

Effectiveness of forced labour import bans

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Outline

1. What are forced labour import bans and why are we exploring their impact?
2. How did we undertake this research?
3. What did we find? And how does this compare to what we knew before?
4. What do these findings mean for future research, policymakers and business?

1. What are forced labour import bans and why are we exploring their impact?



2024/2027



2020/2020/2023



2021/2022



2017



1932/2016

2. How did we undertake this research?



Impact on people

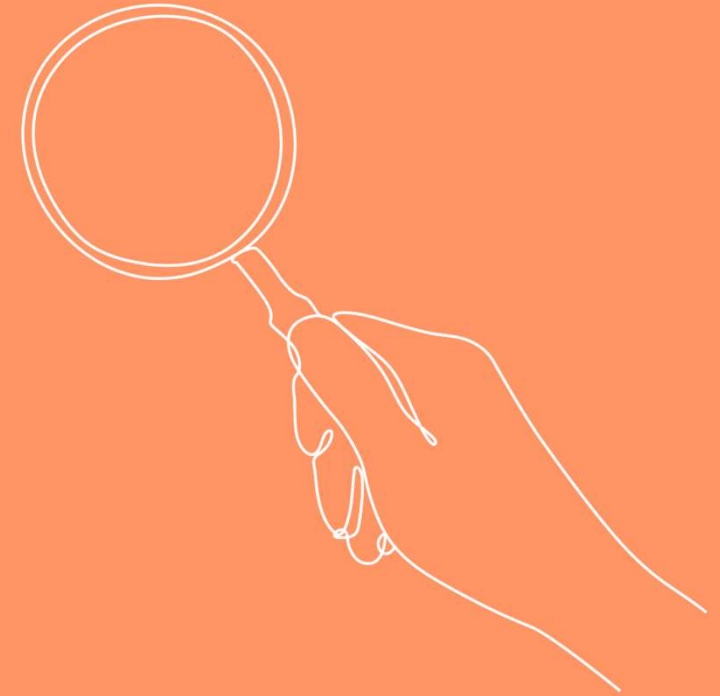
Impact on business

Preventing market entry

3. What did we find and how does this compare to what we knew before?

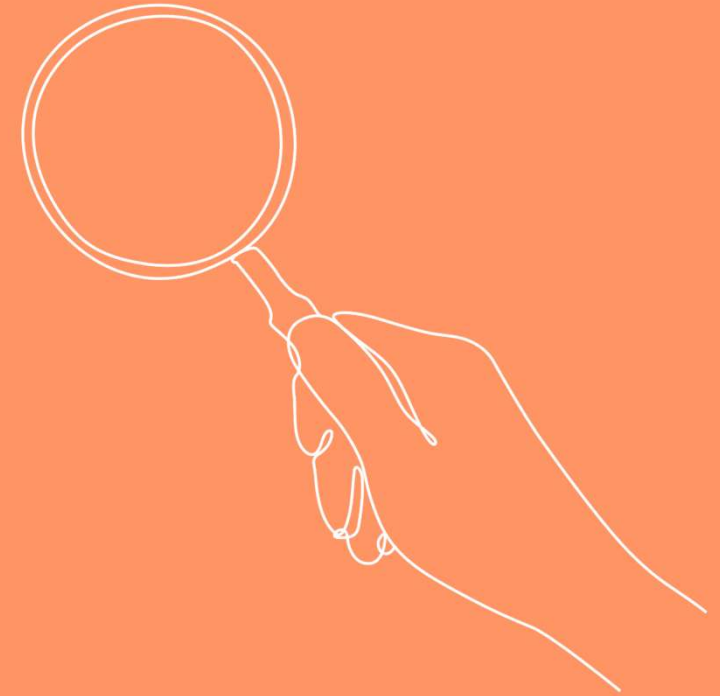
1. More evidence of preventing market entry AND:

- **Barriers** (e.g., exceptions to the law, not applying to online sales or low value goods, limited resources and capacities of the enforcement authorities (especially traceability systems)).
- **Enablers** (e.g., shifting the burden of proof onto importers).



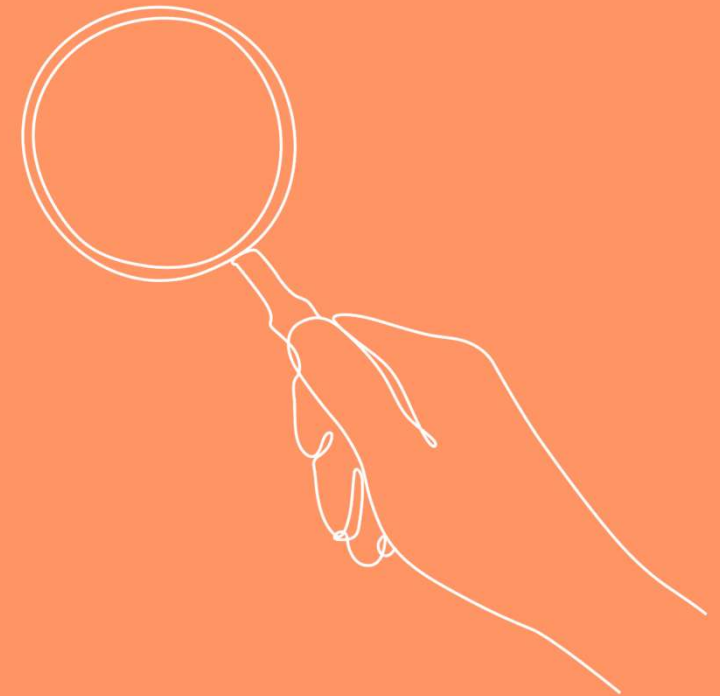
2. More evidence of influence on business behaviour AND:

- Identified **specific changes** (e.g., corporate policy, governance, purchasing practices, remediation, training, supply chain structure, **from a broader set of companies across sectors** (e.g., palm oil, rubber gloves, tobacco products, solar sector) at **the company and industry level**.
- Identified that these changes mostly occurred in businesses in the **middle of the supply chains** (e.g., large suppliers in the Global South) rather than at the top (i.e., lead firms in the Global North).
- That such changes were influenced by a **mix of pressures (mostly economic)** from diverse stakeholders.
- That **different forced labour ban laws** have had **different impacts** (e.g., section 307 and UFLPA).
- That one single forced labour ban law **may have different impacts on business depending on how it is used**.



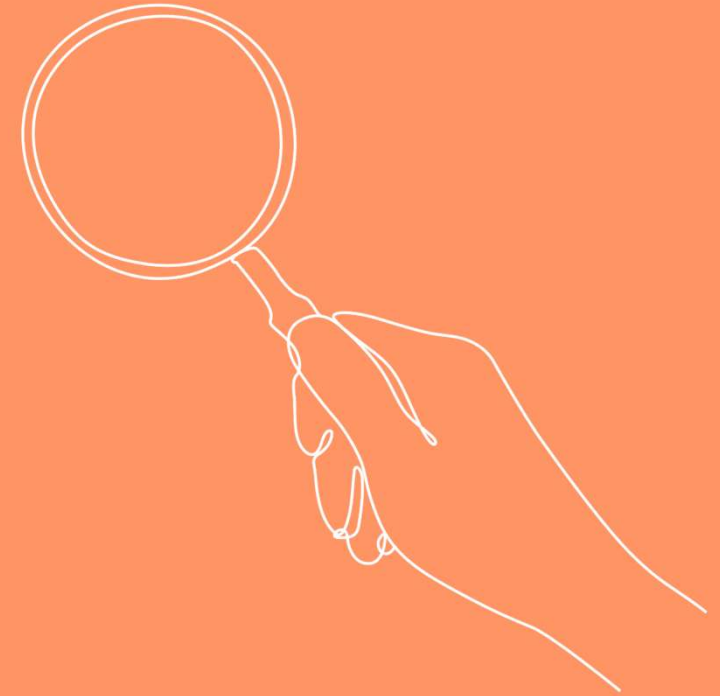
3. More evidence of government changes AND:

- Identified **specific changes across countries and across types of forced labour and before and after a ban**: public policy reforms (Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan), prosecution of perpetrators (Taiwan), and a reduction in the use of state-imposed forced labour (Turkmenistan).
- Identified that **different types of forced labour import bans have had different impacts on governments' behaviour** (e.g., section 307 vs UFLPA).
- Case study of elimination of systemic state-imposed forced labour **without a forced labour import ban** (e.g., Uzbekistan).



4. Impacts on trade and workers remains understudied **BUT:**

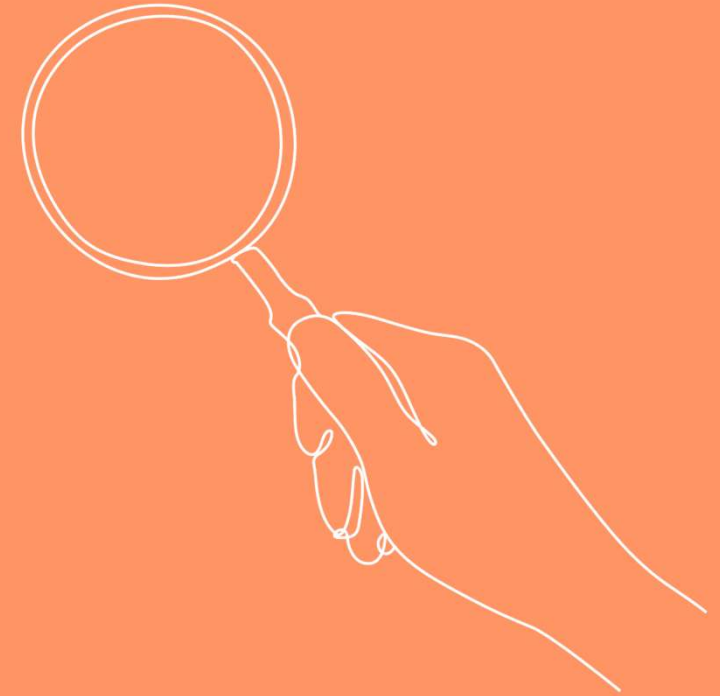
- There is **no evidence of forced labour bans having negative impacts on workers** (e.g., job and wage losses).
- When remediation has been provided, **workers have not been consulted on whether it constituted appropriate remediation before lifting a ban.**
- When companies have made changes, **they do not always translate in improvements to worker's conditions.**
- Goods prohibited from entering the US **have entered other markets without similar instruments in place** (e.g., Canada, UK, Australia).



4. Recommendations

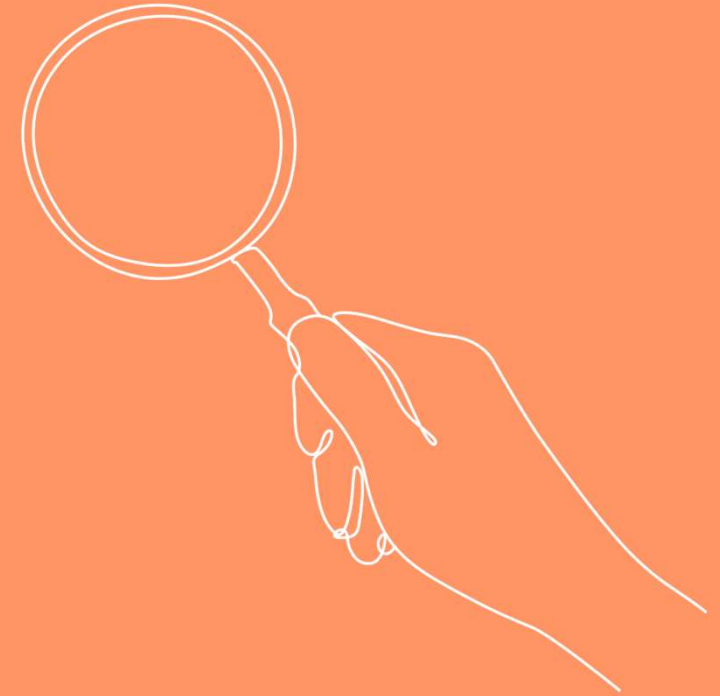
Recommendation for future research

- Empirical evidence from affected workers on the impact of forced labour import bans.
- Quantitative analysis of trade flows and customs data between Global North and Global South countries and their association to forced labour import bans.
- Empirical evidence that companies are exiting the Uyghur Region and who they source from then.



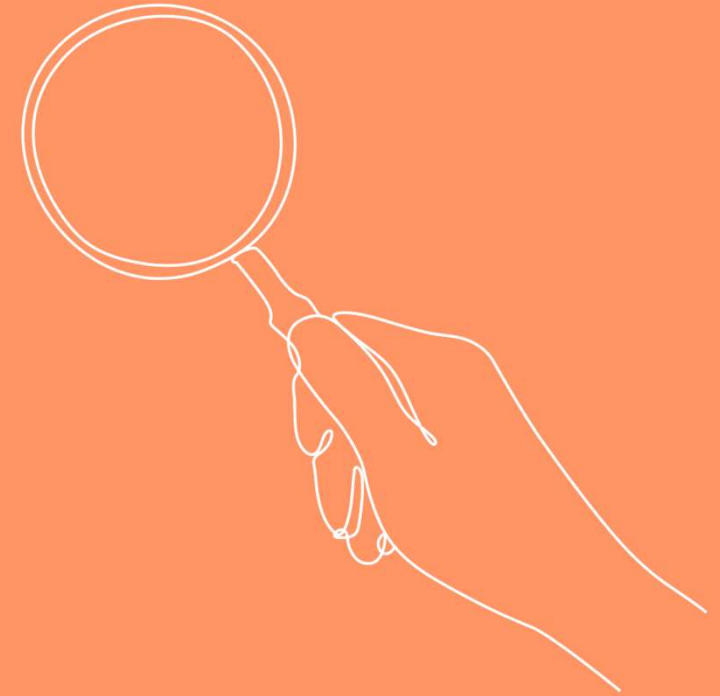
Recommendation for policymakers

- **Design considerations:** e.g., prohibit exports, apply to online sales and low value products, develop a list or database of risks, increase resources including tracing systems for enforcing authorities, reverse the burden of proof.
- Design forced labour import bans to not only prevent products made with forced labour from entering a market but also to **prevent and remediate** forced labour in global supply chains (e.g., remediation as a condition for lifting a ban, remediation as prevention, coordination with other countries, consultation with affected workers in the development of the forced labour instrument, and during its implementation including before lifting a ban).



Recommendation for business in the Global North

- Increase **transparency** in supply chains and develop **tracing systems** to identify suppliers beyond Tier 1.
- Undertake **human rights due diligence** to prevent forced labour in supply chains.
- **Exit regions** where it is not possible to undertake human rights due diligence (e.g., in cases of state-imposed forced labour).
- **Engage with workers, trade unions and people with lived experience** to collect data on the ground.



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