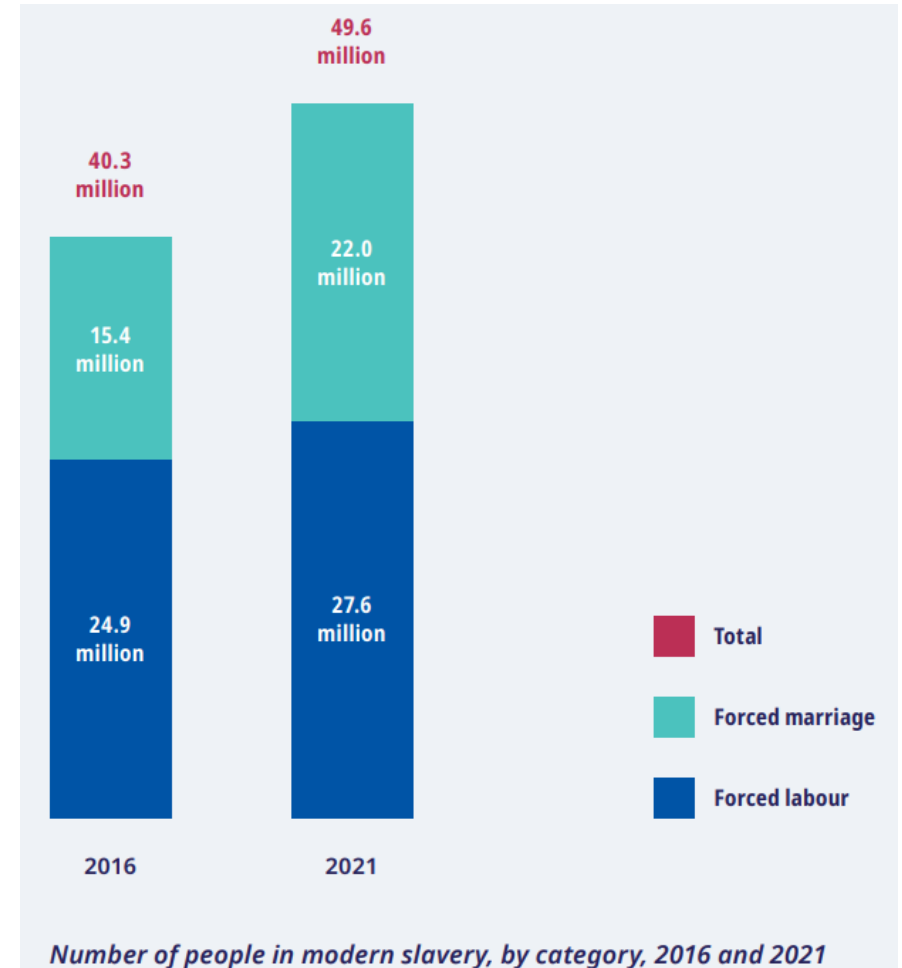
- Provide **practical insights from our recent supply chain information landscape analysis** into barriers and enablers to a stronger data ecosystem to combat forced labor in global supply chains
- Identify **opportunities for collaboration** in collecting, analyzing and sharing reliable data to prevent and address forced labor
- Discuss possible **next steps** and roles of different stakeholders in contributing to a **stronger and more connected data ecosystem**

This meeting is held under the **Chatham House Rule**

Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

2022 Global Estimates (ILO/Walk Free)

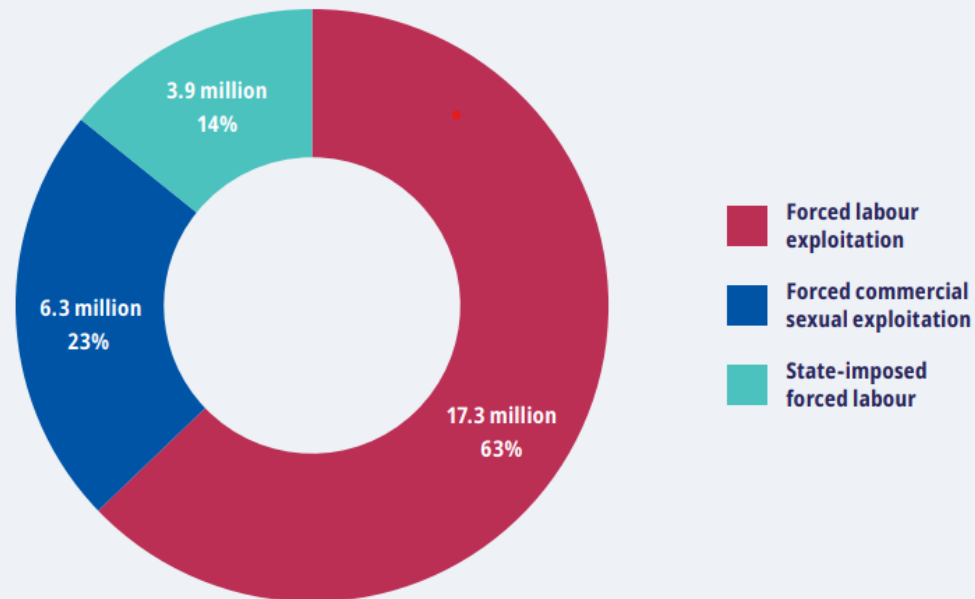
- 50 million people were living in modern slavery in 2021, **10 million more than 2016**.
- There are 27.6 million people in situations of forced labor on any given day.
- **Increase of 2.7 million** in the number people in forced labor between 2016 and 2021.
- **No region of the world is spared from forced labor**, and it is a concern regardless of a country's wealth with more than half of forced labor found in upper-middle income or high-income countries.



Source: [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery](#)

2022 Global Estimates

Eighty-six per cent of forced labour is imposed by private actors



Number and percentage distribution of people in forced labour, by category

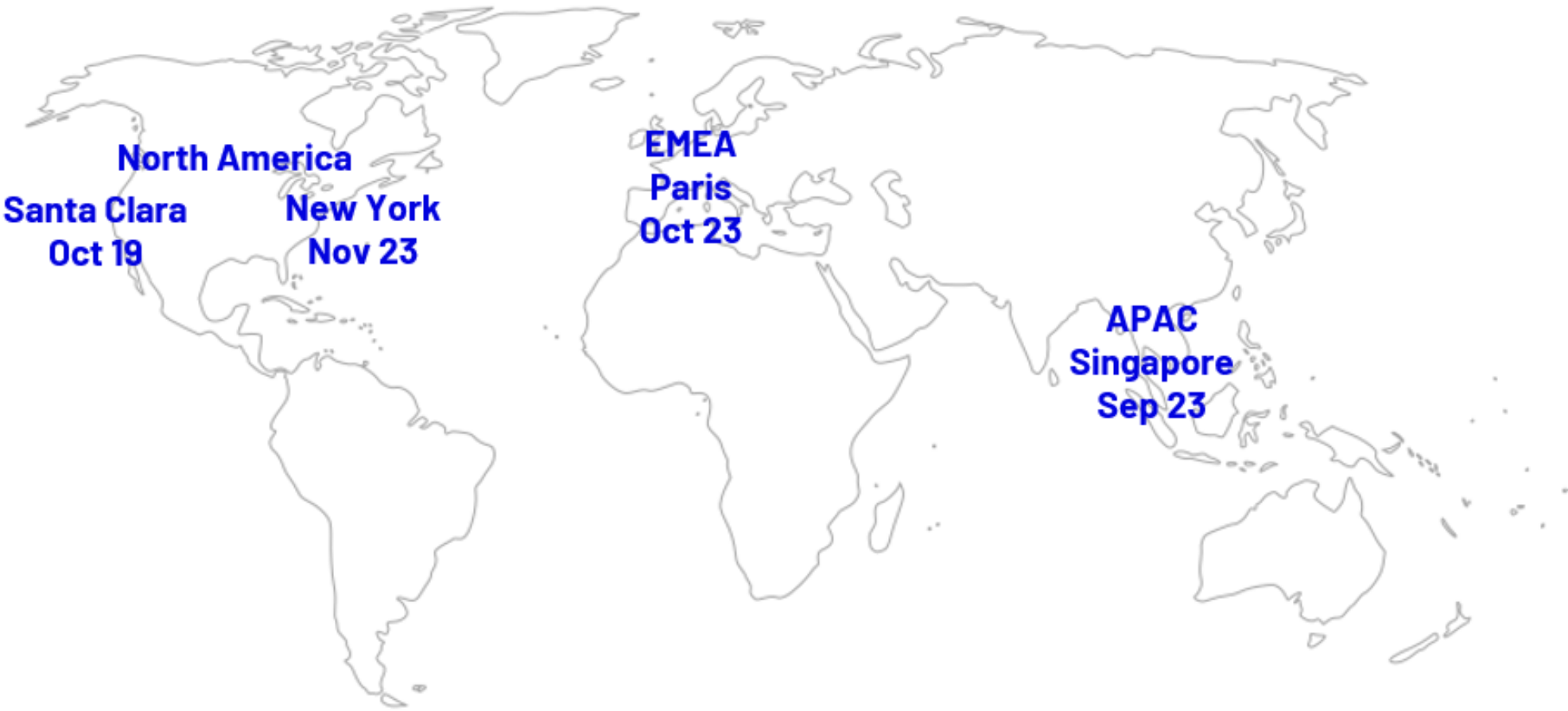
- **Most forced labor occurs in the private economy**
 - **Eighty-six** per cent of forced labor cases are found in the private sector.
- **Forced labor touches virtually all parts of the private economy**
 - The five sectors accounting for the majority of total adult forced labor (87 per cent) are services, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and domestic work.

Source: [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery](#)

Data Interoperability and Sharing Project | Context and Objectives

- Increasingly, businesses are utilizing tech and data to address forced labor risks in their supply chain. There is a high demand for tech solutions to map supply chains, trace products through supply chains, understand supplier risk profiles, and engage directly with workers.
- However, most of these tech solutions exist in silos and do not speak to each other, thereby **limiting their effectiveness, scalability, and impact**.
- BSR, through Tech Against Trafficking, is addressing this challenge through a new workstream focused on **data interoperability and sharing** in supply chain management practices and how to **build a stronger supply chain data ecosystem for labor rights**.
- We aim to address this challenge in two ways:
 1. Identify criteria and recommendations for **improved data practices by various actors** involved in order to foster a strong supply chain data ecosystem
 2. **Convene policymakers, companies and other relevant stakeholders** to test these recommendations and develop a multi-stakeholder **framework to facilitate collaboration and data sharing** among actors

Multistakeholder Consultations | Data Interoperability and Sharing



Discussion



1. What are some challenges to identifying forced labor in supply chains?
2. What are challenges to sharing supply chain information?

02

SUPPLY CHAIN DATA PROJECT | PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Who Participates in a Supply Chain Data Ecosystem?

Private Sector Companies

- **Buyers** seeking visibility of suppliers and labor risks in their supply chains
- **Suppliers** who employ workers at risk of labor exploitation, and receive requests for labor rights data from their buyers, auditors and other stakeholders

Data and Solution Providers

- Technology and data solution companies selling **supply chain traceability and risk management tools** (incl. worker voice)

Collaborative Initiatives

- Industry and multi-stakeholder initiatives that enable the sharing and/or publication of supply chain labor data

Supply Chain Workers

- **Workers who can provide evidence of forced labor or other labor violations**, through various channels (worker voice tools, audit interviews, ethics hotlines, local NGOs or researchers)

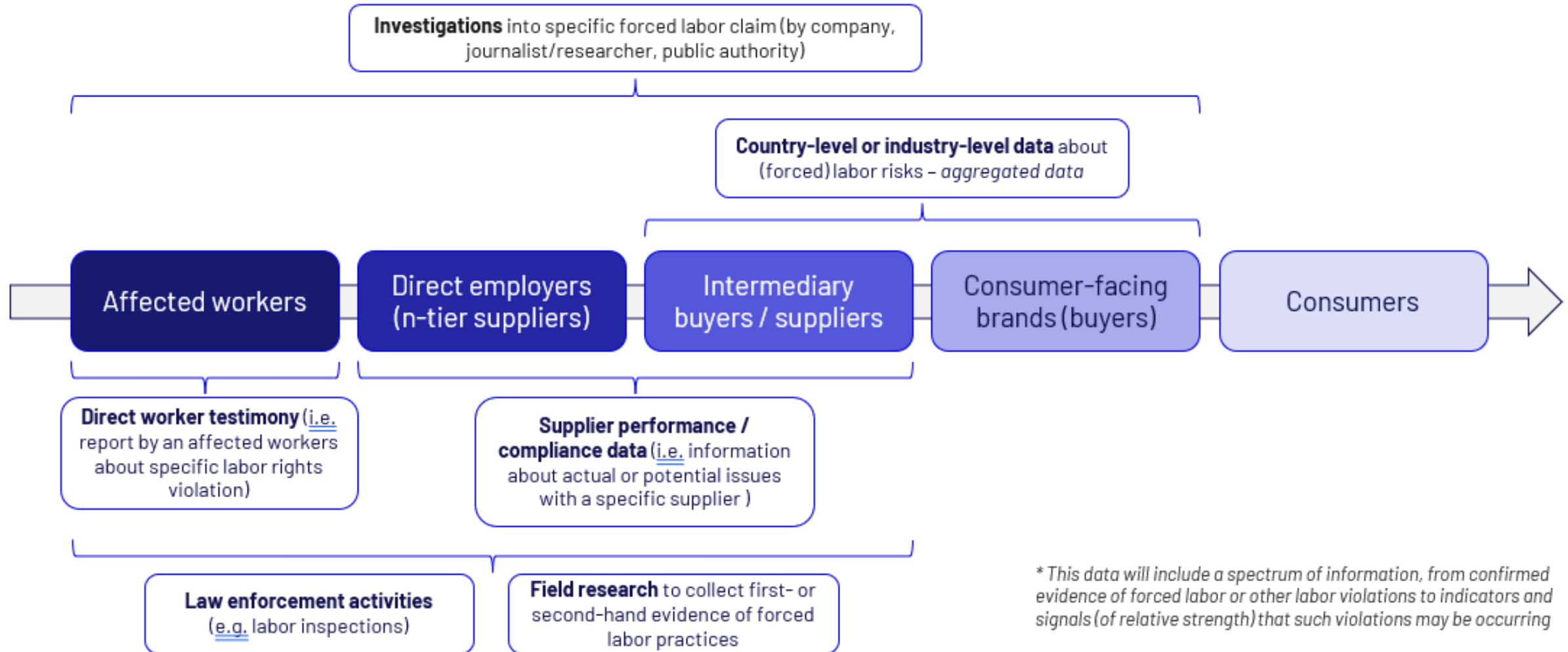
Policy Makers and Governments

- Governments, policymakers and intergovernmental bodies who require quality labor risk data to inform effective policy-making
- Examples: Bali Process, ILO

Civil Society

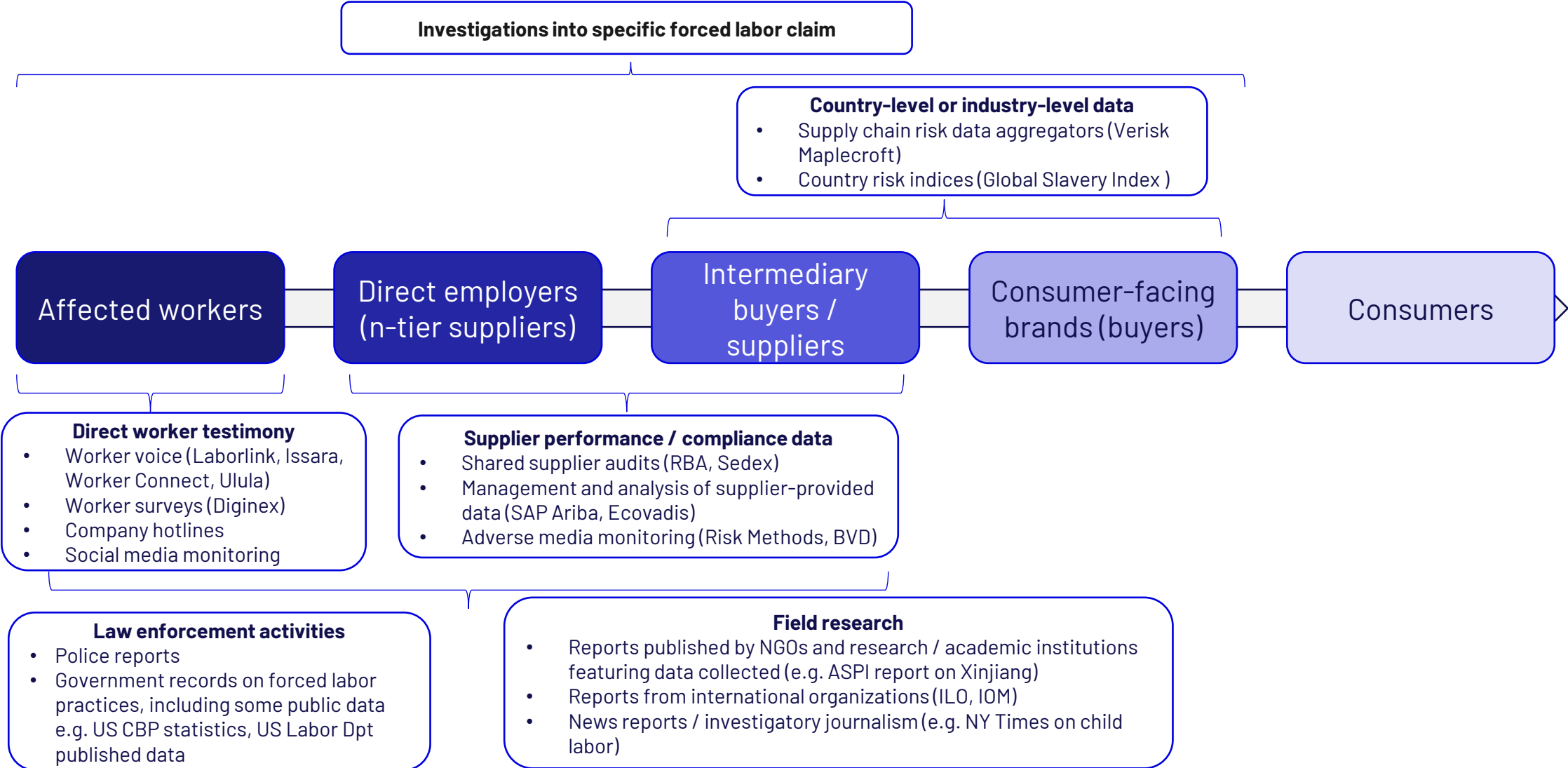
- **NGOs, academia, and other experts** working on forced labor issues
- Examples: Humanity United, Working Capital Fund

Types of Labor Rights Data* in Supply Chains



* This data will include a spectrum of information, from confirmed evidence of forced labor or other labor violations to indicators and signals (of relative strength) that such violations may be occurring

Means to Access this Data



Insights

Challenges

- **Supply chain risk management systems**
- **Information overload** yet **challenges to action data** about specific suppliers / facilities
- Limitations of **aggregate or predictive** risk data
- Scarce visibility **beyond Tier 1**
- **Proprietary data** (e.g. supplier audit, worker voice)
- **Companies protective** of supply chain information, and **limits to open-sourcing**
- Definition of roles of **each actor** within the ecosystem of data sharing
- Risk that **zero tolerance policies** stifle suppliers' willingness to share data
- **Government programs investing in data management** not easily accessible or known

Ingredients for Stronger Data Ecosystem

- **Trust**
 - **Between buyers**
 - Between **buyers and suppliers**
 - Between **private sector and civil society**
 - From **workers towards their employers, auditors or technology solutions**
- **Dynamic** and **granular/specific** data
- **Standardization** of terms and concepts / indicators
- **Worker consent and benefit**
- **Good government policies and laws** that incentivize risk-based due diligence and reward transparency

Technological opportunities to explore

- **Federated architecture** enables private overlay of sensitive data (for use by individual company) and anonymous sharing of that data to enrich common knowledge graph (accessed by all)
- **Blockchain** application of **'zero knowledge proof'** may enable sharing of information without revealing underlying data

Highlights from Singapore Workshop (20 Sep)

- Strong consensus from companies on the need to **establish shared responsibility** within the data ecosystem – to **build trust** and understanding that **data integrity and confidentiality** will still be respected, to overcome the challenge of withholding information to maintain competitive advantage
- Companies acknowledged the different solution providers currently available, but question how much of this is **duplicative efforts versus complementary through data sharing**
- To overcome **data siloes between buyers and suppliers**, there needs to be **common understanding and trust** that there will be continuous engagement through capacity building and not a termination of the business relationship
- From the investor perspective, there is a **lack of forced labor data profile of companies that is comparable and applicable cross-industry** (currently relying on social compliance audits which only offers a snapshot and metrics for certain forced labor proxies)
- All stakeholders agreed on the need for both **dynamic and specific data**
- **Traceability** is a big issue due to limitations in reaching the lower tiers of the supply chain
- To **enhance data interoperability**, there is a need to support **standardization of data collected right at the data source**, and ensure this data is sharable and usable on other platforms and by different users
- There is a **big disconnect between consumers and the workers at the lowest tier of the supply chain**. From the company perspective, **higher consumer pressure will incentivize companies to act**. Educating consumers on these impacts in the supply chain can more effectively drive companies to consider **maximizing the value of supply chain data sharing** in addressing supply chain risks.

Key Themes

Completeness of data

- Most cases of forced labor occur in lower tiers of supply chains.
- Does the current data ecosystem capture this, to enable a complete risk picture?

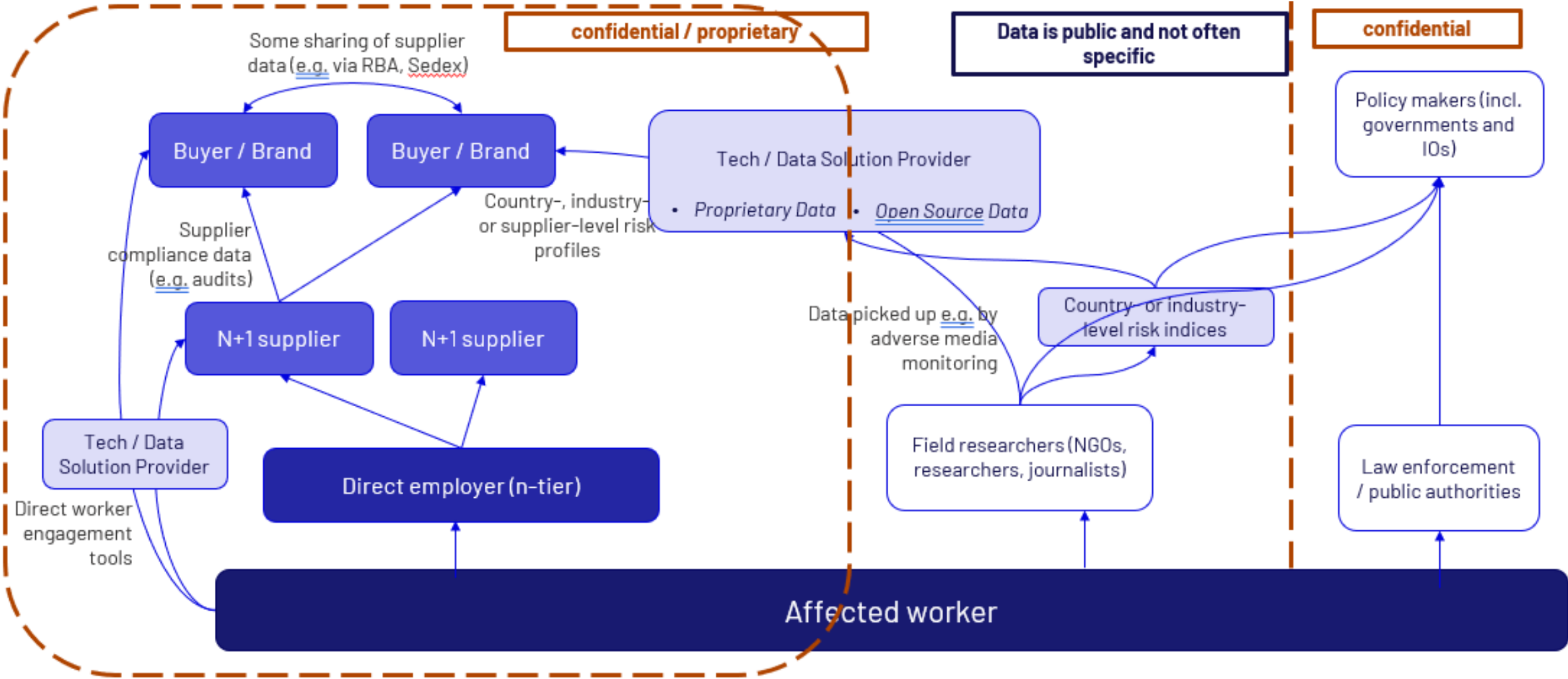
Dynamic and specific data

- Data that underpins supply chain risk management systems and strategies may not be “live” or kept up to date.
- It is also often general or aggregate data.
- Is the risk picture dynamic or specific enough to drive effective action?

Interoperability of data

- Collection and access to quality data may remain siloed between companies, and between private sector, public sector and civil society.
- What impact might this have on quality data enabling meaningful action by different actors?

Labor Rights Data Structurally Siloed?



Examples of Effective Data-Sharing



UK Supermarkets

- UK supermarkets collaborate on incidents
- ETI and personal connections enable trusting environment



Supplier Audits

- Platforms like RBA or Sedex enable sharing of supplier audit results
- Supplier controls who can access results, buyers do not see each other



Transparentem

- Specific and credible data presented to companies with option to engage or face media
- Aligned incentives enable cooperation on required improvements



Modern Slavery Intelligence Network

- Innovative mechanism aiming to enable intelligence-sharing (and analysis) between companies, civil society and law enforcement

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Q&A

03

Discussion

Discussion



1. How can stakeholders – private companies, the public sector, data and solution providers, civil society – better collaborate to share labor rights insights across current siloes?
2. What actions are needed by the different actors below to build a stronger data ecosystem that:
 - a. reaches the lower tiers of supply chains?
 - b. is based on dynamic and specific data?
 - c. is less siloed?



3. Would a public and open-source database be desirable?

Thank You!



GBCAT

Global Business Coalition
Against Human Trafficking

Overview of GBCAT Membership

2023



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01

Introduction to GBCAT

Why Does Human Trafficking Matter for Business?

Human trafficking is prevalent in global supply chains and may appear in a business' own operations, the operations of its business partners, and/or facilitated through its products and/or services.

- According to the International Labour Organization, there were **50 million** people exploited through human trafficking or other forms of modern slavery across the world, including **27.6 million** that face conditions of forced labor in the private sector.
- Forced labor generates over **\$150 billion each year in the global private economy**.
- **Human trafficking can be present in any company's supply chain**, regardless of sector or geography. In fact, some of the highest risks of human trafficking exist in the lower tiers of a company's supply chain where the workforce comprises marginalized workers and there is limited transparency around worker recruitment and worker rights.
- A **company's own products and/or services** may be used by third parties to facilitate human trafficking.
- Current and emerging regulation and legislation on human trafficking (e.g., Australia, Canada and UK's Modern Slavery Acts and the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act) and increased regional focus from investors (e.g., forced labor in Xinjiang), are **compelling companies to take steps to identify and address human trafficking** in their operations and supply chains.

Source: [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery](#)



Global Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking (GBCAT)

GBCAT is a coalition of businesses advancing cross-industry progress to address human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery in global supply chains.



Our Mission

Harness the power of global business across sectors to reduce the number of human trafficking victims, including through technology, and increase and expand survivors' access to resources.

Why Join?

- **Accelerate the impact of technology solutions** combatting human trafficking
- **Address technology-facilitated** trafficking
- **Support and empower survivors** by connecting them to sustainable employment opportunities
- **Build Capabilities of Small and Medium-Sized Suppliers** in high-risk supply chains to understand, address and reduce prevalence of human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery

Our Members



Why join?



- ✓ **Survivor Impact:** Support efforts to empower survivors and place them into sustainable employment, including within your company and supply chain
- ✓ **Supplier Capability Building:** Build supply chain capabilities through the development of right-sized guidance aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- ✓ **Peer Learning and Advocacy:** Collaborate with peers in a safe space to develop solutions to combat human trafficking, and access business-ready anti-trafficking tools, trainings, and organizations
- ✓ **Accelerate Impact Through Technology:** Work with civil society, law enforcement, academia, technologists, and survivors to advance and scale the use of technology to fight trafficking
- ✓ **Champion Awareness raising on Human Trafficking:** Contribute to awareness raising of human trafficking and its links to business through participation in public webinars, research, and events
- ✓ **Public Recognition:** Lead corporate engagement in the global fight against human trafficking, as envisioned in Alliance 8.7 and the Sustainable Development Goals



02

GBCAT's Workstreams

GBCAT tackles human trafficking through its four workstreams

We aim to go beyond compliance to better address root causes of modern slavery.

Tech Against Trafficking*

- **Advance the use of tech** to fight trafficking and **address technology-facilitated** trafficking
- Why? The deployment of digital information and communication technologies offer opportunities for a **step change in tackling human trafficking**

Survivor Empowerment and Employment

- **Support survivors** through access to job skills training and employment opportunities
- Why? By providing safe and sustainable employment to survivors, companies can support survivors in achieving economic security and autonomy

Capability Building among Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Suppliers

- **Build capability among SMEs** to prevent and address human trafficking
- Why? Corporate suppliers are the most likely to confront situations of modern slavery, yet **lack access to basic guidance** on risk identification and management

Policy Engagement

- **Be a global voice for business to engage governments and lawmakers** on human trafficking legislation and policy
- Why? Business has an opportunity to input on current and emerging regulation and legislation on human trafficking which is evolving at a rapid pace

Tech Against Trafficking Activities



Landscape Mapping: Review and map the landscape of technologies being used to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in different geographies, languages, and with varied target populations.



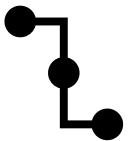
The Accelerator Program: Identify technology tools with the potential for scale and accelerate these solutions through resources and support from TAT member companies. Share and pilot technology solutions.

New!



Industry Sharing Sessions: Share industry practices and technology innovations by TAT member companies and anti-trafficking organizations.

New!



Supply Chain Tech Workstream: Identify and test opportunities to enhance data interoperability and sharing across the supply chain labor rights data ecosystem.



Research and Events: Raise awareness on human trafficking and the potential use of technology to combat the issue at scale. Help advance the conversation through research, publications and speaking engagements.

03

GBCAT's Ambitions

GBCAT seeks to engage corporate leaders to develop the resources and guidance they and their sectors need to eliminate human trafficking

As GBCAT grows the membership, we are keen to explore additional high-impact opportunities that will be informed and guided by participating companies. Ideas include:

Develop forward thinking, business-relevant guidance

- Develop simple **guidance for business departments beyond sustainability** (e.g., procurement, compliance, human resources, finance) to inform business leaders of the role they can play to identify, prevent, and mitigate modern slavery risks in a way that is integrated with existing human rights strategy approaches.
- Host/participate in **GBCAT member internal awareness raising events** to engage executives and other colleagues on our collective actions

Engage suppliers with accessible information and training

- Create **additional guidance for SME suppliers**, including translating current resources into additional languages, creating additional templates for suppliers to reference (e.g. workplace codes of conduct), and developing further infographics (e.g. this GBCAT poster on [forced labor](#)) that companies can distribute to their suppliers
- **Engage suppliers** on [GBCAT's Toolkit and Resource Library](#), updating these tools with new learnings
- **Host/participate in supplier engagement forums** to train supplier representatives on expectations related to prevention of modern slavery and **launch pilot program for suppliers in high-risk industries**

Support companies that seek to employ survivors

- Research and **codify how companies can better integrate survivor empowerment and employment into their core business operations**, practices, and policies—an action they should take to create more opportunities for survivors, that goes beyond compliance and remediation.
- Pilot **survivor employment program with collaborating organizations** (University of Maryland's Safe Center, AHLA and other potential partners) in one metropolitan area of the U.S.

Represent corporate leadership perspectives at international events

- **Participate in relevant external events** to promote GBCAT's mission and resources for businesses and their suppliers to better identify, prevent, and remediate modern slavery.
- **Partner with other business networks** combatting modern slavery, to coordinate efforts and share resources
- Participate in **policy feedback dialogues** and **development of position statements**, when relevant (e.g. GBCAT's [COVID 19 response position statement](#))

04

How we work

How We Work

GBCAT and its members are advancing GBCAT's mission and work through three channels.

Member Engagement

- BSR organizes 5-6 calls per annum with GBCAT members to discuss workstream activities, progress and solicit input from members
- Members frequently volunteer to represent GBCAT at international events and fora, and share updates and resources with one another via calls and email exchanges

Regular updates and trend spotting via Newsletter

- BSR circulates a newsletter on a bi-monthly basis to GBCAT members with workstream updates, as well as recent anti-trafficking events, news, legal and regulatory developments and resources and guides

In-Person Meeting

- When possible, BSR hosts an in-person annual meeting for GBCAT members to take stock of progress against our workstreams, reflect on lessons learned and plan the scope of work for the new year

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Examples of GBCAT outputs and activities

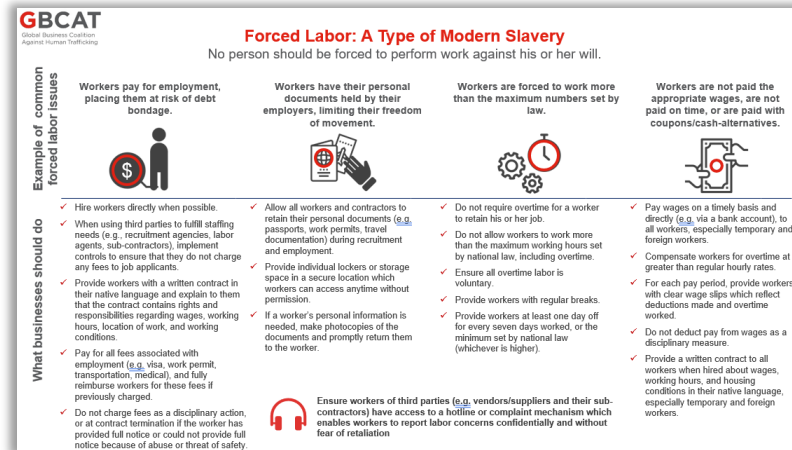
Capability Building among Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Suppliers

GBCAT has developed a simple toolkit for corporate suppliers to understand forced labor and other modern slavery risks, where these risks may appear, and steps to take to identify, prevent, address, and remediate forced labor and modern slavery.

Toolkit for suppliers

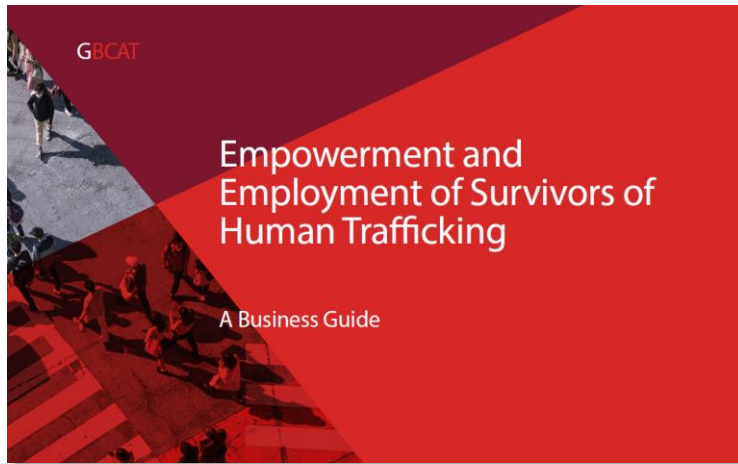
Poster explaining common indicators of forced labor and how business can mitigate or eliminate the risk

Curated library for suppliers containing additional resources, including sample codes of conduct and templates



Survivor Empowerment – New Resources for Businesses

Safe and sustainable employment is one of the most effective ways to prevent the re-exploitation of survivors of human trafficking. GBCAT's guide and training explain how businesses can get started.



- The **Empowerment and Employment of Survivors of Human Trafficking Business Guide** educates companies on how they can support the long-term recovery of survivors of human trafficking through skills development and employment opportunities.



- The **Trauma-Informed Company Training**, developed in partnership with Futures Without Violence, helps businesses build the capacity of their people managers to create a supportive work environment for survivors through a trauma-informed lens.

The Inaugural TAT Accelerator



In 2019 Tech Against Trafficking launched its [inaugural accelerator](#) with the **Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC)** as its first participant.

The CTDC, an initiative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is a global human trafficking data hub, publishing harmonized data from counter-trafficking organizations around the world. The goal of the accelerator was to reduce barriers to information-sharing and provide a mechanism for organizations to get data to public and policy audiences.

The Inaugural Accelerator | Workstreams



Privacy-Preserving Mechanisms: TAT explored how victim case data and data analysis can be shared in ways that protect the privacy of victims. The TAT team developed a solution that uses machine learning to generate a synthetic dataset which represents statistical properties of the sensitive dataset rather than actual individuals. This solution is now being applied to the full IOM dataset and has been [published](#) and made available to the field, setting a new privacy standard for the analysis of human trafficking data.

Data Standards: TAT addressed data standards/consistency across the field by publishing a global data standard related to victim case management. The new Human Trafficking Case Data Standard (HTCDS) was developed and [published](#), along with guidance for its implementation.

Stakeholder Engagement: TAT interviewed stakeholders and prospective CTDC data contributors to better understand the value stakeholders derive from the CTDC platform, what additional data, trends, or information stakeholders would find helpful, and what data or information different stakeholders could feed into CTDC's current dataset and platform.

The Inaugural Accelerator | Outcomes



Synthetic data set of human trafficking victims could allow big data work without privacy compromises

Devin Coldewey @techcrunch / 2:30 PM PDT • September 23, 2021

Comment

NEWS - GLOBAL | 23 September 2021

IOM-Microsoft Collaboration Enables Release of Largest Public Dataset to Bolster Fight Against Human Trafficking

UNMigration / HTCDS Public

<> Code Issues 8 Pull requests Discussions Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights

master 1 branch 0 tags

Go to file Code

About

Human Trafficking Case Data Standard

migration standards united-nations human-trafficking-cases

Readme

Contributors 5

File Name	Description	Time Ago
philh Fixed broken hyperlink	b721c99	16 days ago 109 commits
Guidance	Create Multi-tenant Services.md	16 days ago
Toolkit	Update README.md	29 days ago
Field Definitions.md	Convert docx to md (#1)	12 months ago
Governance and Contributions.md	Update Governance and Contributions.md	11 months ago
HTCDS Field Column Reference.md	Update and rename HTCDS Field Reference.md to HTCDS Field Column R...	11 months ago
HTCDS Field Standards 1.0 ods	Add files via upload	last month
README.md	Fixed broken hyperlink	16 days ago
References.md	Added language and education standards	29 days ago
Revision History.md	Updated v1.1	16 days ago
Terms of Use.md	Convert docx to md (#1)	12 months ago
icon1.png	Add files via upload	9 months ago
icon2.jpg	Add files via upload	9 months ago

CTDC Global Dataset on Victims of Trafficking

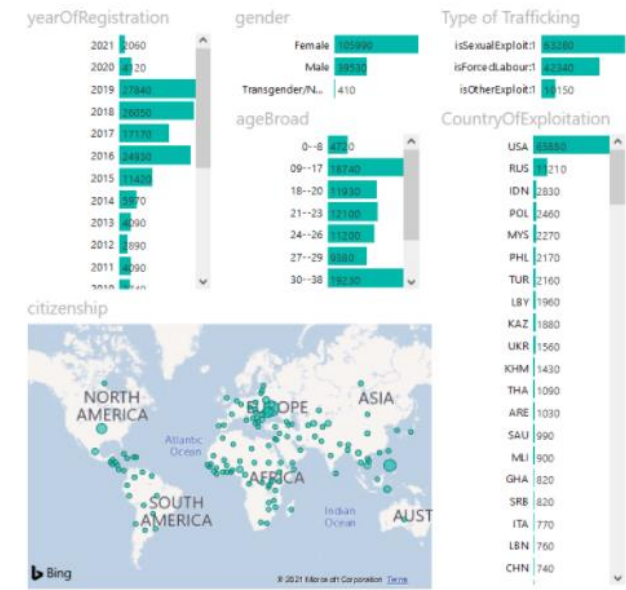


Image Credits: Microsoft Research / IOM

The Inaugural Accelerator | Impact



“The CTDC team was delighted to take part in the Accelerator and greatly appreciated the opportunity to get perspective and support from technology sector professionals. Their contribution will have a lasting impact on CTDC and the counter-trafficking community.”

Harry Cook, Data Management and Research Specialist, IOM

"By protecting the privacy and safety of victims with synthetic data, and empowering policymakers to view, explore, and make sense of data through rich interactive dashboards, we are showing one of the many ways in which research and technology can support the global fight against human trafficking."

Darren Edge, Director of Societal Resilience at Microsoft Research

TAT - Sample Research



OSCE and TAT Report: OSCE and Tech Against Trafficking joined efforts to conduct research on how technology is being used to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. The outcomes of the research are highlighted in the OSCE-TAT publication "[Leveraging innovation to fight trafficking in human beings: A comprehensive analysis of technology tools](#)".



The Effect of COVID-19: Five Impacts on Human Trafficking: Tech Against Trafficking noted a steep rise in vulnerability to exploitation as a result of COVID-19. The coalition consulted the field and [published five key trends](#) on changes in human trafficking as a result of the pandemic. This was accompanied by a survey which gathered information on what tech support was needed for organizations shifting programmatic offerings during the pandemic.

Tech Against Trafficking Summit

The first [TAT Summit](#) took place in 2022 in Seattle. It brought together over 160 global anti-trafficking leaders to discuss how the field can expand opportunities for collaboration and accelerate the impact of innovative technology solutions.

10 innovative technology tools:

- Polaris
- Diginex
- Winrock
- Stop the Traffik
- Pacific Links Foundation
- Fundación Pasos Libres
- Altana AI
- Commit Global
- Trilateral Research
- Quizzr

Panel discussions:

- State of the tech and anti-trafficking field
- Financing technology innovation
- Cross-sector collaboration policy
- The evolution of human trafficking
- Ensuring privacy in the use of data



Sample Events - TAT



ITU and UNODC Webinar: The webinar “Technology and Trafficking in Persons during COVID-19 and beyond” focused on the expanding nexus between technology and trafficking in persons, including during COVID-19.



U.S. Congressional Hearing: TAT was invited to testify in the US Congress as part of a hearing on “Data Challenges Impacting Human Trafficking Research and Development of Anti-Trafficking Technological Tools”. You can watch the full session [at this link](#) and find TAT’s written testimony [here](#).



ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour: Tech Against Trafficking participated in a meeting among business networks and initiatives working with the private sector on forced labor to share best practices, learnings, and explore opportunities for further collaboration.

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