

# Tackling child labour

Child labour is found worldwide and is closely linked to poverty.

At Pentland we support the abolition of child labour through our ethical sourcing policy and programmes. We have built up considerable experience for over a decade in how to deliver a good result to the children and young people concerned.

Child labour is a complex and sensitive issue, not limited to any particular industry, sector or region. There may be a number of reasons why it can occur. It is therefore necessary to divide resources (time and money) between addressing the needs of the children directly involved and, moving beyond the particular case, to addressing the underlying causes with more long term, sustainable initiatives.

Manufacturers in many countries sub-contract to village based manufacturing units and homeworkers, providing income to families who could not otherwise work in factories.

In some cases, children have been found helping their parents with work in the home and not attending school. There may be many reasons for this: school may be expensive; or they may not value the education school offers.

All children have a right to education and play. Our focus has therefore always been to work in partnership with others to provide children with such opportunities. We have helped bring multiple stakeholders together at the local, national and international level. Our efforts include working with other sporting brands since the mid 1990s through our membership of the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI). In particular, we have been instrumental in the creation of successful programmes in India and Pakistan.

A programme in India was initiated and coordinated by the football industry in and around Jalandhar which resulted in the formation of the Sports Goods Foundation of India (SGFI). It is considered a model of its kind.

## Sports Goods Foundation of India (SGFI)

The SGFI initiative brought together local, national and international partners, including Mitre and other football brands, the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children, Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the Government of India, the Department of Labour, local Rotary clubs and local schools.

Extensive research was undertaken to identify the problems, how and why they come about, and determine the resources needed to improve the lives of both children and adults in a lasting way.

The programme includes the registering and monitoring of stitchers. If children are found helping out with ball stitching in the home, the SGFI helps them to reintegrate into local schools.

Mitre supports the SGFI's education programme for children and literacy tuition for parents.

The programme continues to be successful because it directly helps children, parents and their local communities through education, skills training, literacy classes, health care and community awareness.

For more information - [www.sgfi.org](http://www.sgfi.org)



Children attending school under the SGFI programme.