About ARISE
Year at a glance
Country highlights
Education
Economic empowerment
Legal frameworks
Achievements in 2013
About ARISE

The ARISE (Achieving Reduction of Child Labor in Support of Education) program began in 2011 as a joint initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), JTI (Japan Tobacco International), and Winrock International.

The program aims to prevent and progressively eliminate child labor in tobacco-growing communities where JTI does business, and all three partners share responsibility for strategy, implementation, and decision-making. ARISE was developed with the involvement of national governments, social partners, and tobacco-growing communities, and is currently operating in Brazil, Malawi, and Zambia.

Child labor is deeply rooted in poverty and cultural attitudes, as well as the predominance of family farms and a lack of awareness of the hazards of child labor. The underlying causes of child labor are complex and the success of our program depends on understanding child labor in the context of wider economic, social, and cultural factors. ARISE addresses the issues from multiple angles, with activities structured around three core pillars of education, economic empowerment, and regulatory frameworks.

We work in close collaboration with communities and offer opportunities not just for children to gain an education, but also for societies to become more self-reliant. The use of community-based interventions and structures strengthen, capacity building and lead to greater self-sufficiency and sustainability. Program alignment with national policy frameworks means that ARISE also has the support of governments as well as district and local councils.

How we define child labor

Not all work that children do is child labor. A child’s age, the number of hours they spend working, and the conditions and nature of the work are all important in understanding if a child is in child labor. The International Labour Organization (ILO) offers a broad definition of child labor as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. The ILO Conventions establish minimum ages for entry into work in ILO Convention No. 138 and address the worst forms of child labor in ILO Convention No. 182. These Conventions, approaching universal ratification among ILO Member States, provide detail and clarity on what constitutes child labor. More generally, child labor refers to work for which a child is too young, or that is likely to jeopardize children’s health, safety or morals, including work that interferes with children’s education or their ability to benefit from education. It is this definition that underpins all our efforts.
Year at a glance

During 2013 ARISE further developed the foundations of its program and implemented many new initiatives to help the achievement of child labor reduction in the smallholder tobacco farms in the targeted communities in which it operates. We are already making progress – there is an increased awareness of child labor and more collaboration to initiate community driven solutions. Local ownership of program activities has also strengthened.

ARISE expanded its geographical reach during the year and is now operational in more than 52 communities in three countries. Collaborating closely, we are making progress delivering on our goal and our implementation plan and our key achievements in 2013 are highlighted in the table next page.

Our aim is ambitious and we continue to learn from our experiences. When we launched the program there was often a low-level awareness in local communities. In the initial stages the subject of child labor was often rejected, and finding local partners with child labor experience was difficult. We have learned that developing our relationships and establishing trust with communities is crucial to our success. We need to understand all aspects of a community’s development (the social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political factors) and to work in collaboration with communities to develop tailored programs.

During 2013 we also faced unexpected challenges. Physical challenges, such as inaccessibility during the wet season, and electricity and internet outages in Malawi and Zambia. In Brazil, the city of Arroio do Tigre underwent a period of political transition, and the new city mayor dismissed all municipal school principals, which meant that we needed to build new relationships with the new mayor, secretaries, and principals of the schools.

Our activities to economically empower mothers have been one of the strengths in our efforts to combat child labor. In 2013 we trained 528 mothers in income-generating activities and business entrepreneurship skills.

The Model Farm Schools (MFS) continue to be a flagship of the ARISE program. In Malawi 500 youth attended MFS whilst in Brazil 164 youth took part in MFS graduation ceremonies. In Malawi, the MFS instructors and communities are also working together to form youth producer clubs in order to create decent work for youth of legal working age.

Key achievements 2013

• withdraw 830 children from child labor
• prevent 2241 children from child labor
• enroll 2981 children and youth in formal and informal education programs
• educate 1162 community members on child labor and risks
• improve the livelihoods of 976 households
• provide access for 528 mothers to income-generating activities
• grant 339 conditional capital investments.
Country highlights

ARISE aims to prevent and eliminate child labor by working with communities in Brazil, Malawi, and Zambia. We are already creating impact. Our key achievements are highlighted below.

**Brazil**
- 663 children prevented from child labor.
- 573 children and youth enrolled in formal and informal education programs.
- 191 households with improved livelihoods.
- 339 conditional capital investments distributed.
- 2000 growers in Arroio do Tigre benefited from the ARISE program More Grains in Rural Areas.
- 90 pupils graduated from the Model Farm School in March, and 74 pupils in November.
- ARISE mothers were invited to attend the largest regional agricultural fair in Arroio do Tigre to sell their products at the seven-day event. An ARISE market is now held the second Saturday of each month in the city center of Arroio do Tigre for mothers to sell their products.

**Malawi**
- 830 children withdrawn from child labor.
- 1578 children prevented from child labor.
- 2408 children and youth enrolled in formal and informal education programs.
- 785 households with improved livelihoods.
- 137 tobacco producers with improved OHS (Occupational health and safety) practices/non-hazardous conditions.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Community Development to train 33 adult literacy facilitators and 63 community-based child caregivers.
- Engaged with National Association of Smallholder Farmers in Malawi (NASFAM) to provide training in producer association formation and management for 19 Model Farm School instructors.
- Conducted training for 86 mother mentors and teachers in mentoring and afterschool activities.
- Procured and distributed sports equipment and arts and crafts materials in 20 communities for afterschool activities.
- Performed 27 monitoring visits to verify afterschool attendance and quality of teaching methods and materials.
- Started supporting school feeding program to foster good school attendance in all ARISE schools in Lilongwe and Ntcheu, benefitting 12,027 children.
- Trained 400 Community Child Labor Committee (CCLC) members on child labor monitoring, the new hazards list, and the referral system. Each committee developed its’ own action plan for next steps.

**Zambia**
- Officially launched in Lusaka District in April and opened two partner offices in Kaoma District.
- Established local coordination structures and potential implementation partners.
- Conducted rapid assessment, pre-awareness survey, and stakeholder mapping.
- Selected 12 communities for participation in the program and held stakeholder meetings in all communities.
- With the support of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, established the Kaoma District Child Labor Committee and CCLCs in 12 communities in Kaoma and Nkeyema Districts.
- Facilitated the selection of Community Activists (CAs) in all communities, and conducted initial training of all CAs/CCLC members.
- Drafted by-laws for the CCLCs to help guide their work.
- Selected 12 Model Farm Schools instructors and conducted initial training of them.

ARISE aims to prevent and eliminate child labor by working with communities in Brazil, Malawi, and Zambia. We are already creating impact. Our key achievements are highlighted below.
One of the key pillars of the ARISE program is to promote access to quality education for children and to raise awareness of the need to eliminate child labor.

We work collaboratively with local communities to provide opportunities for children to get an education, to raise awareness of the detrimental effects of child labor, to improve access to education with appropriate educational and teaching materials, and to help households become more self-reliant so that they can afford to educate their children. The four areas that our education activities focus on are raising awareness, afterschool programs, family support, and vocational training for youth who are of legal working age.

Raising awareness

Child labor often occurs because of a lack of awareness of the problem of child labor. ARISE therefore employs a collaborative and community-based approach to promote the relevance of education and the importance of eliminating child labor. Parents are often unaware of the consequences of child labor, and our efforts are therefore targeted at households and communities. Culturally, particularly in Brazil, the term ‘child labor’ is not understood or accepted and it occurring can even be denied by farmers and local community leaders. With ARISE programs for mothers and their children, they are learning about child labor and the advantages of education and diversified agriculture.

Vocational training provides new opportunities

Doris Chitsulo of Ntcheu District, Malawi lost both her parents to HIV/AIDS when she was 11. As a consequence of the breakdown of the extended family and informal social protection systems, relatives of her father and mother took most family possessions leaving the children destitute. As the first-born, Doris immediately dropped out of school to fend for her seven siblings. She ended up engaging in child labor activities in tobacco production. Because her earnings were insufficient, her siblings also began to miss school. In 2013 ARISE withdrew Doris from child labor, however she was not able to reenter the school system at the same level she left because of her age. Instead she was incorporated into an initiative established by ARISE where she elected to learn carpentry and joinery, a widely male-dominated craft in Malawi. The program is fully funded complete with learning equipment, materials, and working gear. Upon graduation they are provided with start-up capital to fund their own business. To ensure sustained income for the household and to allow Doris and her siblings to stay in school and concentrate on their studies, the project identified a close relative to Doris, trained her in business skills and provided start-up capital for a fish trading business.
Family support

For vulnerable and marginalized families, ARISE provides the basic necessities for school and covers the cost of things that if not provided can deter school enrollment. Our scholarships link to our conditional grants scheme, which we believe encourages recipients to remove their children from child labor and keep them in school. In Malawi and Zambia, one-third of the grant takes the form of a school supply kit, and the remainder is a grant or training to be used by the parent as an investment in his or her own business. The parent is then obliged to repay the grant in the form of covering the cost of a child’s school materials or fees over the next two years from the proceeds of his or her own business. School supplies kits help minimize the financial strain that prevents many parents and guardians from sending children to school. The kits provide children with basic necessities and are adapted for local country contexts to cover costs not assumed by the government.

In 2013, ARISE distributed 339 family support scholarships in Brazil. In Malawi we founded an in-school feeding program to foster school attendance – 11 ARISE schools were provided with corn soya blend flour, cooking pots and buckets, and the local communities contributed labor and firewood.

Vocational training

Older youth who have been removed from child labor as well as those at risk of child labor are eligible to take part in vocational training programs coordinated by ARISE. The skills taught include carpentry, brick making and tailoring, as well as business management skills with a focus on starting and improving small businesses.

Agricultural vocational training is also provided through the Model Farm Schools, which are described in more detail in the next section. To provide follow-on opportunities in Malawi, ARISE is training Model Farm School instructors on how to help the youth form producer clubs that can more easily access microfinance, extension services, and better markets for their products.

Economic empowerment

The ARISE strategy units entire communities in a common effort to prevent and eliminate child labor. The initiatives developed have a strong focus on empowering those who may remove children from education and force them to work in tobacco cultivation in times of crisis.

Women in rural areas are a focus of our efforts because they are often more economically fragile. The three areas of our economic empowerment activities focus on Model Farm Schools, income-generating activities, and the distribution of conditional grants.

Model Farm Schools

Model Farm Schools (MFS) are a flagship of the ARISE program. Targeted adolescents between 14 and 17 years of age are taught practical improved agricultural techniques as well as occupational health and safety, entrepreneurship, and general life skills. Decent rural youth employment can represent a powerful driver for long-term food and income security and consequently child labor reduction in smallholder tobacco-growing communities. We work together with local governments and community leaders to establish the MFS in appropriate areas. The curriculum is jointly developed with the local Community Child Labor Committees (CCLC) that have been formed as a result of ARISE. The program is delivered by MFS instructors guided by ARISE agribusiness specialists. Graduation ceremonies provide an opportunity for the graduates to share their experiences and for other members of the community to raise awareness about child labor issues.

In 2013, 73 youth in Malawi (48 in Ntcheu and 25 in Lilongwe) were enrolled in an accelerated three-month MFS program that focused on horticultural crops. We also trained 19 MFS instructors in the formation and management of producer clubs. In Brazil, 164 students graduated from the MFS. We provided transportation and deliberately changed the time of the MFS classes so that youth who attended class could not engage in harvesting of tobacco, effectively withdrawing them from child labor. We also organized for students and their parents to attend Expotigre, the largest agricultural fair in Latin America. Students observed fish breeding, dairy cattle, and how agricultural production can be diversified.
In Zambia our staff are working with local representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture to finalize the MFS curriculum, and in preparation for the launch of the MFS there we trained 12 new facilitators in child labor, agribusiness, and implementation. We have already received 400 MFS enrolments for students who started in May 2014.

**Conditional grants**

Our conditional capital loans and investments encourage ARISE mothers and guardians to establish small businesses. The recipients are trained in locally relevant revenue-generating skills and small business management. ARISE assesses cultural and financial factors to determine the availability of conditional grants. At present we offer them in Brazil and Malawi. In July and August 2013, 54 ARISE women’s agribusiness groups in Malawi were provided with a second tranche of conditional capital investments – the initial tranche was provided in December 2012. ARISE continues to provide small-scale business mentoring to the women and helps them with decision making, record keeping, and marketing.

**Village Savings & Loans**

In addition to the conditional grants, ARISE trained 126 mother group members (afterschool program mentors) and 92 Community Child Labor Committee members in Malawi on Village Savings and Loans (VSL). These VSL trainings have fostered positive group dynamics promoted sustainability of program activities, and opened up access to finance for other community members. One particularly strong example of the VSL model is that of Mthyoka Village, Malawi. In 2011, 30 vulnerable houses were identified to receive conditional capital loans of MWK 24,000 (USD $56) each to support their individual and group businesses. The recipients initiated group and individual businesses and established a savings and loans scheme, which enables them to save and borrow money from their group. By 2013 they had accumulated a total of MWK 675,000 (USD $1,614) in their group savings, and the children of the mothers are attending school on a regular basis.

Through the business proceeds the mothers have also been able to support 21 other non-ARISE vulnerable children in their village, and have bought additional play equipment for the children’s afterschool program.

**Income-generating activities**

When children are prevented from child labor or when they have been withdrawn from child labor, families can feel a financial strain due to the loss of income. ARISE therefore provides income-generating activities to help families cope and earn income from new alternative sources. This aspect of our program has created considerable enthusiasm in the local communities where we operate. Women learn new skills and receive training to help them start a business. Farmers in targeted communities are also given access to business and agricultural training. This important aspect of our work creates an opportunity for increased household income and improved livelihoods, which in turn helps to keep children out of child labor because farmers and families can afford to pay for adult labor. The professional training of mothers and the provision of a scholarship for family support has also been a way for the program to gain acceptance with farmers. Upon completion of the courses and disbursement of scholarships, the program has built credibility in the communities, and parents begin to allow their children to participate in youth courses and workshops.

ARISE conducted 10 training workshops in Lilongwe and Ntcheu Districts, Malawi, the purpose of which were to orient various stakeholders on child labor issues, Child Labor Monitoring System (CLMS), and law enforcement. The CLMS is a dynamic long-term process in development and demands a thoughtful process of establishing key stakeholders and linkages with various service providers. Setting up a monitoring system like CLMS is a promising development in terms of unearthing child laborers who are often otherwise hidden, and improving the environment for those children employed in the informal sector. The training was attended by 25 officials from District Child Labor Committees (DCLCs), 45 community members, 10 chiefs, and 15 teachers from Community Child Labor Committees (CCLCs), and scrutinized 1,162 members of the general public. The training workshops were also attended by government representatives including:

- district officials (the Labor, Social Welfare, Education, Agriculture, the Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority of Malawi, and the Police)
- employers’ organizations (the Employers Consultative Association of Malawi, and the National Association of Smallholder Farmers in Malawi)
- workers’ organizations (the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions, Teachers Union of Malawi, and the Tobacco Association of Malawi)
- civil-society organizations.

The activities have supported the establishment, strengthening, and operationalization of the DCLC and six CCLCs in Lilongwe and Ntcheu Districts, providing the foundations for stakeholders’ ownership, institutional capacity-building, and sustainability.
In Brazil we provided training for professional qualifications to 355 women, and 54 mothers were provided with motivational training to sell their products. Together with the Ministry of Agriculture of Malawi, we trained 60 of the most successful mothers enrolled in ARISE as peer mentors (30 each in Ntcheu and Lilongwe) to support other women in their agribusiness groups in the areas of business investment decisions, record keeping, and the promotion of Village Savings and Loans initiatives. We also organized intra-district visits for 113 ARISE mothers from eight villages to foster the sharing of best practices among the women. In Malawi we also organized four intra-district exchange visits involving members of Community Child Labor Committees, school mother mentors, and ARISE agribusiness mothers. During these exchanges participants learned from each other by sharing their experiences, success, and challenges.

**Other empowerment initiatives**

During the year we organized gender assertiveness training for 732 participants in Malawi (605 females, 127 males). The training aims to reduce the gender barriers that deter women’s progress to ensure active participation of women in different ARISE program activities. Men were included in the training to promote their support for the women’s individual and group businesses as well as to ensure that they take a leading role in the education of the children enrolled in ARISE programs.

ARISE also supports community-initiated adult literacy classes to improve livelihoods and to develop communities, and we hope lead to a reduction in child labor in the long term. In September 2013, ARISE trained 33 community facilitators in Malawi in adult literacy training, which has resulted in a 42.5% increase in attendance of the adult literacy classes.

In Malawi during November and December 2013 we trained 63 caregivers from community-based childcare centers (CBCCs) in 20 ARISE communities. The three-day training courses in each district were co-facilitated by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development. In the wake of the trainings there has been a considerable increase in enrolments at the CBCCs, from 133 before the training to 219, and caregiver attendance went up from 58% before the training to 97% afterwards. We also trained 50 members from Community Child Labor Committees in monitoring and referral systems, and by the end of 2013, nine successful referrals had been made.

**Legal frameworks**

**ARISE aims to enhance national and local capacity to implement and enforce the legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks for the elimination of child labor and promotion of education.**

Improving legal and regulatory frameworks is a core objective and we have clear linkages with national stakeholders on child labor in all countries of operation. We are active at every level, from national governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations, and international nongovernmental organizations, all the way through to local civic and traditional leaders.

During 2013 we participated in many meetings related to policy and regulation that have an impact on elimination of child labor. In Brazil we provided technical assistance to the Brazilian Government in the preparation of the Third Global Conference on Child Labor held on 8–10 October. We also held meetings, trainings, and seminars with the Board of Rights, Guardianship Councils, and Intersectoral Councils (Social Assistance, Health, and Violence) with the objective to train, educate, and raise awareness of child labor, and attended the Seminar on the Closure of the Joint Program, and the International Seminar on Best Practices on Decent Work. At a more local level in Brazil we presented ARISE program results at the Fourth Meeting of the Municipal Health Professionals with the Municipal Health Secretariat. We also provided training to public managers in five municipalities in Brazil (Candelaria, Sinimbu, Canguçu, Arroio do Tigre, and Sobradinho) to attract and manage resources from federal government development agencies to develop public policies and funds in four strategic areas – education, health, social assistance, and agriculture. The objective is to economically empower communities and to eventually contribute to the reduction of child labour in the tobacco supply chain. In Malawi we coordinated two meetings at which ARISE implementation partners shared progress and ways that they can collaborate to address gaps in regulations and policy.
Much of our advocacy work has a long-term focus and many initiatives are of an ongoing nature. For example, we participate in the Child Labor Network in Malawi and coordinate with other relevant United Nations agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and UNICEF, to develop effective strategies, increased synergies, and advocate for the passing of legislation. We also coordinate closely with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to advocate for market structure improvements.

The Third Global Child Labor Conference, Brazil

The Third Global Child Labor Conference, held in Brazil in October 2013, was an important opportunity to validate and strengthen the global anti-child labor platform and agenda, to evaluate progress made since the adoption of the International Labour Organization’s Conventions 182 and 138, and to call for greater international collaboration. ARISE provided technical assistance in the preparation of the event, which brought together more than 1500 participants including global child labor experts and representatives of governments, workers, employers, stakeholders, as well as civil society and the private sector.

The Conference Executive Committee summoned all participants to join efforts to systematize knowledge and experiences based on several key threads of action:

- social protection for children and their families
- expansion of mandatory, full-time, and high-quality education
- specific legislation and inspection for addressing child labor
- labor employment policies that provide additional protection for children
- decent work opportunities for adult workers.

ARISE participated in the following sessions: Child Labor in Agriculture, Child Labor in the Production Chain, and Education Models and Schools. In the latter we made a plea to make education compulsory in support of eliminating child labor.
Results in 2013

Goal: To accelerate progress in the elimination of child labor in tobacco-growing communities, through education.

Objective 1: Reduce child labor through improvements in education, opportunity, and awareness

Brazil

| 1449 | children who benefit from the improvements provided to schools |
| 1013 | children benefited from the More Education Program |
| 930  | community members educated on child lab |
| 663  | children prevented from child labor |
| 573  | children and youth enrolled in formal and informal education programs |

| 368  | people from child care network (Municipal Departments of Social Assistance, Education and Health, and Guardianship Councils) trained on legislation, children’s rights, and child labor |
| 100  | teachers of municipal schools in Arroio do Tigre trained in participatory awareness raising on child labor through arts and education mainstreaming |

Malawi

| 2408 | children and youth enrolled in formal and informal education programs |
| 1578 | children prevented from child labor |

| 1162 | community members educated on child labor |
| 830  | children withdrawn from child labor |

Objective 2: Increase economic empowerment in targeted tobacco-growing communities

Brazil

| 2000 | growers in Arroio do Tigre benefited by the program More Grains in Rural Areas, a program that concerns the the expansion of drying and storage of grains |
| 191  | households with improved livelihoods |
| 355  | mothers gained access to income-generating activities and conditional capital investments |
| 339  | conditional capital investments distributed |
| 150  | women benefited from the Support Action Program for Infrastructure Projects and Services in Rural Areas, a program run by Federal Government’s Ministry of Agrarian Development, together with the Department of Agriculture which was brought to communities by ARISE |
| 54   | mothers trained in entrepreneurship and cooperatives |
| 40   | producers trained in mechanics and rural land management |

Malawi

| 785  | households with improved livelihoods |
| 173  | mothers gained access to income-generating activities and conditional capital investments |
| 137  | tobacco producers with improved OSH practices/non-hazardous conditions |
| 18   | field technicians/agronomists trained on child labor regulatory framework and OHS |
| 500  | youth attended Model Farm Schools |

Objective 3: Improve regulatory frameworks for the elimination of child labor and promotion of education

Brazil

| 624  | people sensitized in the Seminar to Combat Child Labor in the Valley Region/Santa Cruz do Sul and Reworking Childhood Forum: a debate on child labor in light of the law, health care, and education |
| 13   | people trained in technical assistance provided for registration of the Fund for Children and Adolescents |
| 30   | public managers from Arroio do Tigre, Candelária, Sinimbu, Canguçu, and Sobradinho trained in the elaboration of projects to attract public policies and funding towards municipalities |