



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Report of the Global Solutions Forum

## Acting together to end child labour in agriculture

Concrete experiences and  
successful practices  
shared on 2–3 November 2021





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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
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# Abbreviations and acronyms

ACPHA-The Alliance for Childhood Protection in Humanitarian Action

ASEAN-Association of Southeast Asian Nations

BMZ-German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

CAC-Children's Advisory Committees (CAC) of the Dialogue Works Campaign

CLMS-Child Labour Monitoring System

ESS-World Bank Environmental and Social Framework

FAO-Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FFS-Farmer Field School

FIER-Rural Youth Vocational Training Employment and Entrepreneurship Support

FTT-Thiaroye-FAO-Thiaroye processing technique

GALS-Gender Action Learning System

GAWU-General Agricultural Learner's Union

GCF-Global Climate Fund

GhaFFap-Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers

GSF-Global Solutions Forum

HHP-highly hazardous pesticides

IFAD-International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFPRI-International Food Policy Research Institute

ILO-International Labour Organization

IPCCLA-International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture

IUF-International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations

JFFLS-Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools

LCRP-Lebanon Crisis Response Plan

LFSP-Livelihoods and Food Security Programme

MAFRD–Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development

MALR–Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

MAP–Measurement, awareness-raising and policy inclusion to accelerate action against child labour and forced labour

OECD–Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OSH–occupational safety health

PACE programme–Partnership Against Child Exploitation (Ethiopia)

PANETE RIM/RIM2–Mauritania national action plan for the elimination of child labour

PFS–(agro)Pastoralist Field Schools

PLEFS–Pastoralist Livelihoods and Education Field Schools

PROMIRE project–Promoting zero-deforestation in cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d’Ivoire

SCREAM–Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and Media

SDG–Sustainable Development Goal

SWIA–sector-wide impact assessment

WHO–World Health Organization

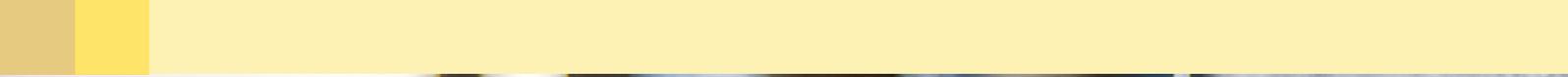
WIND–Work Improvement Neighbourhood Development

WFP–World Food Programme

UNESCO–United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF–United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund

USDOL–United States Department of Labour



# Executive summary

## Background

**Child labour is a serious violation of human rights, and yet many vulnerable families worldwide engage their children in work as a survival strategy.** The figures from the 2020 International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) global estimates are alarming: almost one in ten of all children worldwide is engaged in child labour, and the **largest share remains in agriculture, with 112 million children** in total – 70 percent of all child labour (ILO and UNICEF, 2021). Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to other crises, has led to school closures and has caused an unprecedented decline in economic activity and loss of jobs all over the world, hitting agriculture and food systems hard and increasing the risk of pushing more children into child labour (ILO and UNICEF, 2020).

**2021 was the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour**, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in light of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7, which seeks to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025. If the world is to achieve this target, a strong new momentum and commitment are required, with the involvement of agricultural stakeholders and their partners, to alleviate poverty and hunger. Ending child labour is a prerequisite to achieving zero hunger and ensuring sustainable agrifood systems.

In 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) released the FAO Framework on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture, and in January 2021, the Organization pledged to intensify action to end child labour in agriculture. As part of this pledge, FAO launched a Global Call for Action on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture with the help of Agricultural Stakeholders, followed by regional workshops in the second half of the year and a Global Solutions Forum on 2–3 November.

## The Global Solutions Forum: acting together to end child labour in agriculture

FAO organized a forum in order to provide an opportunity to hear about and explore solutions: many promising approaches have been piloted deserving more attention and have yet to be disseminated amongst a wider audience. These are solutions that also come from agrifood systems stakeholders who are rarely heard when we talk about child labour elimination.

On 2–3 November 2021, to mobilize global action and highlight concrete solutions to eradicate child labour in agriculture, FAO, in close collaboration with the ILO and in partnership with **the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA)** and **the Alliance 8.7**, organized a high-level virtual event: **the Global Solutions Forum (GSF)**. The objectives of the GSF were to raise the voices and commitment of agricultural stakeholders, share game-changing solutions, and identify ways to step up concerted action to prevent and end child labour in all agricultural subsectors. The outcomes of the event are

expected to inform the Fifth Global Conference on Child Labour in 2022, along with other global initiatives such as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming.

The GSF built on the results of the Global Call for Action and the regional workshops. It brought together 78 panellists from over 40 countries, representing a wide range of stakeholders engaged in agrifood systems (ministries of agriculture, fisheries, livestock and forestry, producers and farmers' organizations, workers' organizations, development banks, businesses, civil society and academia). Children, youth advocates, and former child labourers were given a chance to voice their concerns and share their experiences. This document presents key messages and highlights from the forum.

### Key messages from the opening and closing sessions

The high-level opening remarks converged into a call for greater collective and coherent leadership and action at global and national levels to address the root causes of child labour and achieve target 8.7, in particular in the agricultural sector. There was an agreement on the need to focus more attention and resources on rural areas and rural families, and to take a holistic and cross-sectoral approach, to protect children and young people and ensure families do not have to rely on child labour for their livelihoods. This holistic approach needs to combine a set of concrete measures adapted to each context, including developing and implementing appropriate and effective legal frameworks, ensuring decent incomes and universal social protection for rural families, improving access to free and quality education and skills building for youth, and promoting sustainable agrifood value chains free from child labour.



The high-level opening dialogue for children and with children was an opportunity for children to voice their concerns and raise questions on best practices to end child labour in agriculture. Some examples of solutions that were presented are as follows:

- > **The European Union's** proposal for a new legislation on sustainable corporate governance aims to ensure due diligence and to contribute to ending child labour. The European Union has also committed to dedicating a least 10 percent of its development funding to improving education for youth, especially for girls and especially in rural areas.
- > **The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)** supports and strengthens organizations of workers and farmers, and trade unions to address child labour and ensure decent work in agriculture. IUF advocated for fair wages and prices, universal social protection, health and safety at work and decent youth employment.

- > **The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** addresses child labour in agriculture through a multipronged approach by tackling rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, enhancing the productive capacities of smallholders, and empowering women and youth, with special attention to those aged 15–17. IFAD is also including child labour considerations in its new social, environment and climate assessment procedures. In addition and as a follow-up to the Food System Summit, IFAD is leading the development of a coalition of action on decent work and living incomes, which includes a strong focus on contributing to SDG 8.7.
- > **Tony's Chocolonely** is a mission-driven Dutch chocolate company that is aimed at making the chocolate industry slave-free. The company is leading by example. It invests in farmers' organizations and commits to work with farmers for a minimum of five years, strengthening their cooperatives, improving their farming practices and buying their cocoa beans at a higher price, based on the Living Income Reference Price. In addition, the company has a strong child labour monitoring and remediation system in place at the community level that involves families, teachers, local leaders and many others.
- > **The Pan-African Farmers' Organization** acknowledges that producer organizations can be the drivers of change by supporting farmers to enhance their livelihoods, facilitating access to financial services and labour-saving technology, but also by raising awareness of families on child labour and promoting gender equality, and putting in place monitoring systems.

**“All children have to remain hopeful, treasure education and speak out. It's a matter of empowering children and youth, giving them a platform to engage and speak about their opinion.”** Molly Namirembe, a former child labourer and youth advocate in Uganda

**“If you educate a woman, you educate an entire nation, so we believe that empowering women will help them to give their kids the best they have.”** Kamasa Dorothy Azimi, Founder of the Center for women and food security in Ghana

**The high-level closing remarks** iterated the urgent need to act together, with clear policies and programmes, and with cross-sectoral and industry-wide collaboration. The Global Solutions Forum demonstrated that all the stakeholders engaged in agrifood systems are playing or can play a role to prevent child labour. It showed that solutions exist but need to be scaled up, with more resources and attention directed to vulnerable families, and monitoring systems to learn from what works and where. Child-labour-sensitive investments in agrifood systems have the potential to accelerate progress at scale.

In addition, the Alliance 8.7 provides a platform to enhance commitments, collaboration and cross learning. In line with its mandate, FAO will continue to collaborate with agricultural stakeholders and partners and increase its efforts, in particular through the launch of a multi-partner facility for the elimination of child labour in agriculture.

## Key messages and solutions from the technical sessions

While there are no one-size fits all solutions, below are some key messages and solutions that came across the different technical sessions of the Global Solution Forum:<sup>1</sup>

- > **There is a need to close the data gap on child labour across agricultural subsectors.** Disaggregating child labour surveys by subsector, carrying out sector-wide assessments with a human-rights based approach, multistakeholder consultations, and youth-led action research will all contribute to building evidence, which is essential to raising awareness, initiating dialogue and designing appropriate action. This requires countries to have systems in place (data collection, inspection, reporting) and the capacity of national and local stakeholders.
- > **A multisectoral and systemic approach to addressing child labour in agriculture requires better coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders** engaged in agrifood systems, both vertically and horizontally, within a country, at the local and national level, but also at the regional and global level (value chains). Sharing good practices is important, but those remain scattered and need to be scaled up and translated into national programmes to ensure they reach all those in need in a sustainable manner.
- > **Policies and legal frameworks related to agricultural subsectors need to integrate child labour prevention.** This means translating ILO conventions (No.138 on Minimum Age, No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No. 184 on Safety and Health in Agriculture) into national policies, integrating the specificities of agricultural subsectors in national labour laws and lists of hazardous work, integrating child labour prevention in sectoral policies and collective agreements, and in trade rules, making use of existing international guidelines such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-

FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains among others.



- > **Preventing child labour in agriculture requires complementary policies and programmes, covering agriculture, health, education and social protection.** Such complementarities include notably the combination of measures for sustainable management of resources with social protection, the access to free and relevant education for children and skills building for adolescents combined with support for families' livelihood (including in emergency programmes), and the ban of highly hazardous pesticides combined with capacity development in integrated pest management.

<sup>1</sup> More detailed solutions from each session can be found in the next sections of the document.

> **The process to develop, update and implement these policies, frameworks, and programmes should be inclusive and engage all relevant stakeholders in particular communities, producers and workers organizations.** In the same way, the voices of children and youth should be heard (their needs, their challenges and their ideas). Good governance and accountability are important, and **producers and workers' organizations in particular need to be strengthened** to engage in social dialogue at local, national and global levels. Civil society and international organizations such as ILO, FAO, IFAD and IUWAVE can play an important role in facilitating those processes.



- > **Awareness raising and capacity building need to be enhanced at different levels, with a focus on prevention.** This can notably be done by engaging a diversity of stakeholders such as labour inspectors, extensions agents from agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock departments, local authorities, farmers/producers, workers, families and children, employers, suppliers, as well as those working on education and health. It remains important to ensure there is a clear understanding of what child labour is (the difference between child labour and children involved in light, age-appropriate work), the risks for children, the consequences on poverty and sustainability, and the importance of education.
- > **Multiple approaches and channels can be used to raise awareness and identify concrete alternatives: community-based dialogue and engagement involving everyone** (men, women, youth, children), media campaigns, user-friendly materials in local languages, and digital applications. It is important to engage families, youth and children in the design of those materials to increase uptake. Communities, producers' and workers' organizations, and teachers have important roles to play in the identification and monitoring of child labour, and in finding collective solutions.
- > **Policies and awareness raising are not enough and need to be complemented by a mix of concrete actions.** It is not enough to recognize that there is child labour without offering practical alternatives to families. These may include solutions to reduce and redistribute labour, the introduction of labour-saving and low-cost technologies or community labour support groups, good agricultural practices as alternatives to pesticides, providing access to free and relevant education for children and vocational training for youth aged 15–17, promoting gender transformative approaches and women's empowerment in all interventions, and including fair prices in contract farming and ensuring decent wages to workers.

- > **Social protection interventions are part of the solutions to ensure families can face and go through crisis without resorting to child labour.** They should be designed as a package tailored to address the range of vulnerabilities faced by rural families in different contexts. They may include school feeding, cash transfers, livelihood support and income generation activities with access to markets (and fair prices), literacy and numeracy for children and adults, and access to vocational and entrepreneurship training for youth. This is critical, particularly in the context of the double current crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.
- > There is increasing pressure on the private sector to be more proactive and to comply with human rights obligations. **The new European Union legislation on sustainable corporate governance may be an opportunity for companies to do more and apply not only safeguards but also measures that address the root causes of child labour by supporting the livelihoods of rural producers.** In the same way, there are untapped opportunities to eliminate child labour in agriculture through investment programmes by integrating child labour dimensions in risk assessments and targeting areas and communities with a high prevalence (or risk) of child labour.



# Highlights of sub-sectoral solutions

## Solutions to child labour in fisheries and aquaculture

### Context – What is at stake?

While specific data on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture remains scarce, child labour appears in all stages of aquatic food production and processing and is particularly widespread in the small- and medium-scale sectors of the informal economy. The root causes of child labour in fisheries are multidimensional. Specific to the sector are the issues of overfishing and declining fishing stocks, which lead to lower profitability and income variability of small-scale operations, ultimately increasing the vulnerability of fishing communities and risks of child labour.

### Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. **The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in Cambodia** integrated child labour prevention in its national fisheries legal frameworks and action plan. The government developed a five-year action plan on Gender Equality Promotion and Child Labour Elimination in the Fisheries Sector 2016–2020 focused on capacity building of fisheries officers, awareness raising of fishers' families, and livelihoods' support. National Guidelines on Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries were also developed, in line with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and International Labour Organization (ILO) Guidance on Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture. **A working group on gender and child labour was established at the national and local level to enhance multistakeholder coordination;** a member of the Council and Community Fisheries Committee was designated as responsible for women and childhood actions. This multistakeholder approach was essential to advocate and translate these frameworks and plan into action. ([Kaing Khim, Deputy Director-General, Fisheries Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of Cambodia](#))
2. **The Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies** carried out a sector-wide impact assessment (SWIA) of the fisheries sector in Bangladesh. The SWIA approach is a comprehensive holistic assessment of human-rights impacts, which combines in depth data generation with legal and policy analysis, stakeholder interviews, focus groups and dialogues at local and national levels. The assessment uncovered situations of child labour and identified drivers such as high poverty rates and significant gaps in the legal framework. The results of the assessment facilitated a dialogue with different stakeholders and generated solutions, e.g. raising the voice of fisheries' communities, strengthening institutional mechanisms for inspection, providing stipends and grants to facilitate children's access to education, raising awareness on occupational safety and health, and ensuring fishers are registered so they can access social protection.

(Sille Stidsen, Chief Adviser, Danish Institute for Human Rights; Rezoanul Haque Azom, Senior Officer Planning and Monitoring, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies)

3. In Brazil, the **unemployment insurance programme Seguro Defeso** was implemented in 1992 as a result of demands from social movements and fisher folks' organizations to protect fishers' livelihoods during the closed season period. Fisher folks get a minimum wage during this period. An assessment of the programme's impact shows that combining better resource management measures (closed season) and social protection is an efficient strategy to prevent the use of negative coping strategies such as child labour. Evidence indicates that the greater the household's exposure to the programme, the higher the percentage of children enrolled in school, in addition to a lower proportion of youth (18–26 years old) out of school and out of work. (Daniela Kalikoski, Fisheries Industry Officer, FAO; Fabio Veras, Researcher, International; Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, Brasilia)
4. The introduction of the **FAO-Thiaroye processing technique (FTT) ovens for fish smoking in Côte d'Ivoire through the Cooperative for Fishery Products Traders and Processors** has demonstrated numerous positive impacts on women and children's lives. This technology removed health hazards related to smoke and reduced the time needed to smoke fish and the amount of wood used (reducing the need to collect wood). It also improved the quality of the product, which could be sold at a better price. With the additional incomes, women have been able to establish a childcare centre next to their processing site and send their children to school; and the cooperative is now exporting its dried fish internationally. (Micheline Dion, President, Cooperative for Fishery Products Traders and Processors from Cote d'Ivoire)

### Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- **Strong legal frameworks and coordination:** (1) Integrate child labour prevention in fisheries policies and legal frameworks, and fisheries considerations in the national labour law and list of hazardous work, making use of existing international guidelines such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication, and the guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture; and (2) enhance coordination, awareness raising and capacity building among difference stakeholders at different levels to ensure effective implementation of policies and legal frameworks.
- **Good governance and accountability:** (1) Engage (and strengthen) fishers' organizations in the design, implementation and review of policies, legal frameworks and plans; and (2) establish clear and transparent criteria and modalities on who benefits from what.
- **Holistic approach:** (1) Combine measures that ensure sustainable management of resources (closed season), and (2) support livelihoods diversification and provide social protection.
- **Need for increased cooperation:** Foster a closer cooperation between FAO and ILO in regards to fisheries and aquaculture.

The session was moderated by Audun Lem, Deputy Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO.

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# How sustainable forestry can prevent child labour

## Context – What is at stake?

Forestry is the agricultural sector with the least data on child labour, as most reports do not distinguish forestry activities from other agricultural activities. Activities often take place in remote areas and may be conducted in an informal, and sometimes illegal, way. This situation increases the vulnerability to exploitation and thus the risks of children to engage in child labour. The few studies that look at child labour in forestry observe those children engaging in a range of activities from the collection of non-wood forest products to logging and nursery work, some of which may be considered child labour (exposure to hazardous work and abuse, and school dropout). The main drivers are poverty, lack of livelihoods opportunities, deforestation and forest degradation, and insecure land tenure.

## Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. **The Global Climate Fund (GCF)** provides financing to developing countries in eight sectors including forestry. The entities accredited by the GCF are required to meet the organization's environmental and social policy requirements, which sets out the risk-based approach for identifying, assessing and managing environmental and social risks of programmes funded. One of the guiding principles of the policy relates to labour and working conditions, including compliance with labour laws, fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunities for workers, child labour and forced labour. Projects need to **integrate child labour considerations in their initial risk assessment, develop measures to address child labour**, if this is one of the risks identified, and report on progress in their annual performance report. ([Veronica Galmez Marquez, Ecosystems Management Senior Specialist, Green Climate Fund](#))
2. One of the objectives of the **PROMIRE project (Promoting zero-deforestation in cocoa production for reducing emissions)** in Côte d'Ivoire is the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through the establishment of agroforestry systems and forest restoration. The project, funded by the GCF, must align with different frameworks on child labour: national and international frameworks, and donors' safeguards policies. During the project development phase, an in-depth risk assessment was carried out. Amongst different identified risks, child labour was identified as one of the main risks. Concrete mitigation actions and dedicated resources were included in the project plan to manage potential child labour issues in the project area. Actions include capacity building of the project team on safeguards (gender, child labour), development of partnerships with local NGOs to sensitize local communities, commitment with producers not to use

child labour in order to access technical and financial support (immediate exclusion if not applied), and the development of child labour-related indicators to be included in the national safeguard information system of Côte d'Ivoire. ([Minoarivelo Randrianarison, Forestry Officer, FAO](#))

3. **The Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers (GhaFFaP)** raises awareness of its members on what child labour is and its associated risks, as well as legal implications, and advocates for children, in particular girls' education. In addition, GhaFFaP plays an important role in addressing the root causes of child labour by supporting its members to achieve improved standards of living, with the provision of a range of services: savings and credit schemes, skills training and empowerment of women and youth, organization of "labour support groups" to avoid resorting to children when additional labour is needed, supporting members to get labour-saving technologies, and collaborating with local governments to improve access to social protection and other support schemes. ([Hajia Alima Sagito, Deputy Coordinator and Adedolapo Alabi, Youth Leader, Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers](#))
4. **A Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)** is a legally binding trade agreement between the European Union and a timber-producing country outside the European Union, which aims to combat illegal logged timber and increase overall forest-sector transparency. These agreements require the respect of local communities' rights, national and international laws including decent work and child labour, as well as fairer benefit sharing and better livelihoods for families. The agreements are negotiated and implemented through a multistakeholder deliberative and participatory process in which the communities and civil society can raise their concerns, discuss solutions and review progress. These processes could be an entry point for raising awareness on child labour and integrating remediation measures where needed. ([Matthieu Yela Bonketo, Founder and Chair, Cercle pour la Défense de l'Environnement](#))
5. The project "**Measurement, awareness-raising and policy inclusion to accelerate action against child labour and forced labour (MAP 16)**", is funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and implemented by ILO in Kosovo,<sup>2</sup> in support of the Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7. The project enhanced collaboration in addressing child labour between different ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development (MAFRD). Initial workshops were organized with forestry inspectors from the Forest Agency to identify together specific actions to mainstream child labour in national policies. As a result, a series of solutions and actions were agreed upon; for example, the Kosovo Forest Agency included a clause on prohibition of hazardous child labour in the standard text of contracts issued by the agency to private contractors, with the list of prohibited activities for children annexed to the contracts; the MAFRD is planning to include awareness raising on hazardous child labour in forestry in its regular campaigns on forest protection, and to integrate a specific clause on prohibition of hazardous child labour in the amended Forestry Law. ([Lindita Boshtrakaj, Project Coordinator, ILO Kosovo](#))

<sup>2</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

## Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- Continue sharing and exchanging good practices to address child labour in forestry.
- Collect more disaggregated data, figures and knowledge generation on child labour in the forestry sector.
- Integrate child labour considerations in programmes' risk assessment, allocating resources for relative mitigation measures.
- Integrate explicitly child labour in national laws and frameworks on forestry, including in processes such as Voluntary Partnership Agreements.
- Ensure the direct involvement and participation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development (like the MAFRD in Kosovo) in the main processes for setting the legal and policy framework for prevention and elimination of child labour. This is an important pre-condition for its increased commitment towards preventing and eliminating hazardous child labour in forestry and agriculture.
- Focus on, along with strengthening social protection networks, the urgent need to address ingrained attitudes and perceptions about the roles of children in rural areas, to eliminate family dependency on child labour, and to promote decent employment for youth.
- Take concrete actions at local level, beyond policies and laws, to raise awareness on child labour and associated risks, and to support local communities, in particular those that may be depending on child labour for their livelihoods (e.g. through social protection, fair wages for agricultural workers and fair prices for producers, decent employment opportunities for youth and so on).

The session was moderated by Justin Chisenga, Knowledge/Information Management Officer, FAO.



# Solutions to child labour in crop farming

## Context – What is at stake?

According to the latest International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) global estimates, hazardous work accounts for a substantial portion of family work (28.6 percent for 5–11 year olds, and 47.2 percent for 12–14 year olds). Family farming is by far the most prevalent form of agriculture in the world, with over 90 percent of all farms run by families (ILO and UNICEF, 2021). It is also where high rates of poverty are found. While age appropriate engagement in family farming can contribute to the child acquiring valuable skills, some work can expose children to hazards that can be harmful. The impact of child labour in family farming can undermine its own capacity to exist and can render it unfeasible and unsustainable. Child labourers can also be found at all stages of agricultural value chains. Do no harm and voluntary approaches are important but have proven to be insufficient to transform “business as usual”.

## Part 1 – Family farming

### Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. **The Rotterdam Convention** is a legally binding international instrument to share responsibilities and exchange information to protect human health and the environment from potential harm. Through this Convention, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) facilitates dialogue among various national stakeholders (ministries of agriculture, environment and labour, and pesticides control boards), collects data to inform decisions at the international level, and supports integration of child labour considerations in national risk assessments of pesticides. User-friendly visuals developed by FAO and ILO on the protection of children from pesticides have proven successful tools to build awareness of extension workers, rural educators, farmers and their families, and to help identify and minimize risks at home and on the farms. ([Christine Fuell, Coordinator of the Rotterdam Convention](#))
2. Recent research from **the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)** in seven developing countries (Africa, Asia) indicates that labour-saving technologies such as agricultural mechanization can increase agricultural productivity and farmers’ incomes and reduce the need for labour and child labour. The results of the research show that mechanization reduces the probability of child labour by five to ten percent if machines substitute manual work but can increase child labour if mechanization leads to an expansion of farm activities. Policies that foster mechanization in agriculture need to be child labour-sensitive in order to avoid negative effects and need to be implemented in combination with other interventions to improve rural livelihoods (incomes and services)

in order to be more impactful. (Rob Vos, Director of Markets, Trade and Institutions Division, IFPRI)

3. **Farmer field schools (FFS) are an effective channel to raise farmers' awareness on child labour in agriculture and identify practical alternatives.** In Burkina Faso, in the context of the Clear Cotton project, the topic of child labour prevention was included in the curricula of FFS, and training was provided to project staff, extension agents, and cotton companies. Awareness raising on child labour happened in parallel to the technical training, to clarify the notion of child labour in each phase of the production cycle. This was helpful to make a collective diagnosis of the situation, and to discuss, explore and apply solutions, for example, reducing the use of pesticides, preventing children's exposure to pesticides and diversifying sources of income in order to pay for farm workers when needed. (Tiko Hema, Responsible Monitoring Evaluation and Training, FAO)

### Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- Raise awareness on child labour at all levels by making use of and adapt existing tools like the FAO/ILO visuals. Awareness raising needs to be combined with practical and comprehensive solutions for farmers and their families (alternatives to pesticides, income generating activities, access to free and quality education, social protection and so on).
- Increase the availability of labour-saving technologies, such as mechanization, to reduce farmers' reliance on child labour while increasing their agricultural productivity.
- Listen to farmers and design solutions with them to ensure uptake, taking their views to national and international platforms in order to inform policies and programmes and scale up what works.
- Include strategies to address child labour in national plans on family farming (leveraging the UN Decade of Family Farming).

The session was moderated by Guilherme Brady, Head of Unit, Family Farming and Engagement with Parliamentarians, FAO.

## Part 2 – Responsible agricultural value chains

### Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. Achieving zero child labour along value chains requires a holistic approach, decent living incomes for families, and obligations for companies to respect human rights, no matter where they operate. **The German parliament adopted the Human Rights Due Diligence Law** that requires companies headquartered in Germany to fulfil their human rights and environmental due diligence duties with regard to their supply chains. This is in line with the forthcoming European legislation for responsible supply chains. In parallel, **the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** supports producing countries and producers, not only to comply with regulatory environments, but also to take advantage of these regulations and ensure sustainable livelihoods for their producers and communities,

providing living income and fair wages that allow for a decent standard of living and can prevent child labour. BMZ is also engaged in the **Living Income Community of Practice** where stakeholders exchange their best practices. (Sebastian Lesch, Head of Division, Sustainable Agriculture Supply Chain, International Agricultural Policy, Agriculture and Innovation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany)

2. **The Asunafo Cocoa Farmers Union** from Ghana brings together 9 547 farmers. The organization tackles child labour in a comprehensive manner. It focuses on community awareness and engagement through local radio campaigns and a child labour monitoring and remediation system. The union monitors the presence of child labour with the support of community facilitators and provides remediation initiatives. These initiatives focus on improving farmers' income through Fairtrade certification and contracts with sourcing partners at premium prices, diversification of opportunities for farmers, and training women on income-generating activities like soap making and bread making, but also on supporting children's access to education and vocational training for young people. The partnerships with local partners and with international companies Tony's Chocolonely and Mondelez's Cocoa Life are important to support these initiatives. (Patrick Owusu, Manager, Asanuo North Farmers Union, Ghana)
3. **The Clear Cotton Project** is co-funded by the European Union and implemented by the ILO in collaboration with FAO in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan and Peru. The project combines integrated area-based and value-chain approaches and is built on a close cooperation with governments, social partners, local farmers, community leaders, industries and international buyers. It addresses child labour through different action areas: research, national policies, institutional capacity building, awareness raising, children's access to education and vocational training, and strengthening livelihoods of cotton growing households. The project has been successful in withdrawing children from the field and providing them with education opportunities. Close collaboration between ILO and FAO and bringing together all stakeholders was crucial to achieving progress. (Badra Alawa, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO)

## Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- The solution lies in the “smart” mix of law enforcement and livelihood support, linking obligations for companies and concrete actions to support producers; the collaboration between the public and the private sector is decisive.
- Upscaling a living income approach benefitting producers at the upper end of agrifood value chains would improve their income security and decrease their reliance on child labourers. In addition, increased traceability, transparency and remediation in agrifood value chains is needed, e.g. through better complementing direct observation practices with block chain-based monitoring systems.
- Pilot initiatives that have proven successful need to be scaled up with national legislation and programmes; they can also be replicated and adapted to other value chains beyond cocoa and cotton.

The session was moderated by Friedel Huetz-Adams, Senior Researcher, SÜDWIND.

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# How addressing pastoral vulnerability can prevent child labour

## Context – What is at stake?

Data on child labour remains limited in pastoralism, but existing reports indicate that children start herding and caring for livestock at a very young age and are often out of school due to their mobility. Pastoral communities experience different types of vulnerabilities due to economic and climate shocks, and related variability and uncertainty. They also have no or limited access to basic services, notably education, health services, access to clean water and social protection. This situation has an impact on the prevalence of child labour.

## Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. **Understanding pastoral vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms and how those affect livelihoods' options and child labour.** The way roles are assigned to children and youth, and the rationale for integrating them as soon as possible into the economic activity, are both based on the families' strategies to secure pastoral systems and their livelihoods. Pastoral communities are facing increasing challenges (transformation of rural areas, reduction in rangelands, land rights that do not recognize shared uses and mobility, chronic insecurity and droughts) that push families towards survival strategies including child labour. A combination of measures needs to be in place to tackle these vulnerabilities and prevent child labour, for example, ensuring living incomes for pastoral families (access to social protection, access to markets, protection against imports of subsidized products); strengthening the right to mobility; supporting livelihoods diversification and employment opportunities for youth; providing a “legal” status to adult shepherds, providing education in a form that is adapted to mobility (mobile schools, boarding school); and improving the coherence between agriculture, pastoralism, education and social protection programmes. (Véronique Ancy, Expert on Livestock and Poverty Reduction in Pastoral Areas, FAO)
2. **The (agro)Pastoralist Field Schools (PFS)** are an adaptation of the Farmers Field School approach, where capacity is developed from existing local knowledge. The facilitators of PFS move with the pastoral communities. This approach was applied in Kenya and Uganda as a component of a wider initiative to deal with the drought risk faced by pastoral communities and to build their resilience (preventing the use of child labour as a coping strategy). Families learn about improved livestock management, milking and milk preservation techniques, and animal disease. Specific modules are targeting young people and women focusing on income-generating activities (e.g. vegetable growing) with the aim to diversify livelihoods. The PFS approach is implemented in complementarity with other activities such as access

to animal health services, market access, conflict management over natural resources, and village savings and loans. The combination of these measures has resulted in an increase in families' incomes, more children going to school and parents demanding support from local authorities to facilitate access to education. (Paul Opio, Livestock Officer, FAO Kenya)

3. **The Pastoralist Livelihoods and Education Field Schools (PLEFS) approach was applied in South Sudan, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).** It combines livelihood interventions with an education component. Building on Pastoralist Field Schools (PFS), it provides a practical entry point and platform to improve pastoralist knowledge and skills and combines community managed disaster risk reduction, income generation activities and Village Community Banking with basic education, functional literacy and numeracy. The PLEFS develop three curricula: for children (English, math, science and so on), for youth (children curriculum and entrepreneurship skills), and for adults (livestock management, crop production, literacy and numeracy). The education component is flexible, delivered at campsites, with mobile teachers and community facilitators. The initiative resulted in children's improved literacy and numeracy skills; some children have been able to transition to formal education. Awareness on the value of education was enhanced, and young people were sent herding to enable children to attend school. (Jasper Okodi, Programme Specialist, FAO South Sudan)
4. **The Measurement, Awareness-Raising, and Policy Engagement (MAP) 16 project implemented in Mauritania by ILO supported the elaboration of a national action plan for the elimination of child labour (PANETE RIM).** Based on the high prevalence of child labour in agriculture, the government decided to elaborate a specific action plan for addressing child labour in the sector (PANETE RIM2). Some of the measures implemented in the context of this action plan include raising awareness of agricultural stakeholders on child labour, its root causes and consequences; implementing the SCREAM<sup>3</sup> approach to promote awareness among young herders about children's rights; developing short videos in local languages; supporting the establishment of a database of cases of children in hazardous work to propose remediation measures and inform policies; and advocating for the revision of the "certificate of transhumance". (Aboubakry Dieng, Project Coordinator, ILO Mauritania)
5. **Youth-led research and advocacy. With the support of the VoiceMore programme, young people of Rutshuru, North Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), conducted their own research on recruitment and use of children as cattle herders.** Based on the research results, the youth group organized awareness-raising and advocacy activities with local stakeholders and community members to discuss alternatives and end child labour in their area.

<sup>3</sup> SCREAM: Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media

## Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- More data on child labour in pastoralism is needed to inform policies and design interventions adapted to the pastoralism context, bringing together different actors, for example, livestock and education to explore best solutions to facilitate access to education.
- Combining awareness raising activities with livelihoods support, women's empowerment, and free education will help break the vicious cycle of dependence on child labour.
- Wide awareness of children's rights, including by children themselves, is needed, together with capacity building of agricultural extension officers who are the key information disseminators to farmers.
- Good practices such as pastoralist field schools have proven successful in improving livelihoods and increasing children's education, but these remain too scattered. More investment is needed to mainstream these good practices in national extension systems and programmes.

“Children and youth need to learn and build their skills to take charge of themselves in their adult life. We need to build many schools everywhere to support free education.”  
(Quote from young people of Rutshuru, DRC)

The session was moderated by Omar Benammour, Social Protection Officer, FAO.

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# Highlights of cross-sectoral solutions

## Promoting gender equality to prevent child labour

*Session co-organized by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

### Context – What is at stake?

The prevalence of child labour in rural areas is higher for boys than for girls, but the inclusion of household chores significantly reduces the differential. Rural girls work is often “invisible”. Gendered child labour leads to the reproduction of gender discrimination patterns in agriculture. Women play a vital role in the nurturing and upbringing of children but face a range of challenges to access economic opportunities. They are not paid for their labour in family farms and are often in low-skilled and low-paid wage jobs. In addition, increased household income does not automatically result in better welfare of the family if power and decision-making remain unequal.

### Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. **The National Union of Co-operative Movement and Allied Workers in Uganda** advocates for better wages and improved bargaining power of women workers. The union provides capacity building for women to build their confidence to access the labour market, apply for better-paid jobs and demand better working conditions. In addition, the union carries out awareness raising on gender equality, focusing on the need to value both women’s and men’s labour, for women to be paid for their agricultural labour and to receive a share of the sales of agricultural products. (Juliet Kutwabwana, Organizing and Education Secretary, National Union of Co-operative Movement and Allied Workers, Uganda)
2. **The Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP) in Zimbabwe** mainstreamed gender in all its programme components. The programme used the **Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Methodology**, a household empowerment methodology to facilitate intrahouseholds’ dialogue around how work is shared, how decisions on production and marketing are made, and how incomes generated are shared and allocated. The application of this methodology resulted in a redistribution of household work, enabling young women and girls to attend school and study. The programme was also successful in reducing girls and women’s work and time poverty through the introduction of labour-saving technologies, for example, efficient stoves (time spent on collecting firewood reduced by 60 percent) and climate smart practices. The programme’s assessment indicates that the introduction of GALS contributed to increased agriculture productivity, household incomes, and children’s schooling. The methodology was adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Women Affairs. (Maggie Makanza, Gender and Social Protection Specialist, FAO)

3. **The Rural Women Network in Kenya** is a platform for rural women smallholder farmers with the main focus being poverty alleviation through agriculture production and food and nutrition security. The Network builds women's leadership capacity and skills in climate-smart and conservation agriculture, including practices that reduce their workload and the need for labour (e.g. zero tillage). The network also facilitates women's linkages to information, markets and financial services. Their work demonstrates that when women are economically empowered, their confidence and their influence within the household and at community level increase. Empowering women has a multiplier effect on families, children's well-being and schooling. ([Pauline Kariuki, Director, Rural Women Network](#))
4. **The Dimitra Listeners' Clubs** are voluntary, informal groups of women, men, youth and children through which participants discuss common problems and determine ways to address them by acting together and using local resources. In Mali, the clubs have demonstrated the important role of community engagement in triggering changes in mindsets and behaviours and in taking action for the elimination of child labour. The implication of the whole community including local authorities was key. As a result, adults and children are now able to define what child labour is. The clubs developed their own list of hazardous work for children and tasks not to be carried out by children under 18 years old. They established monitoring committees and proposed sanction measures. Women and girls have now an equal voice with men and boys. More children (girls and boys) are now going to school, and some youth clubs have set up a self-managed saving and credit group. The funds are usually used to start small income-generating activities. ([Sidi Kone, Assistant Agronomist, FAO Mali](#))

### Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- Individual and community-based awareness and dialogue is very important to change mindsets and practices towards ending child labour involving everyone, women and men, and girls and boys, in the conversation. Make use of or develop user-friendly awareness tools (drawings, videos, theatre) in local languages to enhance understanding of everyone in the community.
- Including gender transformative approaches such as GALS, in agriculture, livelihoods and food security programmes would help to tackle the root causes of gender-based discriminations and empower women.
- Recognizing that child labour exists is not enough. Increased awareness needs to be combined with practical solutions to reduce household poverty through income-generating activities and with solutions to reduce, redistribute and redefine labour (for example labour-saving technologies).
- Good practices should be scaled up (e.g. GALS methodology adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Women Affairs in Zimbabwe).

The session was moderated by Silvia Sperandini, Gender, Targeting and Social Inclusion Specialist, and included the participation of David Karorero, member of the Youth Sounding Board of the European Union Commission.

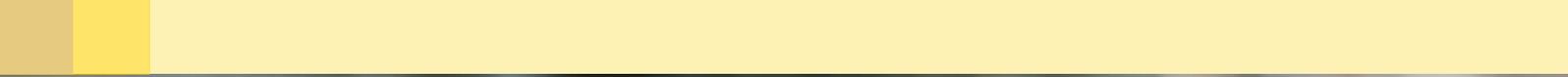
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# Closing the generational gaps and supporting relevant education in rural areas

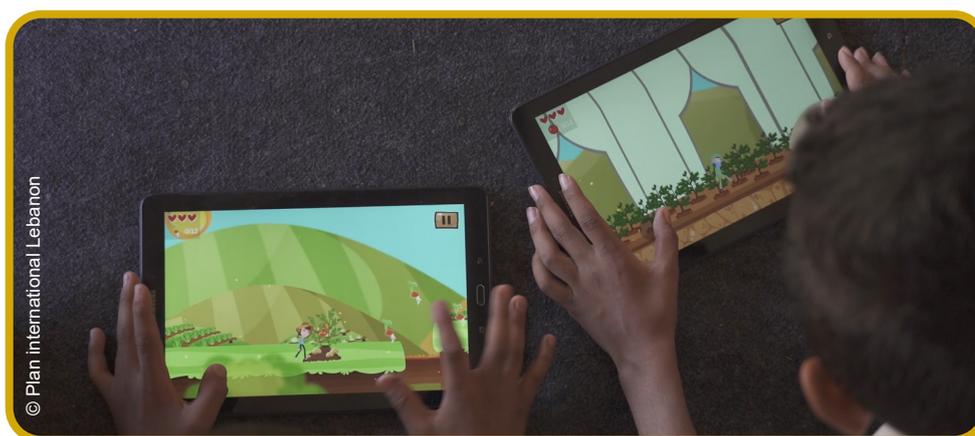
## Context – What is at stake?

While safe and age-appropriate forms of working can add to children's skill development, it is well established that child labour is harmful and detrimental to children's wellbeing, health, education and future employment. In regard to education, child labour can interfere with children's schooling but also with learning achievements; less attention has been given to the latter. Reasons that can impede families from investing in education include poverty, lack of access to quality and affordable schools, cultural norms (especially in relation to girls' education) and low return on investment. School closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated the situation with a higher risk of permanent school dropouts and child labour.

## Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. In Uganda, the Global March Against Child Labour has implemented an initiative called **seeds for education**. It includes different components: awareness raising of the risks of child labour and the importance of education, support to farmers' livelihoods through the provision of seasonal quality seeds (maize, beans, cabbage and tomatoes), and training on good agricultural practices. A portion of the farmers' land is used for growing these seasonal crops for the school feeding component, and food is also grown on the school premises with the support of the school staff. The initiative targets vulnerable households and fosters the participation of families and communities, who are taking charge of monitoring and preventing child labour and school dropouts, through a Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) rooted in an area-based approach. The results are encouraging, and Global March is engaging with stakeholders at the district and national level to advocate for the approach, good practices and components of the school feeding programme to be upscaled at the national level. This will ensure that all children in rural areas are going to school with at least one meal a day. ([Gazal Malik, Programmes and Advocacy Manager, Global Supply Chain Specialist, Global March Against Child Labour](#))
2. In Lebanon, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the support of Plan International developed the **REEFI game**, a free mobile IOS and Android application for cell phones and tablets. REEFI (which means "my rural place" in Arabic) aims to raise awareness and promote occupational safety and health in agriculture for rural children and youth. The game focuses on hazards in fields, orchards and greenhouses, and explains related safety measures. It is designed for players, children and youth to become

transformative agents and convey messages of good and safe agricultural practices around them. The game was developed and tested in consultation with over 120 girls and boys, most of them engaged in agriculture with their parents or as daily workers in greenhouses. The children had the opportunity to provide their inputs and solutions, which were considered in the final version of the game. A follow up survey was conducted and showed that the messages included in the game were acquired by most of the children. ([Elissa Alhassrouny, Child Protection Specialist, Plan International, Lebanon](#))



Source: Image from REEFI testing in El Kaa Center, Lebanon.

- 3. The World Food Programme (WFP) in Egypt addresses child labour through a school feeding and education programme**, which includes a package of interventions: school feeding, family incentives, access to quality education and technology, as well as livelihoods support and income generation activities for women. WFP applies a child-centred approach, conducting vulnerability assessments and engaging families in the design and planning of solutions. The provision of in-school snacks and take-home rations serve as incentives for families to send their children, especially girls, to school (children who attend a minimum of 80 percent of school days each month are entitled to the take-home ration). In addition, the programme enhanced the capacity of labour inspectors and teachers (Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and Media [SCREAM], in collaboration with the International Labour Organization [ILO]) and supported women’s economic empowerment (vocational trainings, micro loans and income-generating activities). Finally, the programme is equipping community schools with technological tools and internet to enhance digital learning. Schools are also serving as “community hubs” for knowledge sharing and community awareness. The programme has positively impacted the lives of children, especially girls, and communities, and has proven the importance of a holistic approach and the close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) and the Ministry of Education. ([Marianna Barsoum, Social Protection Specialist, World Food Programme Egypt](#))

## Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- Raise the awareness of families and children in rural areas through the use of media campaigns, such as using radios. This can be a good option, especially where internet is not available. In the medium-long term, promote higher brand connectivity in rural areas.
- Listen to the views of children and equip them with the skills to become associated with the development of action plans and solutions to prevent and eliminate child labour in agriculture.
- Combine food security and school attainment outcomes through the upscaling of school meal supplies.
- Raise awareness at the community level on the importance and the benefits of children's education, with particular emphasis on girls.
- Encourage and support teachers to become champions of communities; they are not only facilitators in a classroom, but they can be influential in the dialogue with families to send their children to school.
- Document good practices (area-based approach, child-centred approach, REEFI mobile app) to inform governments and advocate for scaling up and replication with context adaptation as needed.

The session was moderated by Dominique Marlet, Senior Rights Coordinator, Education International.

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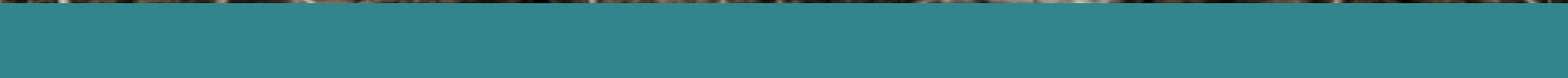
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# Integrating child labour considerations in public and private investments programmes

## Context – What is at stake?

Investment programmes in agrifood systems are neither gender nor child labour blind. Child labour represents an important opportunity cost to investments as it hinders rural and agricultural development efforts and it perpetuates intergenerational poverty. Investing in poverty reduction, rural development, and sustainable food systems can contribute to the elimination and prevention of child labour. Official development assistance will not be enough. International financial institutions and development banks together with agricultural stakeholders, in particular governments, can play a key role in tackling the root causes of child labour, by considering how they invest in rural development, agriculture and the food sector.

## Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. Addressing the root causes of child labour requires systemic thinking, a cross cutting approach and multistakeholder dialogue involving agriculture, labour, and education actors, among others. **The Clear Cotton project and the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative funded by the European Union** are good examples of multistakeholder approaches that involve governments, private sector, civil society communities, trade unions and other stakeholders. But to end child labour globally, it is important to go beyond agriculture, value chains and rural development into more cross-sectoral food systems and territorial approaches. It is also about de-risking value chains. This requires a blend of interventions and instruments. The European Union has committed to dedicating 20 percent of its development funding from 2021 to 2027 for human development and ten percent to education. The European Union is also proposing a new legislation on sustainable corporate governance to ensure due diligence contributes to ending child labour. Coordinated efforts with different global and national partners and a strong social dialogue are needed to support countries, communities and companies through this mix of interventions. (Leonard Mizzi, Head of Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries Unit, European Union)
2. One of the pillars of the **World Bank Environmental and Social (ESS) Framework focuses on labour and working conditions (ESS2)** and includes considerations on preventing the use of all forms of forced labour and child labour. The World Bank has been using the ESS framework to build the capacity of governments, in particular from low- and middle-income countries to address the issue of child labour. About 40 percent

of the bank’s agriculture and agribusiness investment portfolio is directed to value chain development, which means working directly with smallholders and SMEs. Based on a global review of interventions addressing child labour in value chains, the bank identified success factors to inform its investments and developed internal operational guidance notes and training materials. The bank is now applying these learnings to mitigate child labour risks in their projects. To address child labour in agriculture and in society at large, it is essential to take a cross-sectoral approach and “connect the dots” (rural development and transformation, health, education, transparency and traceability) and this requires building a coalition among all stakeholders. (Christopher Ian Brett, Lead Agribusiness Specialist, The World Bank Group)

3. In 2018, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the Fund Against Child Labour. The fund provides finance for Dutch businesses to do research on the root causes of child labour in their production chains, and to take action to prevent child labour at the local level. It also provides advice to improve companies’ due diligence. Applicants are required to build a partnership with local parties – NGOs or businesses. While the funds are limited, they are intended to incentivize additional private investments in addressing the root causes of child labour and to trigger changes in companies’ cultures. The fund has been successful in raising awareness and helping companies assess the situation in their value chain; a midterm review is expected to provide more information on impacts. (Wieneke Vullings, Head of Sustainable Production and Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands)
4. Verstegen Spices & Sauce is a Dutch company that benefited from the Fund Against Child Labour. The company had included child labour considerations in its code of conduct and purchasing conditions with suppliers. In addition, the funds received and the collaboration with a local NGO enabled the company to do research on child labour along their supply chain and get a more in depth understanding of what was happening at the local level. One of the findings was that eliminating child labour requires working on transparent supply chains and joining forces with others – even competitors. The company has improved its due diligence making use of the Due Diligence Toolkit for Responsible Business Conduct and enhanced its dialogue with suppliers to ensure that no child labour is taking place in the cultivation of herbs and spices. A dialogue with other local stakeholders, families and governments is also important to build trust and identify appropriate solutions. As an example, the company is implementing programmes to combat poverty and ensure the living incomes of smallholders. At the international level, the company works with the Sustainable Spice Initiative. (Marianne van Keep, Director of Sustainability & Purchasing, Verstegen Spices & Sauce)

## Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- To accelerate progress, it is essential to promote and ensure cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches, dialogues between producing countries and consumer countries and coalitions of like-minded partners.

- It is essential to assess child labour risks systematically when designing investment programmes and along value chains.
- Be more transparent about the problem, the solutions and progress. More research is needed to explore the potential of block chain technology to enhance transparency.
- Child labour is a precompetitive problem globally; the private sector needs to unite and focus on these issues and share learnings within their respective associations.
- International financial institutions have an important role to play in de-risking agricultural value chains in a way that can be a game-changer for ending child labour; there is an opportunity to combine European Union regulatory approaches and taxonomy on sustainable finance, with adequate mechanisms to channel funds in a way that tackles child labour. Trades policies can also be another entry point to ensure compliance with social sustainability standards.
- Support governments and build their capacity to integrate child labour considerations in policies and budgets, across different sectors (agriculture, education, health and so on).
- Address poverty, as the main root cause of child labour, by focusing on living incomes and empowering local communities.
- Document good practices, impacts and progress on the ground; advocate for what works to be scaled up, and flag what is not working and needs to change.

The session was moderated by Ida Christensen, Technical Advisor, FAO Investment Centre.

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# How to ensure healthy and safe working conditions for all

## Context – What is at stake?

Much of the work that children carry out in agriculture is not age appropriate and is likely to be hazardous or interfere with their education and overall development. In rural areas, farmers and their families often lack access to health, information, training services and personal protective equipment, required to adequately respond to health hazards. In addition, deaths, injuries and occupational diseases in the agricultural sector tend to be widely under reported and misdiagnosed. The 2020 International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) global estimates on child labour indicate that 48.1 million children (43 percent of all child labourers) are involved in hazardous work in agriculture.

## Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. **Mozambique has been successful in reducing the use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHP) by implementing new legislation.** The process started with a review of all pesticides authorized in the country against HHP criteria and a field survey with farmers in seven provinces. The findings of the survey showed that farmers rarely used personal protective equipment when applying pesticides, and the majority reported some symptoms and signs attributed to pesticide exposure. Children were also often found selling pesticides on the streets. A multistakeholder meeting including the government and private companies was organized to present those findings. The discussions resulted in a collective decision to ban 30 active ingredients (in place since 2014). This process demonstrated the importance of providing evidence of the risks of HHP and engaging the government and the private sector to ensure collective buy-in and the effective implementation of the ban. In parallel, awareness-raising activities were carried out with farmers on safe use of authorized pesticides and protective measures. The suggested next step is to harmonize legislation in the region to address the issue of HHPs at scale. (Khalid Cassam, National Project Coordinator Mozambique, FAO)
2. **Mali adopted a national plan to eliminate child labour (PANETEM) in 2011.** In this context and based on the results of research on child labour in agriculture, a plan of action was developed. The Ministry of Agriculture took the lead in the implementation of the planned activities in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and other stakeholders. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Labour collaborated through the National Child Labour Unit to develop visual tools and training materials and to build the capacity of labour inspectors and agricultural extension workers. Child labour considerations were introduced in the curricula of farmer field schools, which

have proven to be efficient platforms to promote the adoption of new technologies and practices (e.g. training of work oxen, mechanized rice planters and seeders, integrated production and pest management, and pooling and sharing of equipment and services). These actions were complemented by projects to promote income-generating activities to enable families to improve their income, send their children to school and hire agricultural workers. ([Amadou Cheick Traoré, Deputy Director of the National Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Mali](#))

3. **Involving youth in research and awareness raising campaigns to improve safety at work for children above the minimum legal age for employment in agriculture.** The **Wake Forest School of Medicine in North Carolina, USA**, conducted community-based participatory research on the health and safety of hired Latino child farmworkers. The research involved young people as co-investigators to collect data on the use and exposure of child farmworkers to pesticides, using special wristbands. Based on the results of the research, infographics on risks and preventive and protective measures were developed in Spanish and English and used to raise awareness of child farmworkers. The testimony of Maria, a former child farmworker, showed how her participation in the research and awareness raising activities was transformational. She developed her advocacy, social and leadership skills, and is now a youth advocate and a college student. She highlighted the importance of respecting and listening to children and youth and engaging them in conversations about addressing child labour. ([Taylor J. Arnold, Public health researcher, Wake Forest School of Medicine in North Carolina, USA](#))
4. **Educating farmers and agricultural workers with a focus on prevention.** The **General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU)** works to promote the rights of workers in agriculture in Ghana, including the rights to safe working conditions. This is done through different approaches: GAWU works with employers to ensure that collective agreements are in place and include measures to create a safe working environment for workers; the union also works at farm level to raise cocoa farmers' and workers' awareness on the dangers of agrochemicals and of preventive measures. Finally, GAWU advocates for the enforcement of the ILO Convention 184 on Safety and Health in Agriculture to be translated into national policies and programmes on safety for workers in agriculture. ([Andrews Addoquaye Tagoe, Deputy General Secretary, GAWU](#))
5. **A Rotterdam Convention survey was conducted in Jamaica on accidental pesticide poisoning in farming communities.** The findings of the survey indicated that most farmers do not use protective equipment and that toxic pesticides are an “accepted occupational hazard”. Awareness raising has not proven to be sufficient to change practices (“Farmers do not have a choice, whatever kills the pest, we have to use, because we need to provide for our families”, quote of farmer). One of the solutions is the removal of hazardous pesticides available on the market and the promotion of effective alternatives. Another complementary strategy is the introduction of a community pesticide applicator, an adult that will be in charge of applying and storing pesticides in the community. This person would be trained and certified by both extension services and the pesticide regulatory agency and can be provided with the proper personal protective equipment. A pilot training was conducted in Jamaica with a group of people from different farming communities, but

no follow-up information is now available. (Michael Ramsay, Pesticide specialist, Jamaica)

6. The WIND (Work Improvement Neighbourhood Development) approach, developed by ILO, is an integrated and participatory approach for farmers and their families to improve occupational safety and health (OSH) in their work and daily lives. The approach enables all actors working in the same geographic area to assess risks and discuss how to prevent and manage them and encourages peer learning. As a result of the application of the WIND methodology in Motoko, Zimbabwe, farmers and their families increased their appreciation of risks in their working and living environment and identified mitigation measures. Among other changes, families have redesigned their workstations to make it safer for all including children (storage of tools and so on) and constructed a washing bay to wash their agricultural produce in clean water. (Halim Hamzaoui, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, ILO)

### Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- Generate more data and better reporting on incidents, injuries and occupational diseases of agricultural workers and small-scale farmers.
- Promote collaboration and joint activities with extension workers and labour inspectors, and promote dialogue between all stakeholders (including the private sector and communities).
- Make use of and disseminate user-friendly visual tools on hazards and preventive measures, and introduce health and safety in training curricula for rural youth
- Remove HHP from the market, and propose concrete alternatives to farmers, like integrated production and pest management.
- Advocate for companies to look into their supply chains and support their suppliers in providing safe working conditions for all.

The session was moderated by Andrea Rother, Professor, Head, Environmental Health Division, School of Public Health and Family Medicine University of Cape Town, South Africa.

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# Empowering and building the skills of youth aged 15–17

*Session co-organized by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

## Context – What is at stake?

Children between 15 and 17 years old need specific attention, as they have reached the minimum legal age for employment in most countries. They are in an important physiological and mental developmental phase and are thus especially vulnerable to hazardous work and abuse. This is also a decisive stage in terms of transition from school to work that can determine future employment prospects and earnings. They often fall through the cracks of both child labour prevention and youth employment programmes and policies that often focus on entrepreneurship.

## Solutions: A sharing of experiences

1. **The Caravela Coffee company in Guatemala has developed the PECA programme (Grower Education Programme) to provide extension services to coffee farmers and their families, promote best production practices to increase the productivity and quality of their coffee, and ultimately generate higher incomes. Another objective of Caravela Coffee is to attract young people and build the future generation of coffee farmers, by providing them with training and showing them that producing and marketing coffee can be highly rewarding and profitable if done well (building the capacity of youth not only as producers but managers). Caravela Coffee collaborated with FAO in the Nueva Generacion Cafetaleira (New Coffee Generation) initiative targeting children and youth of local small-scale coffee producers (16–29 years old). In the context of this initiative, the company offered internship opportunities to youth. (Ronald Omar Pivaral Cruz, Project Manager, Caravella Coffee)**

The testimony of Beatriz Mendoza, who benefited from this initiative, showed that it was successful in building her skills, making the coffee sector more attractive and providing economic opportunities. Beatriz has started two businesses with other youth and is working for a coffee company.

2. **France has developed a unique agricultural vocational training system based on a dual apprenticeship approach (time shared between training centres and companies) open to youth aged 16 to 29. Young people sign an employment contract with the company; they have the status of employee and as such receive a salary. They are mentored by a dedicated supervisor and receive a professional degree at the end of the process. The curricula proposed are very diverse: crop farming, livestock, fisheries, horticulture,**

forestry, environment, animal health, food processing, landscape and so on. About 93 percent of youth get a job in the four months following obtaining the degree, some in the company in which they did their apprenticeship. The success of the approach lies in the tight relationships with the private sector: companies contribute to the financing of the training centres and host apprentices. (Philippe Renard, Head of European and International Relations and Cooperation, General Education and Research Department, Ministry of Agriculture of France)

3. **The junior farmer field and life schools (JFFLS) in Uganda** targets children and youth from 10 to 24 years old from households directly or indirectly affected by HIV and AIDS and by food insecurity. The JFFLS methodology follows a “living classroom” approach in which children learn about food and nutrition security and acquire age-appropriate farming and livestock skills throughout the growing season, in addition to social skills. The JFFLS had positive impacts on children’s lives: children’s perception of agriculture changed, their diets improved, and they used the income from the sale of the crops to pay for school fees and school supplies. The project included a component on functional adult literacy, which provided a good platform to sensitize adults on child labour and the importance and value of education, especially for girls. As a result, parents are less resistant to sending and keeping their children in school. In addition, capacity building on climate smart agriculture and income-generating activities enhanced the families’ livelihoods and removed the need to resort to girls’ and boys’ labour. (Micheal Lokiru, Programme Officer - Crop Production/Agronomist, FAO Uganda)
4. **The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-funded programme Rural Youth Vocational Training Employment and Entrepreneurship Support (FIER) in Mali** targets young people, making a distinction between those aged 15–17 and those aged 18 and above, and taking into account gender considerations. Activities implemented for the first group focused on providing vocational training based on existing economic and job opportunities. The priority for the second group was income-generating activities and entrepreneurship. The project has worked closely with parents to ensure their buy-in and support their children in the process. It has proven successful in reducing rural migration of youth and improving their skills and employability; 30 percent of them have received financial support at the age of 18 to start an economic activity. (Lamine Diassana, FIER Project Coordinator, IFAD Mali)

## Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

Blessings (Zambia, 14) and Juliet (Kenya, 16), members of the **Children’s Advisory Committees (CAC) of the Dialogue Works Campaign**,<sup>4</sup> shared their perspective on the challenges faced by children and asked panellists their insights on how to support and incentivize children to remain in school instead of going to work to support their families. Suggestions from the panellists included:

<sup>4</sup> www.dialogue-works.com. Dialogue Works aims to strengthen dialogues between working children and relevant stakeholders.

- facilitating girls and boys aged 15–17 access to skills–development activities, making it attractive for them (practical, technology and job prospects);
- sensitizing families (adults and youth) on the importance and value of education; and
- supporting families, in particular women, to develop income–generating activities and access social protection to remove the need for children to work.

Other solutions included:

- changing the perception of youth on agriculture by introducing technology, communicating about the range of carriers that exist in agricultural value chains and the food system at large, sharing success stories and showcasing role models; and
- including a gender lens in programmes, sensitizing families on the importance of girls' education and providing alternatives to early marriage.

The session was moderated by Thomas Wissing, Head, Advocacy and Partnerships Unit, ILO.

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# How to integrate child labour prevention in humanitarian contexts

## Context – What is at stake?

Economic, climate and conflict related crisis all contribute to higher risks of child labour. One in every four children worldwide lives in a country struck by conflict, fragility and disaster. Some regions are more affected such as sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab States region (ILO and UNICEF, 2021). In contexts of crisis, children and their families are in great distress, and one of the effects is the high risk of resorting to child labour, including its worst forms. Agriculture has the potential to provide food security, livelihoods and decent work, thereby mitigating the effects of crisis on child labour.

## Solutions: A sharing of experiences

- 1. Integrating the prevention of child labour in agriculture in emergency programmes.** In the context of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has provided trainings to agricultural stakeholders on rebuilding secure and sustainable agrifood systems. This was done in collaboration with the Child Protection Working Group and the Livelihoods Working Group. Various entry points and solutions for addressing child labour were identified: organizing awareness-raising sessions with farmers and communities with a focus on occupational safety and health, promoting income-generating activities and extending social protection to farmers (e.g. through farmers' registries), engaging youth aged 15–17 in technical agricultural skills interventions, and improving law enforcement on child labour. Bringing all relevant actors and working together has proven instrumental to address child labour in agriculture in this context of emergency. (Ellie Choueiri, Programme Officer, FAO Lebanon)
- 2. Addressing child labour and building resiliency of rural communities to climate change and natural disasters.** The ICCO cooperation in Bangladesh supports rural communities in coastal regions. More than half of the soils in these areas has already been affected by soil salinity, resulting in food insecurity and increased use of child labour in the shrimp industry as a coping mechanism. In response, the project trained members of the community as “barefoot salt doctors”. These “doctors” measure the soil salinity, distribute seeds of saline-tolerant vegetables, and provide advice on management to small-scale farmers. The project also raised awareness of families on the importance of education. As a result, vegetable production and incomes have increased and the incidence of child labour in these communities has decreased. Beyond this programme, the discussions around climate justice bring an opportunity to include child labour considerations into the conversation. (Shakeb Nabi, Country Representative, ICCO Bangladesh)

3. **Strengthening coordination between development and humanitarian actors.** World Vision International implemented the PACE programme (Partnership Against Child Exploitation) in Ethiopia bringing together development and humanitarian actors. In order to address low school enrolment, trafficking of children, and health hazards for children engaged in agriculture (for example, in khat production), the PACE programme has worked with agricultural stakeholders, raising the awareness of horticulture, floriculture and khat producers on child labour and developing joint action plans at the Woreda (local) level. The approach focused on advocacy and discussion among stakeholders to build local engagement. As an outcome, the resilience of agricultural communities has been enhanced. (Azeb Lemma Dulla, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, World Vision International Ethiopia)

### Solutions: Highlights and key messages by panellists

- It is important to continue exchanging and sharing good practices and upscale training on how to prevent child labour in agriculture in emergency and humanitarian contexts.
- It is important to improve access to climate-resilient seeds to prevent food insecurity driven by climate-related shocks.
- Ending child labour requires multistakeholder engagement and increased coordination, both vertically and horizontally.
- Education should be free and accessible, and resilience should be the overarching framework (covering various aspects of vulnerability).
- It is important to strengthen institutions, empower communities and adopt child labour prevention as an opportunity for synergy between development and humanitarian interventions.

The session was moderated by: Shukri Ahmed, Deputy Director Emergency and Resilience Unit, FAO and Indira Joshi, Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer, Emergency and Resilience Unit, FAO; the discussion was facilitated by Silvia Oñate, Child Protection Expert, Plan International.

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# Highlights of regional sessions

## Latin America and the Caribbean

Approximately 6 percent or 8.2 million of all the region's boys and girls are in child labour, 48.7 percent of whom are engaged in agriculture.

### Main solutions from the online regional workshop that took place on 29 September 2021

- Prevent and eliminate all forms of hazardous work for children of legal working age.
- Invest in free and quality education opportunities, filling connectivity gaps in rural areas and ensuring a return to school for all children, without discrimination.
- Strengthen knowledge generation and synergies between child labour prevention and climate adaptation programmes in rural areas.
- Mainstream a gendered child labour lens in all public and private investment programmes on agricultural development and food systems.

### Selected experiences shared during the Global Solutions Forum

1. **Chile has developed a National Strategy for the Eradication of Child Labour and Protection of Adolescent Workers and established a list of national hazardous work for children under 18 years of age.** The recent National Rural Development Policy (2019) is intended to increase opportunities, improve living conditions through enhanced access to education, health, digital connectivity and infrastructure and improve livelihoods, ultimately addressing the root causes of child labour. This policy brings together 19 different ministries. Solution: A holistic approach is crucial to address child labour and requires collaboration and coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders, between public and private actors and civil society. ([María Emilia Undurraga, Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture of Chile](#))
2. **Research shows that climate change related shocks (e.g. droughts and floods) are associated with increased probability of child labour with different impacts on boys and girls.** Solutions: investing in new varieties of seeds resistant to droughts and floods, developing infrastructures to collect water and land use policies to reduce deforestation and degradation, improving agricultural infrastructures and productivity (e.g. mechanization, storage facilities for farmers' crops), and increasing access to financial services, social protection and education. ([Alberto Posso, Professor of Economics, Researcher and Director, Centre for International Development of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology](#))

**Link to the report of the regional event:** FAO. 2021. *Taller Regional de la FAO sobre la eliminación del trabajo infantil en la agricultura: “Hacer de América Latina y el Caribe el primer continente libre de trabajo infantil” 29 de septiembre 2021*. Rome. <https://www.scribd.com/document/536506908/Informe-Taller-Regional-FAO-Eliminacion-trabajo-infantil-agricultura-FINAL-revLA>

This regional session was moderated by Benjamin Davis, Director of the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO.

## Africa

In sub-Saharan Africa, 86.6 million boys and girls are in child labour, and 82 percent of those children are engaged in agriculture, mostly on family farms.

### Main solutions from the online regional workshop that took place on 29 September 2021

- sustained partnerships and increased coordination among various agricultural stakeholders;
- increased investment in agricultural finance – public and private – to address persistent vulnerabilities in rural areas and in the context of crisis (e.g. COVID-19, climate change);
- investment in innovative practices and technologies and digital systems that promote mechanized agriculture and reduce reliance on children, and implementation of social protection schemes to address poverty.

Key outcome of the regional workshop: a pledge from the African Union Commission to include child labour indicators in its biannual review

### Selected experiences shared during the Global Solutions Forum

1. **Fairtrade Certification of farmers includes social, environmental and economic requirements.** The social requirements include child labour prevention and remediation measures. Fairtrade supports farmers through capacity building of farmers, workers and local communities and authorities, control systems, involvement of children and youth in the identification of risks and solutions, discussions around living incomes and wages, and provision of Fairtrade premium funds, which are being used for children’s education ([Lilian Maina, Social Compliance and Risk Manager, Fairtrade Africa](#)). Solutions: Have actors across the value chains invest in addressing child labour issues and empower farmers; call for governments to have national action plans in place and have enough budget to implement them.

2. **The solution that Hello Tractor is bringing is mechanization to smallholders to enhance productivity and incomes.** The company makes use of technology to organize the last mile market and make service delivery efficient and affordable to reach smallholders ([Jehiel Oliver, Founder and CEO, Hello Tractor](#)). Solutions: Call for small smart commercial sustainable and scalable investment across niche areas such as mechanization of agriculture.

**Link to the report of the regional event:** FAO. 2021. *Accelerating action to help to end child labour in agriculture in Africa: FAO Conference for Africa, Virtual Event - 29 September 2021*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB6869EN/>

This regional session was moderated by Benjamin Davis, Director of the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO.

## Near East and North Africa

Approximately 7 million boys and girls are in child labour in the region (ILO and UNICEF, 2021). Conflict, refugee crises, COVID-19 and climate change, are concerning factors that can harm the livelihoods of rural communities.

### Main solutions from the online regional workshop that took place on 16 September 2021

- awareness raising and capacity building, including in schools, on hazardous work for children;
- partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture to address some of the root causes of child labour, such as livelihoods and productivity in the agricultural sector;
- financial assistance and social protection in rural areas;
- active engagement of rural women in policy and legislation to ensure that their voices and experiences are reflected;
- development of a nationwide program for pesticide sustainability management.

### Selected experiences shared during the Global Solutions Forum

1. **Youth and youth organizations can play an important role in addressing child labour in agriculture in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture** through different activities: national and local awareness campaigns; community programmes to tackle poverty, e.g. education, skills development and access to finance for youth; and social protection and improved working conditions ([Ala Mustafa, Chief Executive Officer, Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network](#)).

2. **National legislation has been established to address child labour.** Beyond legislation, it is important to work in the field, at the family level through concerted efforts among stakeholders. The Ministry of Agriculture has organized trainings for farmers (men and women) on pesticides' risks and management, raising awareness on the importance of children's education. In addition, the government is implementing the Good Living programme to enhance families' revenues ([Hala Abou Youssef, Director Central Agricultural Pesticide Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt](#)).

**Link to the report of the regional event:** FAO. 2021. *Strengthening efforts of agricultural stakeholders to address child labour in agriculture in the Near East and North Africa region: Regional report*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7259en>

This regional session was moderated by Mina Dowlatchahi, Director, Project Support Division, FAO.

## Asia and the Pacific

Agriculture accounts for 58.7 percent of all child labour in Central and Southern Asia and for 56.6 percent in Eastern and South eastern Asia (ILO and UNICEF, 2021).

### Main solutions from the online regional workshop that took place on 28 September 2021

#### Reflecting on opportunities:

- making rural development and agriculture policies labour sensitive, and increasing knowledge on drivers and solutions for child labour prevention;
- rural employment in family farming.

#### Four main areas of policy intervention:

- social protection for rural households;
- sustainable agriculture;
- livelihood improvement;
- cross-sectoral policies and strategies.

### Selected experiences shared during the Global Solutions Forum

3. **The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF)** works on addressing challenges faced by agricultural farmers and workers that can affect child labour. Some examples include advocating for a guaranteed minimum wage for agricultural workers on farms and plantations, to ensure

piece rates do not create that compulsion to mobilize child labour; supporting farmers' organizations to increase their bargaining power to negotiate fair prices and advocating for governments to guarantee and protect crop prices; extending social protection to rural areas to avoid family debt, which may lead to child labour; and improving occupational safety and health for all, including removing hazardous pesticides; and advocating for governments to ratify the ILO convention 184 and translate it into national and local policies. (Muhammad Hidayat Greenfield, Regional Secretary for the Asia/Pacific Regional Organization, IUF)

4. **The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) roadmap on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2025**, adopted in 2020, provides an intersectoral framework for cooperation and brings opportunities to scale up concerted efforts. These opportunities include enhancing coordination on addressing child labour in rural development, education and decent work under one framework; increasing the impact of rural employment and poverty reduction programmes on child labour (child-sensitiveness and targeting vulnerable households); promoting research on root causes of child labour; and advocacy and capacity building of members states on child-labour-sensitive rural development policies and programmes. One good practice is found in Lao People's Democratic Republic: the Ministry of Agriculture is one of the most active implementers of the national action plan against child labour. The Office of Advancement of Women's and Children's Affairs is mandated to review all proposals from the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure gender and child (including child labour) markers are well attended to. (Bharati Pflug, Senior Specialist on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ILO Decent Work Technical Team for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific)

**Link to the report of the regional event:** FAO. 2021. *Accelerating action to help to end child labour in agriculture in Asia: Regional Workshop on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture, 28 September 2021: Regional report*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb7135en>

This regional session was moderated by Mina Dowlatchahi, Director, Project Support Division, FAO.

## Europe and Central Asia

5.7 percent of child labour happens in Europe and Central Asia, accounting for 8.3 million boys and girls. While the disaggregation of data is blurry, between 3.6 and 4.8 million children work in agriculture.

### Some pointers for policy action (regional workshop to be organized)

- Promoting decent work for parents, ensuring living wages that are sufficient for families to meet their basic needs (and more);
- creating a well-designed and sustainable social protection strategy that helps rural families manage risks and deal with economic shocks;

- learning from efforts in Uzbekistan, where child labour has virtually been eliminated in the cotton sector;
- improving access to education and skills development, e.g. developing the skills of rural youth.

## Selected experiences shared during the Global Solutions Forum

**Two International Labour Organization (ILO) projects have resulted in the reduction of child labour:** in Uzbekistan addressing child labour in the cotton industry, and in Turkey addressing child labour in the hazelnut value chain. Both projects demonstrated the importance of multistakeholders' collaboration and coalitions with a strong engagement of the private sector (**Maurizio Bussi, Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, ILO**).

This regional session was moderated by Benjamin Davis, Director of the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO.

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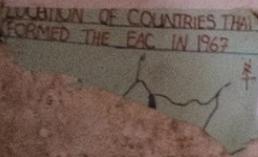
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## Conclusion note

The content of this report is expected to inform the Fifth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in 2022, along with other global initiatives such as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, and to inspire stakeholders engaged in agrifood systems to replicate what works and work together towards achieving SDG Target 8.7.

REMI ADYAKA BEA... HEL... TATO REMI A



09.03.2021

ENGLISH

LANGUAGE STRUCTURE

Using ... though ...

Though is a structure that can be used at the beginning and the middle of a sentence.

When though is used, a comma is to be used.

Though means that the statement is true but the one is also true.



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