



GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

'Like the seaweed that clings together after each passing boat separates them, so too a family will come together with the passing of each crisis.'
[proverb from Indonesia]

One day spent with Saya from Indonesia

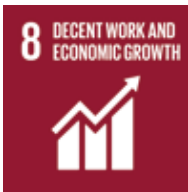
Hi! Saya and I come from Indonesia, the largest island state in the world. It's really nice of you to visit me at my workplace. Please sit down at the table with me, it is now 11 o'clock and I am on my first break. The factory, where we are at now is in Kendari, but I live in a little town called Motaha, which is about a two-hour bus ride from here. Our family owns a small piece of land. Since we were little my siblings and I have helped our parents working on the field and in the household. We collect firewood and food for our goats, we help cook and clean and we clear weeds on the field. Last year on my birthday, I had just turned eleven, when a man from Kendari came to our little village. He asked my parents, whether they wanted to send me to the city to earn some money. Other children from Motaha were already working there. They cleaned shoes, sold flowers or newspapers, worked as cleaning maids with rich families or got a job in one of the many factories. My family didn't really want to let me go, but they desperately needed some money and so they sent me off to Kendari to work in a paper factory.

Now I earn my own money that I can send over to my parents' week for week. Each day I earn 7.500 rupees that would be around 50 cents in your country. My job entails making paper bags in various sizes. I fold the paper, apply the self-made glue and then clench the paper bag together. I make around 2000 paper bags a day. My friend Sari has been working here for a little longer and she even manages to make 2800 on a day. To make our self-made glue, we need four main ingredients that are then mixed together. Last week the owner of our factory Mr. Hirati made us the compliment that no other glue in the country was as sticky as our glue! Of course that made us very proud. Mr. Hirati earns a lot of money with our help – he can sell

1000 paper bags for 70.000 rupees that is converted into your money about five Euros. Life here in the city is very expensive, but that doesn't matter to me because I am always working here in the factory anyway. We sleep in a little room in the cellar of the factory. We start work in the morning at 6 am and continue until 10pm in the late evening. Two weeks ago I got the flu and couldn't work for two days. In that time, I didn't earn any money. On the third day, I went to work with a high fever, but I simply couldn't afford another day without payment.

Right, my break is over and I will have to continue working now. Our next break isn't until 6pm, where we will get our dinner. Of course I am proud that I can support my parents with this job, but I would love to go to school. Unfortunately, that is in no way possible because I have to work every day. I dream of a world, where every child can enjoy their childhood and are able to go to school. If the parents can earn enough money by themselves, they will not have to send their own children to work.





Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and ensure employment for all

Have you ever heard of child labour in Austria? You can't call hoovering, emptying the dishwasher or looking after your little siblings *child labour*, but it is definitely a great help to your parents. In Austria you are allowed to work at the age of 15. But in many other countries in this world parents send their children to work because they can't earn enough to live on by themselves. Until 2030 however, according to the sustainable development goals there should be no child labour in the world and Saya's dream could come true.

The 8th goal should ensure that by 2030 every person has a decent job or form of employment. This means that people get paid a fair wage and earn enough to be able to feed their families. Nobody should be forced to work and health insurance should be covered. There are a lot of mine workers for example, who risk their lives on a daily basis, going into the dark mines to fetch gold or silver or other valuable resources, without being given safe equipment or having any sort of protection.

Goal 8 should ensure that any type of slavery should be abolished until 2030. You might think to yourself that this has already happened. Unfortunately, this is not true. Especially women are often subject to poor working conditions that come close to slavery. They have to work days and night as housemaids and only receive a pocket money. This must stop!

Unemployment is also mentioned in Goal 8. Maybe this situation sounds familiar to you: Someone really likes the work, but can't find a suitable job anywhere. Maybe he doesn't have the right qualifications or skills required or maybe he just can't find a job because there aren't any more jobs available. In the future more jobs should be created and young people especially should be trained better, so the unemployment rate is reduced. The aim is to increase people's income, so they can afford to buy more, which also means that more needs to be produced. That in turn requires more businesses and factories to employ more people. We call this economic growth. However it is really important that this does not happen at the expense of human rights or the environment.

What can we do to achieve this goal?

- In order to find a job that you like, you should check out several different jobs by doing a short work experience. Many school classes use '*job orientation week*', where you can help out at a job placement to an insight, what the job might entail. You can receive more information from the Austrian Chamber of Labour.
- At the *children's business week*, which is held at the Austrian Chamber of Commerce children and young adults between the age of 8 and 14 years can talk to managers and take part in an 'ideas and innovation workshop'. You can find more information here: www.kinderbusinessweek.at

Ida (13) from Kuchl, Salzburg:

'Ever since I can remember I wanted to become a baker. Now I am not sure about the working hours and getting up so early in the morning. But I think I want to give it a try.'

Tim (9) from Gmünd,

Lower Austria: 'I talked my brother into buying less clothes. Our school is about to become a 'Fair Trade school!'

- When a t-shirt is sold for only two Euros, you have to think about how much the people, who produced this t-shirt get paid for their work. Often, the chemicals used to produce these goods are really unhealthy for us. Therefore, take more care, when buying clothes and other products. Have a look, where they have been produced. Fair trade products with the orange fair trade symbol tell you that the farmers and plantation workers received fair payment for their work. Fair trade also is committed to improving the working and living conditions of the workers. For example, by fixing a minimum price, the fair trade premium, ensuring better health and safety at the workplace and regulated working hours. More information on fair trade and how you can take action here: www.fairtrade.at