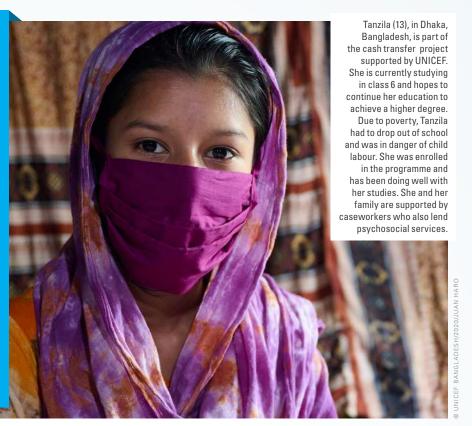
ENDING CHILD LABOUR THROUGH A **MULTISECTORAL APPROACH**

unicef

for every child



THE CHALLENGE:

Child labour deprives children of their childhood and involves the violation of many child rights. Current estimates are that 160 million children, that is one in ten globally, are in child labour. About half of them are involved in hazardous work, defined as work performed by children in dangerous and unhealthy conditions that can lead to a child being killed, injured or made ill as a result of poor safety and health standards or employment conditions. Such work can result in permanent disability, ill health and psychological damage."

160 million children are in child labour globally- almost one in ten of all children worldwide. Many are younger children and agriculture is often the entry point to child labour. Over three quarters of the children aged 5 to 11 years who are engaged in child labour work in agriculture.

Beyond hazardous work, global estimates of children in the worst forms child labour are not available. Measurement challenges are due to the often hidden and illicit nature of these extreme forms of child labour and the subsequent lack of reliable data on them in most countries.

Child labour is both a cause and a consequence of poverty, reinforcing social inequality and discrimination, robbing children of productive futures and undermining the well-being of individuals, families and societies. Poverty, whether chronic or due to more sudden shocks, plays a key role in driving children to labour.

Child labour actively undermines educationiii, nutritioniv, healthv including contributing to HIVvi - and compromises the social and economic development of children and families. The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated containment measures have heightened child labour risksvii - these include a sharp rise in poverty, school closures, food insecurity and lack of appropriate alternatives for livelihoods and education.

ILO Convention 182 -Worst Forms of Child Labour, ILO Convention 138-Child Labour and Education, ILO Convention 189-Domestic Work, Slavery Conventions of 1926 and 1956; Article 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Abdalla Ibrahim, Salma M Abdalla, Mohammed Jafer, Jihad Abdelgadir, Nanne de Vries, 'Child labor and health: a systematic literature review of the impacts of child labor on child's health in low- and middle-income countries', Journal of Public Health, March 2019.

https://www.who.int/ceh/risks/labour/en ILO, 'HIV and Child Labour', 2003

ILO and UNICEF, 'COVID-19 and Child Labour: A time of crisis, a time to act', 2020

By the end of 2022, an additional 9 million children will be at risk of being in child labour as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and if adequate social protection measures are not implemented, the additional number of children vulnerable to child labour will rise to 46 million.viii Most children who work do so because their families depend on their wages, production or domestic work (including unpaid, often by girls) to make ends meet. Adequate social protection is central to mitigating the socio-economic vulnerability that underlies child labour, ix and to offsetting the effects of poverty, gender inequality and deprivation in childhood - from child benefits, maternity benefits and paid maternity and parental leave, to school feeding and childcare services.x

Boys outnumber girls under the definition of child labour. The gap narrows considerably when performance of household chores, including childcare are included, Girls are also more likely to engage in domestic work in third-party households. This form of child labour is often ignored in national and global action plans, and is beyond the scope of labour inspectorates, leaving children - particularly girls - especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.xi

Children in contexts of human mobility and those affected by armed conflict are at higher risk of child labour. In 2020, the number of international migrants reached 281 million; 36 million of them were children.xii Those who migrate alone are at particularly high risk of hazardous labour, and of being trafficked for sexual exploitation and other work. Worldwide, one in every four children lives in a country struck by conflict, fragility and/or disaster.xiii Child labour rates in these countries are 77% higher than global averages and the incidence of hazardous work is 50% higher.xiv



Children with intellectual, psychological, emotional and developmental disabilities are especially vulnerable to being forced into child labour, and are more likely to face threats of violence, neglect and abuse. These children especially girls—are too often victims of trafficking, prostitution, domestic enslavement, forced marriage and other forms of abuse. Some children who have physical and visual disabilities or serious visible birth defects or disfigurement are forced by traffickers to beg. In the most extreme cases, traffickers will intentionally disfigure children in order to exploit them through forced begging.xv

Ana C. Dammert, Jacobus de Hoop, Eric Myukiyehe and Furio C. Rosati., 'Effects of public policy on child labor: Current knowledge, gaps, and implications for program design', World Development, 2018

ILO and UNICEF, 'Towards universal social protection for children: Achieving SDG 1.3', 2019 ILO and UNICEF, 'Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward', 2021

https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/migration/ UNICEF, Humanitarian Action for Children Overview, 2017.

II O. Global estimates of child labour: Results and trends, 2012-2016, 2017

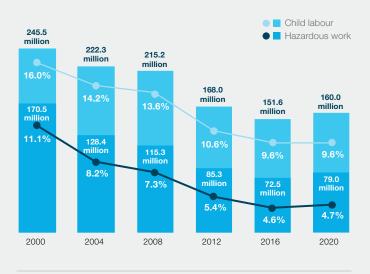
UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, 'Child Labour and Disability', 2021

Child labour at a glance

Trends

Global progress against child labour has stalled since 2016

Percentage and number of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour and hazardous work



Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean have seen steady progress on child labour since 2008; similar progress has eluded sub-Saharan Africa

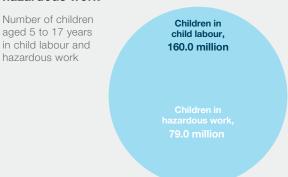
Percentage of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by region



Notes: The figure shows regional groupings used for ILO reporting. Comparable historical data prior to 2016 were not available for other regions.

Current situation

Worldwide, 160 million children are engaged in child labour; 79 million of them are performing hazardous work



Child labour is more prevalent among boys than girls at every age

Percentage of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by age and sex



The international community has made a promise to children worldwide to end child labour.

Sub-Saharan Africa stands out as the region with the highest prevalence and largest number of children in child labour

Percentage and number of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by region

Notes: The size of the bubbles is proportionate to the absolute number of children in child labour. The figure shows regional groupings used for SDG reporting. The region of Oceania is omitted because of low data coverage. For this reason, region-specific numbers do not add up to the global total.

Sub-Saharan Africa







Eastern and South-Eastern Asia



Northern Africa and Western Asia



Latin Americand the Caribbean



urope and Northern America

2.3% 3.8 million

Most children in child labour work within their own family unit

Percentage distribution of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by status at work

Contributing family workers

Employees

Own-account workers

72.1% World

17.3%

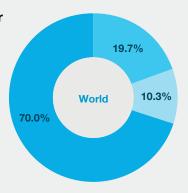
Note: Due to rounding, figures in percentages do not add up to 100 per cent.

The agricultural sector accounts for the largest share of child labour worldwide

Percentage distribution of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by sector of economic activity

Agriculture

Services
Industry



Impact of COVID-19

Without mitigation measures, the number of children in child labour could rise from 160 million in 2020 to 168.9 million by the end of 2022

Number of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, projected to the end of 2022



CHILD LABOUR AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG TARGET 8.7

Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

SDG 8 builds upon Article 32 of the CRC, and relevant ILO Conventions and underpins the commitment to eliminate child labour with a key focus on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all by 2030.

SDG Target 8.7 is linked to several other targets and SDGs, including Target 16.2 aimed at ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against, and torture of, children, SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 2 to end hunger and

malnutrition, SDG 3 on health, SDG 4 on education and SDG 5 on ending all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices such as child marriage, and achieving gender equality.

At present, the world is not on track to eliminate child labour by 2025. In order to meet this target, global progress would need to be almost 18 times faster than the rate observed over the past two decades.

UNICEF'S MULTISECTORAL APPROACH TO END CHILD LABOUR

Responding to the multifaceted nature of the challenge, UNICEF promotes a multisectoral approach to ending child labour which includes programming across education, social protection and child protection. We also promote the importance of labour market policies and business practices in addressing child rights holistically, including the root causes of child labour, and in generating decent work for adults. UNICEF's cross cutting work, such as that related to gender and social and behaviour change, are also instrumental to these efforts.

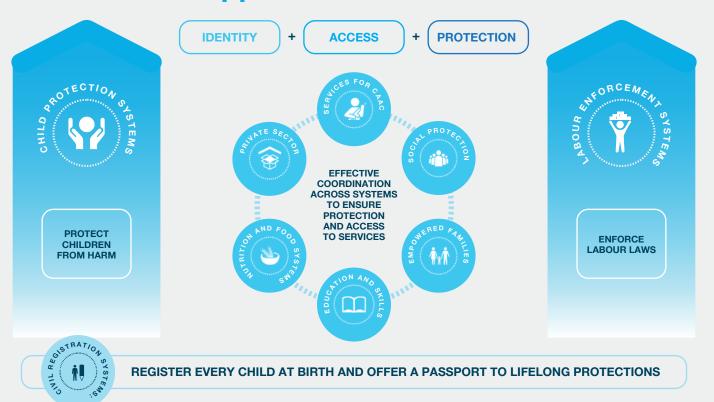
ARTICLE 3 OF ILO CONVENTION NO. 182 INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING IN THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.
- and work that, by its nature or circumstances, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.



CEF BOLIVIA/2020/RADOSLAW CZAJKOWSK

Multisectoral Approach to Eliminate Child Labour



EDUCATION

Although more children than ever before are enrolled in school today, 258 million children, adolescents and young people are out of school, and many of them are already engaged or at risk of child labour. The COVID-19 pandemic and related school closures have exacerbated education exclusion, increasing child

labour risks further.

Child labour and educational exclusion go hand in hand. More than a quarter of 5 to 11 year-olds and over a third of 12 to 14 year-olds in child labour are out of school, despite compulsory schooling policies. And there are many more children who are struggling to balance the demands of school and child labour at the same time. Both groups face diminished opportunities as a result.xvi

UNICEF supports systemic change to address child labour through the strengthening of laws and policies which guarantee education for every child. At the same time, UNICEF country programmes work to strengthen community engagement in education by supporting community-based monitoring mechanisms for enrollment and school attendance.

UNICEF's support to combat child labour through education include a focus on expanding formal schooling, and other educational opportunities; reforms to improve children's learning outcomes and skills development; and increased incentives for families to keep children in school.

Research by UNICEF, and the Center for Evaluation and Development (based in Germany), in Ethiopia in 2020, "What are the causes and consequences of child labour in Ethiopia", provided a comprehensive mixed methods overview of the issue of child labour in Ethiopia and the underlying vulnerability factors associated with this practice. It showed, through extensive statistical analysis, the complexity of factors behind individual and household decisions, including the significance of the educational status of heads of households and the role of gender in decision making about schooling and child labour.

Social protection plays an important role in addressing poverty – a key driver of child labour. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, three quarters of all children globally lacked social protection.xvii This climbs to nearly 90 per cent of children who lack social protection benefits in Africa. Similarly, 55 per cent of all mothers with a new-born child have no access to any form of maternity benefit.xviii

UNICEF supports national governments to design, implement and strengthen inclusive-social protection programmes in over 115 countries by:

- Introducing or scaling up universal child benefits/cash transfers aimed at reducing child poverty, increase school attendance and access to health services, amongst other impactsxix.
- Advocating for family friendly policies especially for those working in the informal economy – such as maternity and parental benefits and subsidised or free childcare.
- Linking cash transfers and school feeding with information, training, services or support accessing safe spaces and social networks.
- Promoting birth registration through social protection, including through information and services linked to the delivery of cash transfers or other forms of support.
- Generating expertise and an evidence base on child-sensitive and genderresponsive social protection to help design and implement social protection programmes, and closely monitor their impact on child labour.

In Turkey, UNICEF employs a multi-sectoral approach to address child labour through (1) strengthening the capacity of national institutions to coordinate efforts to eliminate child labor; (2) strengthening the capacity of technical and vocational training and formal apprenticeship programs to provide relevant skills and serve as an alternative to child labour; (3) changing social norms and discriminatory practices that contribute to normalization and perpetuation of child labour; (4) increasing access to basic services for families at risk, (5) increasing the self-monitoring capacity of employers; and (6) evidence generation and advocacy. As an example, UNICEF is supporting the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme for Refugees, which includes social protection and child protection components, in collaboration with the Government of Turkey and Turkish Red Crescent. This programme provides regular and predictable cash assistance to refugee children and child protection services through specialist outreach teams for children who are missing school, including those involved in child labour. Between May 2017 and June 2021, the child protection component reached over 91,000 children and the social protection component reached over 690,000 children.



ILO, 'World Social Protection Report 2020-2022', 2021

ix UNICEF and Overseas Development Institute, 'Universal Child Benefits', 2020

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF's efforts to help countries develop more robust child protection systems are critical to reducing child labour. Laws, regulations and programmes aimed at eliminating child labour are a cornerstone of effective child protection systems. UNICEF works closely with national and local governments to support development and implementation of such strategies.

Child protection systems are at the core of preventing, responding to and removing children from child labour. These systems identify, provide support and coordinate social services for families and children at risk and are involved in child labour inspections. Child Protection systems are often the first point of contact for children most at risk: those on the street; out of school, etc. They are also the natural bridge to other social services.

Because of their fundamental role in providing direct support to children and families, UNICEF works to strengthen the reach, capacity and funding of the social services workforce to ensure that they have the skills and resources necessary for their work on the frontlines.



JORDAN: UNICEF supported the government and partners to develop standard operating procedures on child labour to guide a case management approach. This included defining the roles and responsibilities of each agency and guiding ways to address the multiple vulnerabilities of families and outlining the referral process for other services. In 2020, over 5,000 of the most vulnerable children received services, which included helping prevent and remove them from child labour.



Tens of millions of children are exposed to toxic chemicals, and other serious health risks, through hazardous child labour.xx Children are particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards, due to their physical size, developing bodies, and lack of knowledge about threats in their environment. There are many examples of health hazards associated with child labour. For instance, in the agriculture sector, where child labour is most prevalent, 10 of millions of children are widely exposed to direct contact with pesticides. xxi In artisanal and smallscale gold mining, children's exposure to toxic heavy metals like mercury and lead can lead to brain and neurological disorders, cardiovascular and renal diseases.xxii Thousands of children are used in hazardous garment and footwear industries and in informal recycling of e-waste, as well, where they could be exposed to hazardous chemicals and waste that impact on their health and development.xxiii

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES FOR CHII DRFN

Recognizing the need to influence the ecosystem of business holistically, UNICEF works to integrate children's rights into business infrastructure, regulation, policy and enforcement mechanisms that govern or guide business conduct.

UNICEF is engaging with policy makers to advocate for the holistic integration of children's rights in European Union mandatory human rights due diligence legislation, including sustainable approaches that prevent child labour.xxiv

Together with ILO, UNICEF Ghana strengthened the capacity of the Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations to negotiate and develop a public-private partnership to address the root causes of child labour in the cocoa-growing regions. A draft costed Framework for Actions has been developed and validated.xxv

SITUATION MONITORING

UNICEF plays a key role in developing, collecting and implementing new methodologies to monitor child labour trends and make them visible, as joint guardian with the International Labour Organization of SDG indicator 8.7. This includes strengthening administrative data on this issue as well as conduction independent assessments, such as the ILO and UNICEF Child Labour Global Estimates of 2020.



UNICEF, 'Healthy Environments for Healthy Children Global Framework', 2021.

World Health Organization, 'Pesticides: Children's health and the environment - WHO training package for the health sector', 2008 xxi

ILO, 'Mapping interventions addressing child labour and working conditions in artisanal mining', 2020. UNICEF, 'Healthy Environments for Healthy Children Global Framework', 2021. UNICEF & German Federal Foreign Office, 'Responsible Business Conduct or Children', 2020.

UNICEF, Global Annual Results Report 2020, Goal Area 3, 2021.

UNICEF'S CALL TO ACTION TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR

PRIORITIZE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR AND THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Urgent action is necessary to end the worst forms of child labour through prevention, immediate removal of children in such circumstances, and programs for their psychosocial care and reintegration, with special attention to the youngest children, girls, children with disabilities, in the context of migration or the street, and children in informal work settings. The worst forms of child labour should be immediately eliminated as a matter of utmost priority.

Countries should ensure full implementation and enforcement of the relevant international human rights instruments. Operationalizing these standards requires the deployment of a robust child protection workforce to provide and facilitate individualized services to children and families, as well as broader national child protection systems strengthening efforts and the multi-sector measures detailed below.

Given the prevalence of child labour in agriculture, all targeted prevention and response services for affected children must be designed to reach rural communities and be accessible to, and adapted to the circumstances of, the millions of children globally involved in agriculture.

PREVENT SCHOOL DESERTION AND MAKE EDUCATION INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

There are well-known solutions for getting and keeping children in school.**xxvi* These include: aligning the minimum working age and the end of compulsory schooling and ensuring access to early childhood development services, child care and pre-primary education, which increase the chance that students not only stay in school but also succeed. Abolishing school fees and eliminating costs for books, uniforms and transport keeps education affordable. Universal child benefits can help offset such costs.

Other strategies than can contribute to continuous engagement in schooling include: multisectoral school-based services such as feeding programmes; parenting support and other health and mental health services. Providing employability and vocational training opportunities is key in order to support the school to work transition. Another important consideration is providing information to children and their parents on the returns to education and building awareness on child rights.xxxiii



Governments must also increase flexible learning paths including remedial and special education services; and programs for the most vulnerable populations such as street-connected children or those in the context of migration. Digital learning should be integrated into education to increase reach and flexibility of educational opportunities. Such solutions must be built upon and integrate context-specific evidence.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SUPPORT DECENT WORK FOR ADULTS.

Cash transfers should be complemented with integrated services including in the areas of education and child protection. It is important to closely monitor social protection programme's child labour impacts, to ensure that programme design features, such as amount, frequency and type of complementary services, are adequate to offset the opportunity costs facing families in sending their children to school and do not somehow contribute to increasing child labour.

Adequate investment in the care economy is also a critical contribution, such as through state or business-subsidised childcare services at the community level or in the workplace.

Ensuring decent work for adults and youth, including fair wages, helps families avoid poverty-driven child labour. It is particularly important that family smallholder farms are able to reduce their dependency on child labour through actions which support their sustainable livelihoods. This should include specific attention to eliminating child labour in food systems.xxxiii

UNICEF, 'Every Child Learns: UNICEF education strategy 2019–2030,' 2019

xvii Gallego, F., Molina, O., and Neilson, C., 'Choosing a Better Future: Information to Reduce School Drop Out and Child Labor Rates in Peru', 2018. xviii FAO, 'Sustainable Food Systems: Concept and framework', 2018.

Financing is a critical concern. Funding gaps in social protection have increased by about 30 percent since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite unprecedented fiscal stimulus measures, only 2% has been allocated to support children and families.xxix Additional financing for investment in social protection can come from multiple sources including progressive taxation and reallocation of other spending including fossil fuel subsidies.

REGISTER EVERY CHILD AT RIRTH.

Birth registration is fundamental to ensure children's access to other social services and protect them from exploitation and abuse. States should adopt policies

and laws for free and universal registration; link civil registration to other systems, including for identity management, health, social protection and education as entry points for identifying and registering children; invest in safe and innovative technology to facilitate birth registration and ensure timely, accurate and permanent records; and engage communities and families, especially the hard-to-reach, to encourage registration for every child through communication on its benefits.

STRENGTHEN CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS.

Strengthening child protection systems must be prioritized, including investing in the social service workforce for frontline child protection prevention and response and other essential related services.

Responding to child labour also calls for aligning child protection systems with systems to enforce labour standards. Both child protection and labour laws should extend adequate legislative protections, and child protection services and labour inspectorates should work in tandem to detect and respond to child labour.

Children, families and communities are central to child protection systems and efforts to stop child labour. Well-functioning, community-based mechanisms can promote awareness of the harms of child labour and promote care and positive parenting.



Republic of the Congo (DRC), along a road between Kitchanga and Mweso in North Kivu province. For the majority of internally displaced persons in this area life is a daily struggle for food, water and firewood.

PROMOTE THE CHANGE OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL NORMS WHICH PERPETUATE CHILD LABOUR, WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER.

Governments and community-based organizations should design and implement parenting and community education initiatives to change harmful social and cultural norms which support and perpetuate child labour. Social programmes can also include information and behaviour change components to prevent child labour, promote education, and promote gender equality - including through social and behaviour change interventions, such as parenting programmes, in countering unequal gender norms that encourage overburdening girls with household chores in their own homes and through domestic work in other households.xxx

PREVENT CHILD LABOUR THROUGH RESPONSIBLE **BUSINESS PRACTICES.**

Governments need to continue strengthening laws and enforcement mechanisms that require transparency and human rights due diligence in business operations and supply chains for businesses of all sizes, nationally and internationally. This includes governments in high and middle-income countries which are the home base for many international firms.

Business responsibilities in relation to decent work and living wages, paid maternity and parental leave, breastfeeding and other nutrition support and access to quality, affordable childcare, are important measures that, when combined, can address the underlying causes of child labour by simultaneously promoting child development and family support. These are issues that need to involve both government policy and private sector implementation. Where business sectors are promoting child labour monitoring and reporting, this needs to be area-based, focused on all forms of child protection risks and integrated with national child protection and social protection systems.

Ensuring responsible purchasing practices that reduce economic pressure, volatility and uncertainties for business partners and suppliers is also important. Moreover, businesses of all sizes can support the capacity of actors throughout the supply chain (e.g. technical support, transfer of skills and financial investments) to address root causes in the wider community and business ecosystem. Special attention should be given to micro- and small enterprises, including in the informal sector, operating in the lower tiers of supply chains, where child labour risks are often most pronounced.**

Engaging both the private sector and government in integrated approaches is the pathway towards sustainable progress.

MAKE CHILD LABOURERS VISIBLE

Governments must invest in collecting new and better data on child labour and ensure mechanisms for including those that are most invisible in these efforts: children in the context of migration; on the street; in emergencies; hidden in worst forms of child labour, such as sexual exploitation and domestic labour; and those living in institutions. Official statistics should more systematically capture worst forms of child labour, other than hazardous work, and should consider both economic and non-economic production in measurement. Mixed methods impact evaluations are key to understanding policy and programme effectiveness with respect to child labour and contextual specifics which influence the results of such efforts.

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