

# Stop Trafficking!

## Awareness Advocacy Action

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter • September 2021 • Vol. 19 • No. 9

*FOCUS: In the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor, we focus on the many ways children are exploited to provide consumer goods and services in this issue and in the October newsletter.*



### INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

The United Nations declared 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor as an opportunity to address the challenges posed by COVID-19 and as a means to accelerate progress towards the goal set by Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7.

Target 8.7 urges Member States to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern

slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 to end child labor in all its forms. The International Labor Organization (ILO) collaborates with the Alliance 8.7 global partnership to encourage legislative and practical actions to eradicate child labor worldwide. The International Year will prepare the ground for the V Global Conference on Child Labor (VGC) that will take place in South Africa in 2022, where stakeholders will share experiences and make additional commitments towards ending child labor in all its forms by 2025 and forced labor, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2030.

Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age of Employment recognize the right of every child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to interfere with the child's education or harm the child's health.

The number of children involved in child labor has declined by one-third since 2000. However, progress has slowed and has been uneven across regions, age groups, and sectors in recent years. Almost half of child labor happens in Africa, followed by Asia and the Pacific. Seventy percent of children in child labor work in agriculture, mainly in subsistence and commercial farming and livestock herding. Almost half of all these children work in occupations or situations considered hazardous for their health and lives. In addition, the ongoing COVID-19 health pandemic threatens to drive more children into child labor.

## Child Labor: Almost 1 of every 10 children worldwide are involved in child labor

Child labor is defined by the International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment. It is any labor that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, which is harmful to physical and mental development. It includes employment below the minimum age as established in national legislation. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially, or morally dangerous and harmful to children. It also interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. Over sixty percent of child labor victims are boys. However, the number of girls is underreported because they're often involved in "hidden" forms of work, such as domestic labor. Factors that increase the likelihood of child labor include poverty, discrimination, urbanization, crop failure, lack of access to education, migration, and incomplete social protection systems.

The latest global estimates indicate that 160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys – were in child labor globally at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 in 10 children worldwide. About half of them (79 million) perform hazardous work that places their health, safety, or moral development at risk. Seven in ten children in child labor are working in agriculture. Child labor isn't limited to developing countries. Half of the affected children live in middle-income countries, and the problem is more prevalent in countries experiencing conflict and disaster. In addition, a third of children in child labor are entirely outside the education system, and those that do attend do not perform well.

# Awareness



Not all work done by children should be classified as child labor.

Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is usually positive. It includes helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business, or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience and help prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

Forced labor is defined by ILO Convention 29 as all work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily. Approximately 4.3 million children work in forced labor, including children in debt bondage, slavery, and commercial sexual exploitation.

A child's age, the type of work, and the hours of work performed are determining factors in whether a particular form of work can be classified as child labor.

Generally, unsafe child labor practices are defined in part by the number of working hours for a specific child's age. Hazardous child labor includes:

- ♦ Any of the worst forms of child labor: including excessively long hours, night work, work with heavy machinery, or work that takes place underground or underwater
- ♦ Any labor performed by a child under the age of 12
- ♦ More than 14 hours of work, per week, by a child aged 12-14
- ♦ More than 43 hours of work, per week, by a child aged 15-17

## The worst forms of child labor

The worst forms of child labor involve children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses, and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age. Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182 defines the worst forms of child labor as:

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

## Hazardous child labor

Hazardous child labor or hazardous work is the work that, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm children's health, safety, or morals. Article 3 of ILO Recommendation No. 190 defines hazardous work activities that should be prohibited as:

- ♦ work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
- ♦ work underground, underwater, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
- ♦ work with dangerous machinery, equipment, and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
- ♦ work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
- ♦ work under conditions such as for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the employer's premises.

## Effects on children

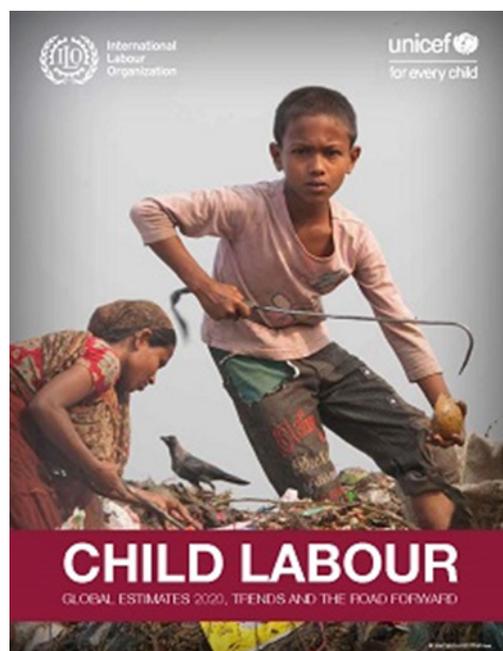
There are several ways that child labor can affect children, and these can vary depending on which industry the child is working in. Generally, child laborers can suffer from long-term health problems due to malnutrition, exposure to chemicals, abuse, injuries, exhaustion, and psychological harm.

In agriculture, children may be exposed to toxic pesticides or fertilizers. They work with dangerous blades and tools and carry heavy loads. In mining, children may use poisonous chemicals, face the risk of mine collapse, and sometimes work with explosives. In construction, children may carry heavy loads, work at heights without safety equipment, and risk injury from dangerous machinery. In manufacturing, children may use toxic solvents, perform

repetitive tasks in painful positions, and risk injury from sharp tools. In domestic work, children risk abuse, work long hours, and often live in isolation from their families and friends. Moreover, latency must be considered, i.e. there may be a much-delayed health effect to exposures to certain harmful chemicals such as lead and mercury.

Children who work often do not receive a proper education. Long, strenuous workdays can leave kids exhausted and unable to attend classes or do their homework. For parents struggling to keep their families afloat, sending kids to school is a luxury they cannot afford.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



## Child Labor: Global Estimates 2020, trends, and the road forward, released on June 10, 2021,

reports on the status of the global effort to end child labor. The report is published by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), co-custodians of target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with child labor estimates produced by the ILO every four years since 2000, the report is based on extrapolating data from national household surveys, covering two-thirds of the world's population of children aged 5 to 17 years.

Global progress toward ending child labor has stalled for the first time in two decades. Without urgent mitigation measures, the COVID-19 crisis is likely to push millions more children into child labor.

Global progress against child labor has stagnated since 2016. The percentage of children in child labor remained unchanged over the four years while the absolute number of children in child labor increased by over 8 million. Similarly, the percentage of children in hazardous work was almost unchanged but rose by 6.5 million children in absolute terms. The

global picture masks continued progress against child labor in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean, where child labor has decreased over the past four years.

Meanwhile, in sub-Saharan Africa, there has been an increase in both the number and percentage of children in child labor since 2012. As a result, there are now more children in child labor in sub-Saharan Africa than in the rest of the world combined.

It is estimated that 8.9 million more children will be involved in child labor by the end of 2022 due to rising poverty driven by the pandemic and through school closures that deny families the logical alternative to sending children to work. However, the actual impact of the pandemic on child labor will depend on social protection coverages.

### Other key results from the 2020 global estimates include:

- ◆ Involvement in child labor is higher for boys than girls of all ages. In absolute numbers, boys in child labor outnumber girls by 34 million. When the definition of child labor expands to include household chores for 21 hours or more each week, the gender gap in prevalence among boys and girls aged 5 to 14 is reduced by almost half.
- ◆ Child labor is much more common in rural areas. The prevalence of child labor in rural areas (13.9 percent) is three times higher than in urban areas (4.7 percent).
- ◆ Most child labor – for boys and girls alike – continues to occur in agriculture. Seventy percent of all children in child labor, 112 million children in total, are in agriculture. Moreover, many are younger children, underscoring agriculture as an entry point to child labor. Over three-quarters of all children aged 5 to 11 in child labor work in agriculture.
- ◆ The largest share of child labor takes place within families. Seventy-two percent of all child labor and 83 percent of child labor among children aged 5 to 11

# Awareness

occurs within families, primarily on family farms or in family microenterprises. Family-based child labor is frequently hazardous despite common perceptions of the family as offering a safer work environment. More than one in four children aged 5 to 11 and nearly half of children aged 12 to 14 in family-based child labor are in work likely to harm their health, safety, or morals.

- ♦ Child labor is frequently associated with children being out of school. A large share of younger children in child labor is excluded from school despite falling within the age range for compulsory

education. This lack of education severely constrains their prospects for decent work in youth and adulthood and their life potential overall.

## Conclusions of Report

The 2020 ILO-UNICEF global estimates indicate a critical juncture in the worldwide effort against child labor. Unfortunately, global progress over the last four years has already slowed considerably compared to the four years before that. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis threatens to erode past gains further.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## What Leads to Child Labor

Like so many other issues in the world, the root cause of child labor is poverty. Children often work because their survival and the survival of their families depend on it.

Lack of education can also impact children. Parents may not understand or see the value of their child receiving an education instead of working. In a crisis such as COVID or a natural disaster, the death of one or both parents can force children into hazardous work to survive. Also, chronic issues such as drought or famine can leave families in dire circumstances where working to survive is one of the few options. Many children are forced to leave school due to war and then are forced to work.

The demand for low prices and cheap obedient labor can trap children in hazardous work. Finally, child labor is sometimes the result of ingrained customs and traditions. For example, parents view work as suitable for children because it helps them build character and develop skills. In addition, some societies hold a practice that a family's debt is paid off through child labor.



## Child Labor on Farms in the United States

In the United States, the National Human Trafficking Hotline reports that 16% of labor trafficking cases involved children.

Children are found working in agriculture, construction, domestic labor, commission-based sales, the drug trade, and other industries. Many of the victims of child labor are homeless or in foster care or are unaccompanied children who crossed the border into the United States.

Unfortunately, the United States has seen a steady increase in child labor and trafficking in recent years due to lax labor laws and enforcement. In addition, some industries, such as agriculture, are exempt from any standards set forth by the Fair Labor Standards Act, enabling farms to employ children.

Although some of those children voluntarily decided to work these jobs, these children are victims of trafficking in many cases. It's hard to measure how many children are working on U.S. farms partly because different agencies use different criteria and different ages in their measurements.

Human Rights Watch argues that farm work in the U.S. should be considered one of the “worst forms of child labor,” as outlined by the International Labor Organization. The agricultural exemption from the FLSA allows children to work longer hours, at younger ages, than in any other industry in the United States. The federal minimum age for work in most industries is 14; in agriculture, it's often 12. But in many cases, children of any age can work on their own family's farm. Moreover, the agricultural exemption also allows children to work in more hazardous conditions, according to HRW. In agriculture, 16-year-olds can perform tasks the Department of Labor deems “particularly hazardous”; for all other industries, the minimum age is 18.

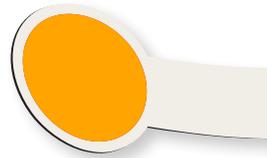
Approximately 33 children are injured in agriculture-related accidents every day, according to numbers kept by the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. Children working in agriculture accounted for less than 5.5 percent of all working children in the country from 2003 to 2017, yet they accounted for 52 percent of all work-related child fatalities across all industries from 2003 to 2016. There are, on average, 17 children killed in accidents at work on farms each year.

Human Rights Watch (HWR) found out that various tobacco farms in states like Kentucky and North Carolina utilized children as young as 7 to help harvest and process the crop in tobacco fields. As a result, many have reported symptoms of nicotine poisoning: headache, nausea, dizziness, and vomiting, which occur when nicotine is absorbed through the skin.

Many jobs on farms still pay "piece rates," a specific amount per crate. By law, those piece rates are supposed to equal or exceed minimum wage when factoring in hours worked—but they often don't, according to farmworker advocates.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Advocacy



## International Child Labor & Forced Labor Reports

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) publishes three reports on international child labor and forced labor that serve as valuable resources for research, advocacy, government action, and corporate responsibility. These reports are The Department of Labor's Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor; the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor; the List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor. Each of these reports has a distinct mandate, focus, and set of implications. Taken collectively, they document the current situation of child labor, forced labor, and forced child labor around the world.

Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor published in 2019 focuses on the efforts of certain U.S. trade beneficiary countries and territories to eliminate the worst forms of child labor through legislation, enforcement mechanisms, policies, and social programs. The Report presents:

- ◆ Findings on the prevalence and sectoral distribution of the worst forms of child labor in each country.
- ◆ Country-specific suggestions for government action (since 2009).
- ◆ Individual country assessments identify where Significant, Moderate, Minimal, or No Advancement has been made (since 2011).

The Report serves as a resource to foreign governments, NGOs, academics, and policymakers working on labor and human rights issues. In addition, it helps inform Congress and Executive Branch agencies that formulate labor and trade policy and assess future technical assistance and research priorities as it seeks to combat child labor around the world. The Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) has published the Findings each year since 2002, as mandated by the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA). The TDA requires that countries fulfill commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor to be eligible for specific U.S. trade preference programs. It also requires the U.S. Secretary of Labor to issue annual findings on beneficiary country initiatives to implement these commitments.

You may go to the website and type in the country to read the findings for that country. Included below are results regarding child labor in select countries. These findings are not comprehensive.

### El Salvador

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare also significantly increased fines assessed for labor violations, and criminal law enforcement agencies investigated 45 cases of child commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, the National Council for Children established an emergency hotline to receive reports of child abuse, including child labor. However, children in El Salvador engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities, each sometimes resulting from human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in the harvesting of coffee. Law enforcement agencies continued to lack sufficient resources to enforce child labor laws throughout the country. Gaps also remained related to the implementation of key policies to address child labor.



# Advocacy

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## Guatemala

Children perform dangerous tasks in agriculture, such as in the production of coffee. However, the lack of sufficient labor inspectors and resources limited the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare's ability to combat the worst forms of child labor. In addition, existing social programs are insufficient to reach all children engaged in exploitative labor and, in particular, do not target children involved in domestic work or agriculture.

## Haiti

Children in Haiti perform dangerous tasks in agriculture and domestic work. Children are placed in orphanages, where some are subsequently used for domestic work. Minimum age protections apply only to children with a formal employment contract, which does not comply with international standards requiring all children to be protected. In addition, Haiti lacks a precise, easily applicable minimum age for domestic work and a list of hazardous occupations prohibited to children. Also, labor inspectors are not authorized to assess penalties, and social programs to combat child labor are insufficient to address the extent of the problem adequately.

## Honduras

The government established reciprocal referral mechanisms to ensure child laborers and victims of child-related crimes receive access to social services. It also began implementing its new National Labor Inspection Strategy, which includes monitoring and evaluating child labor-specific inspections and identifying child labor as an enforcement priority. Furthermore, government agencies coordinated to conduct multiple joint operations targeting child labor in San Pedro Sula and Cortes. However, children in Honduras engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking, and illicit activities, including selling and trafficking drugs. Children also engage in child labor in the production of coffee and melons. However, labor and criminal law enforcement agencies lacked financial and human resources, and the government did not adequately report comprehensive data related to its criminal law enforcement efforts. In addition, the government's social programs that address child labor in agriculture have not addressed the problem nationwide, and the government lacks social programs to eliminate child labor in other sectors, including fishing, mining, and domestic work.

## Mexico

Children perform dangerous tasks in agriculture, including in the production of chile peppers, coffee, sugarcane, and tomatoes. Although nearly 60 percent of employment occurs in the informal sector, federal and

some state-level labor inspectors are only permitted to carry out inspections in the informal sector in response to complaints. In addition, a lack of human and financial resources limited the government's ability to enforce labor and criminal law adequately, and the government did not publish complete information on its labor and criminal law enforcement efforts. Furthermore, social programs to combat child labor do not address all relevant sectors of child labor in Mexico.

## Nicaragua

In 2019, Nicaragua made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government signed 6,129 cooperative agreements with employers to prevent the hiring of minors and released some information related to its labor law enforcement efforts. However, children in Nicaragua engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes due to human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. In addition, laws do not establish an actual compulsory education age, and national policies to eliminate child labor and protect children have not been fully implemented. The government also lacks a specific and consistent mechanism to coordinate efforts to address child labor. It reallocated resources away from activities geared towards preventing child labor and enforcing related laws.

## List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor

ILAB maintains a list of goods and their source countries which it has reason to believe are produced by child labor or forced labor in violation of international standards, as required under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005 and subsequent reauthorizations. The List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor comprises 155 goods from 77 countries as of September 30, 2020.

ILAB maintains the List primarily to raise public awareness about forced labor and child labor worldwide and promote efforts to combat them. It is not intended to be punitive but rather to catalyze more strategic and focused coordination and collaboration among those working to address these problems.

Publication of the List has resulted in new opportunities for ILAB to engage with foreign governments to combat forced labor and child labor. It is also a valuable resource for researchers, advocacy organizations, and companies wishing to carry out risk assessments and engage in due diligence on labor rights in their supply chains.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



Bricks	Strawberries	Soap	Pineapple
Carpets	Tobacco	Textiles	Rice
Coal	Tomatoes	Bananas	Tin
Poppies	Yerba Mate	Citrus Fruits	Zinc
Salt	Cotton	Sugarcane	Bananas
Diamonds	Bidis	Granite (crushed)	Bamboo
Blueberries	Dried Fish	Hogs	Beans
Bricks	Footwear	Brazil Nuts/Chestnuts	Beef
Cotton	Furniture (steel)	Cattle	Cashews
Garlic	Glass	Corn	Cattle
Garments	Leather	Gold	Ceramics
Grapes	Matches	Peanuts	Charcoal
Olives	Poultry	Silver	Cocoa
Salt	Shrimp	Sugarcane	Coffee

Click [here](#) to read the complete list and learn more.

## COVID-19 and Child Labor

The last two decades have seen significant strides in the fight against child labor. However, the report, *Child Labor: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward*, published by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in June 2021, states progress to end child labor has stalled for the first time in 20 years, reversing the previous downward trend that saw the number put to work fall by 94 million between 2000 and 2016.

Nine million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labor by the end of 2022 because of the pandemic, which could rise to 46 million without access to critical social protection coverage.

There has been a significant rise of children working between the ages of 5 and 11, accounting for just over half of the total global figure. In addition, children in hazardous work, which is likely to harm their health, safety, or moral well-being, has risen by 6.5 million since 2016, to 79 million.

The agriculture sector accounts for 70 percent of children in child labor, followed by 20 percent in services and 10 percent in industry. Nearly 28 percent of 5 to 11-year-olds and 35 percent of those aged 12 to 14 in child labor are out of school. Child labor is more prevalent among boys than girls at every age, but when 21 hours per week of household chores are taken into account, the gender gap in child labor narrows. Child labor in rural areas stands at 14 percent, nearly three times higher than the 5 percent in urban areas.

Other economic shocks and school closures caused by COVID-19 mean that children already obliged or forced to work may be working longer hours or under worsening conditions. At the same time, job and income losses among vulnerable families may push many more into the worst forms of child labor. To reverse the upward trend, ILO and UNICEF call for adequate social protection, including universal child benefits; increased spending on quality education and getting all children back into school, including those forced out before COVID-19; and investment in child protection systems, rural public services and livelihoods.

The ILO has four policy pillars to respond to the COVID-19 crisis based on international standards:

1. Stimulate the economy and employment.
2. Support enterprises, jobs, and income.
3. Protect workers in the workplace.
4. Rely on social dialogue for solutions.

Urging a whole society approach, the ILO calls for governments, employers, and workers' organizations to work together on effective policies to respond to all health, social and economic dimensions of the crisis. Some policy actions, such as social protection, cut across the four pillars, meaning they should advance policies in each.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

# Advocacy

## Family Work or Human Trafficking?

Eneida Gómez Sánchez and her three siblings' families used to leave the home they shared early each morning. In the center of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, in Chiapas state, they hawked bracelets, wooden dolls, earrings, and amber jewelry. They toiled from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Some of their 23 children – who ranged from 3 months to 16 years old – worked too.

In July 2020, Gómez, her mother, father, siblings, and their spouses were accused of “human trafficking by forced labor exploitation.” In Chiapas, one of Mexico’s poorest states, forced labor is the second most common form of trafficking.

The case drew global attention to the controversial issue of “family work” in Mexico and specifically in Chiapas, the country’s southernmost state. Prosecutors say they were just following the law, but activists argue that poor families are trapped by a one-size-fits-all policy that does not reflect reality and only adds to the struggles of Mexico’s most vulnerable. Parents often put their children to work because that is how they grew up.

Mexico’s Constitution protects family work, only banning unhealthy and dangerous labor, nighttime industrial work, and all labor after 10 p.m. by minors 16 and under. The International Labor Organization notes that in indigenous families, work provides boys and girls with learning that they can’t get in school. Many families see work, or the learning of a trade, as a type of inheritance they pass to their children.

Gómez says the children helped the family survive. Before the coronavirus, they earned up to 1,500 Mexican pesos (\$74) on a good day. After the pandemic, their wages decreased to 200 pesos (\$9.90) per day or nothing at all. Her five children, ages 7 to 16, were accompanied while they worked. Some of them didn’t go to school, but none was forced to sell, she says.

“For me, it was not an obligation to work,” says José Antonio, her 15-year-old son. “We went out to work to learn to work.”

Gómez’s parents, her sister, and in-laws ended up in jail. The youngest children – all babies – stayed with them in custody. Police issued warrants for Gómez and five other family members, but they managed to avoid arrest.

Then, in late December, the state attorney general’s office dropped the charges against all defendants and suspects for lack of evidence. Gómez was relieved but not surprised. “My conscience is clean because I haven’t done anything wrong,” she says. “We’re poor, but we’re honorable.”

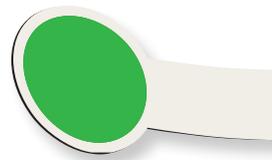
*(Family Work or Human Trafficking? Child Labor Law Sparks Controversy by Marissa Revilla, Global Press Journal, March 11, 2021.)*

Click [here](#) to learn more.



## Convention 182

In August 2020, all 187 member countries of the International Labor Organization (ILO) ratified ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, committing to eliminating hazardous work endangering children worldwide. This marked the first time in history that a labor convention achieved universal ratification. Universal ratification of the ILO Convention No. 182 is an essential sign of a global commitment to ending hazardous child labor.

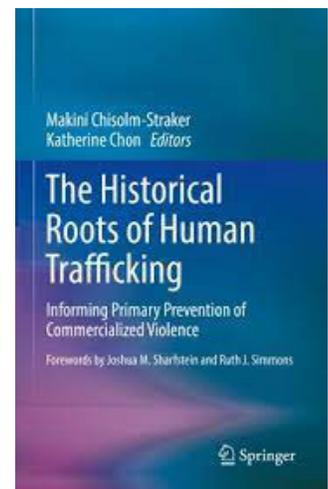


## The Historical Roots of Human Trafficking: Informing Primary Prevention of Commercialized Violence

A public health approach to human trafficking requires a nuanced understanding of its root causes. This textbook applies a historical lens to human trafficking from expert resources for the multidisciplinary public health learner and worker. The book challenges the anti-trafficking paradigm to understand historical legacies of present-day root causes of human trafficking meaningfully.

This textbook focuses on history's utility in public health. It describes history to contextualize and explain present times and provides public health lessons in trafficking prevention and intervention. Public health recognizes the importance of multiple systems to solve big problems. The chapters illustrate how current anti-trafficking efforts in markets and general strategies connect with historical policies and data in the United States. Topics explored include:

- ◆ Capitalism, Colonialism, and Imperialism: Roots for Present-Day Trafficking
- ◆ Invisibility, Forced Labor, and Domestic Work
- ◆ Addressing Modern Slavery in Global Supply Chains: The Role of Businesses
- ◆ Immigration, Precarity, and Human Trafficking: Histories and Legacies of Asian American Racial Exclusion in the United States
- ◆ Systemic and Structural Roots of Child Sex Trafficking: The Role of Gender, Race, and Sexual Orientation in Disproportionate Victimization
- ◆ The Complexities of Complex Trauma: An Historical and Contemporary Review of Healing in the Aftermath of Commercialized Violence
- ◆ Historical Context Matters: Health Research, Health Care, and Bodies of Color in the United States



Understanding linkages between contemporary manifestations of human trafficking with their respective historical roots offers meaningful insights into the roles of public policies, institutions, cultural beliefs, and socioeconomic norms in commercialized violence. The textbook identifies sustainable solutions to prevent human trafficking and improve the health of the nation.



### TAKE ACTION: Mica Mining

Thousands of families dependent on mining mica for our beauty products, cars and cell phones are trapped in cycles of poverty and debt bondage for entire generations. Sign the pledge to take a stand with mica-dependent communities calling for better working conditions and sustainable jobs that can help break the cycle of exploitation.

Please click [here](#) to view a video about the use of child labor in the mining of mica and to pledge to hold businesses accountable by asking them about their mica sourcing practices.

# Action

## What Can be Done?

Child labor will end only when there are expanded income support measures for families in situations of vulnerability due to poverty.

Ensuring universal free and good-quality education will provide a viable alternative to child labor and afford children a chance at a better future.

Every child's birth must be registered to have a legal identity and enjoy their rights from birth.

There must be decent work that ensures a fair income for young people of legal working age and adults, emphasizing workers in the informal economy, for families to escape poverty-driven child labor.

Family farms and enterprises that depend on the mostly unpaid labor of their children need more significant support to improve their livelihoods and end that dependence. With most of the 152 million children in child labor performing unpaid work in their own families, enforcement must be directed appropriately and not victimize children or parents and families who are themselves victims of poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

Ensuring that necessary laws and regulations are in place to protect children, backed by enforcement machinery and child protection systems, and the services required to apply them.

Particular attention should address the heightened risk of child labor in growing crises, conflicts, and disasters. Child labor concerns should factor in all phases of humanitarian action – from crisis preparedness and contingency plans to humanitarian responses to post-crisis reconstruction and recovery efforts.

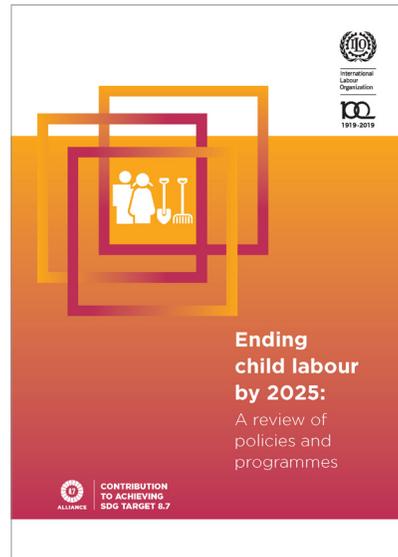
One of the most effective ways to address the worst forms of child labor is by demanding greater transparency within global supply chains. Especially relevant are the informal micro and small enterprises operating at the lower tiers of supply chains, where child labor and other human rights risks are often most pronounced.

Governments can lead through public procurement that discourages child labor risks in vendor supply chains. In addition, when consumers shop consciously, companies are more likely to take notice and address their supply chain practices.

Eliminating child labor is a task too big for any one party to solve alone. Countries must work together within the spirit of article 8 of the universally ratified ILO Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182). Alliance 8.7 plays an important role in facilitating cooperation on child labor among governmental and non-governmental actors.

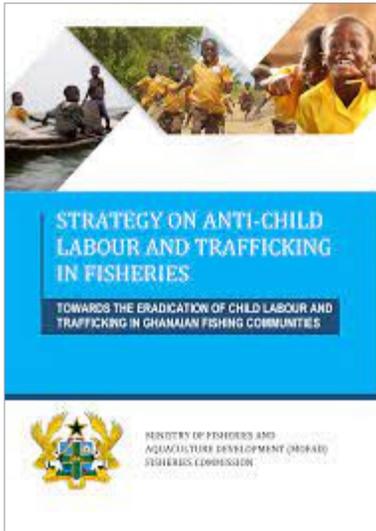
A global partnership launched in 2016, Alliance 8.7 groups governments, multilateral organizations, workers' organizations, employers' organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and think tanks to find ways of accelerating action on target 8.7. The alliance focuses on three strategies: conducting research and sharing knowledge, driving innovation, and increasing and leveraging resources. It is urgent to put action to end child labor back on track, in line with global commitments and goals. While ambitious measures and investments are required, the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated that these are possible when the well-being of humanity is at stake.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



## Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth

Click [here](#) to view the recording of a February 2019 webinar on labor and sex trafficking among homeless youth hosted by HEAL Trafficking Research Committee.



## Strategy on Anti-Child Labor and Trafficking in Fisheries

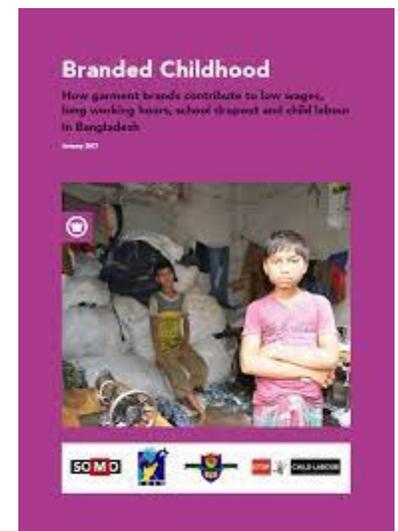
Over 1.23 million children (14.2 % of the children's population in Ghana) are in hazardous child labor and child trafficking and over 50,000 of these children are involved in fishing, with tens of thousands trafficked from as early as age 4. These children are traded as commodities, used as cheap labor and slaves. They are made to work both day and night on the sea and on the Volta Lake.

## ACTION NEEDED: Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence Laws

There are millions of people all over the world being forced to work to produce goods that we use every day. But we can help change this by requiring big businesses and governments to act. Freedom United is calling on world governments to pass mandatory human rights due diligence laws so that the private and public sectors are required to take responsibility for the impact of modern slavery and human rights abuses across their supply chains. Please click [here](#) to take action.

## Branded Childhood

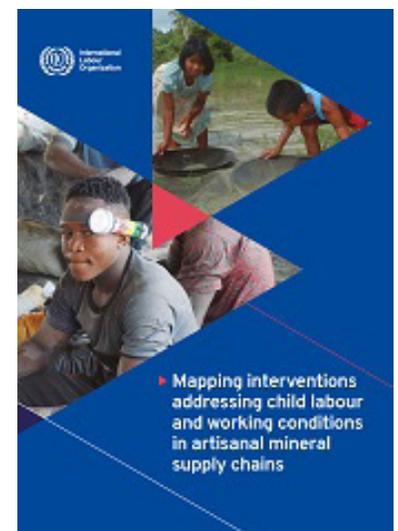
This document discusses how garment brands contribute to low wages, long working hours, school dropout and child labor in Bangladesh. Click [here](#) to learn more.



## Mapping Interventions Addressing Child Labor and Working Conditions in Artisanal Mineral Supply Chains

This mapping research aims to provide a high-level review of interventions (projects and initiatives) that aim to address child labor and poor working conditions (either directly or indirectly) in the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) sector across different minerals.

This document published in April 2021 may be downloaded by clicking [here](#).





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