

Child Labour Notes

<https://www.worldvision.ca/stories/child-protection/child-labour-facts-and-how-to-help#What%20are>

At the beginning of 2020, [1 in 10 children aged 5 and over](#) were engaged in child labour worldwide. This is equivalent to 160 million children – 69 million of whom were girls and 97 million boys. Today, an estimated [79 million of these children](#) are engaged in dirty, dangerous and degrading work.

Africa tops the list of regions with the [highest prevalence of child labour](#), accounting for 72 million of all child labourers globally. Since 2012, Sub-Saharan Africa has seen the largest increase in the number of children involved in child labour - the region has more child labourers than in the rest of the world combined. Asia and the Pacific ranks second-highest with 62 million child workers. The two regions account for [nearly nine out of 10 children](#) involved in child labour worldwide.

What are the causes of child labour?

- **Poverty**
 - Like so many other issues in the world, the root cause of child labour is [poverty](#). Unemployment and the need to survive often lead families to make desperate decisions. Lack of education can also impact children – since their parents may not understand or see the short and long-term value of their child receiving an education instead of working.
- **Crisis**
 - Natural disasters or the death of one of both parents can force children into hazardous work to help their family survive day-to-day.
- **Chronic emergencies**
 - Things like repeat drought or [famine](#) can leave families in dire circumstances where working to survive is one of the few options.
- **Conflict**
 - War or government corruption can turn the lives of children upside down, forcing them to abandon schooling and regular routines to earn a living.
- **Demand**
 - The demand for low prices and cheap obedient labour can trap children in hazardous work.

3) What are the effects of child labour?

There are many ways that child labour can affect children, and these can vary depending on which industry the child is working in. Generally, child labourers 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.

It is also true that children who work often don't get a proper education. Long, strenuous work days can leave kids exhausted and unable to attend classes or do their homework. For parents who are struggling to keep their families afloat, sending kids to school is a luxury they cannot afford.

Research conducted in 2016 found that [over 1,200 companies operating in Canada](#) are known to be importing goods at a high risk of being produced by a child or through forced labour. The majority of these companies are disclosing very little information, if any, on the policies, practices and processes they have in place to address these risks.

This means that the average Canadian is likely to be connected to child labour through the [everyday products we buy and consume](#).

Quick read: child labour facts

Here are some child labour facts to help you understand the issue:

- It's estimated that there are 160 million victims of child labour, worldwide.
- 79 million child labour victims work in dirty, dangerous and degrading jobs.
- Almost half of all child labourers are between ages 5 and 11.
- Approximately 4.3 million children work in forced labour, including debt bondage, slavery and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Over 1,200 companies operating in Canada are known to be importing goods at a high risk of being produced by a child or through forced labour.
- Canada imports more than [\\$43 billion worth of everyday products](#) that may have been produced by child or forced labour annually as of 2020
- [71 per cent of child labour victims](#) are in agriculture: fishing, forestry, livestock herding, commercial farming.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour>

In the least developed countries, slightly more than one in four children (ages 5 to 17) are engaged in labour that is considered detrimental to their health and development.

Africa ranks highest among regions both in the percentage of children in child labour — one-fifth — and the absolute number of children in child labour — 72 million. Asia and the Pacific ranks second highest in both these measures — 7% of all children and 62 million in absolute terms are in child labour in this region.

The Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions together account for almost nine out of every ten children in child labour worldwide. The remaining child labour population is divided among the Americas (11 million), Europe and Central Asia (6 million), and the Arab States (1 million). In terms of incidence, 5% of children are in child labour in the Americas, 4% in Europe and Central Asia, and 3% in the Arab States.

UNICEF's standard indicator for child labour includes the following:

- Age 5 to 11 years: At least 1 hour of economic work or 21 hours of unpaid household services per week.
- Age 12 to 14 years: At least 14 hours of economic work or 21 hours of unpaid household services per week.
- Age 15 to 17 years: At least 43 hours of economic work per week.

<https://globalmarch.org/accelerating-progress-in-ending-child-labour-in-africa/>

By working with our local members and partners, Global March seeks to create awareness, strengthen advocacy, mobilise political will, create youth champions, build relationships and empower communities towards making a child friendly Africa where there is zero child labour by 2025 as per SDG 8.7, and all children are enjoying free, quality, inclusive and equitable education as per SDG 4. To realise the same, Global March's latest programmes were carried out in Uganda, Tanzania and Togo.

According to UNICEF, population growth, recurring crises, extreme poverty and inadequate social protection measures have led to an additional 17 million girls and boys engaging in child labor in sub-Saharan Africa over the past four years.

African countries are home to most of the world's 160 million working children.

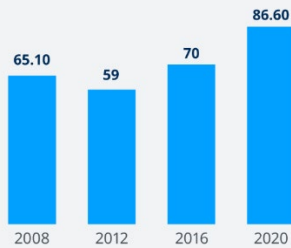
The International Labor Organization estimates that more than 72 million children in sub-Saharan Africa — nearly one in five — are affected by child labor.

Experts estimate that millions more are at risk due to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to UNICEF, this marks the first time in 20 years that progress toward ending child labor has stalled. It was against this backdrop that experts and child welfare activists met for the 5th World Conference on the Elimination of Child Labor in Durban, South Africa, last month, to discuss stricter measures for the protection of children.

Child labor in sub-Saharan Africa

As of 2020, 86.6 million children aged 5-17 were estimated to be involved in child labor in the region. That means Africa has more children who are put to work than the rest of the world combined



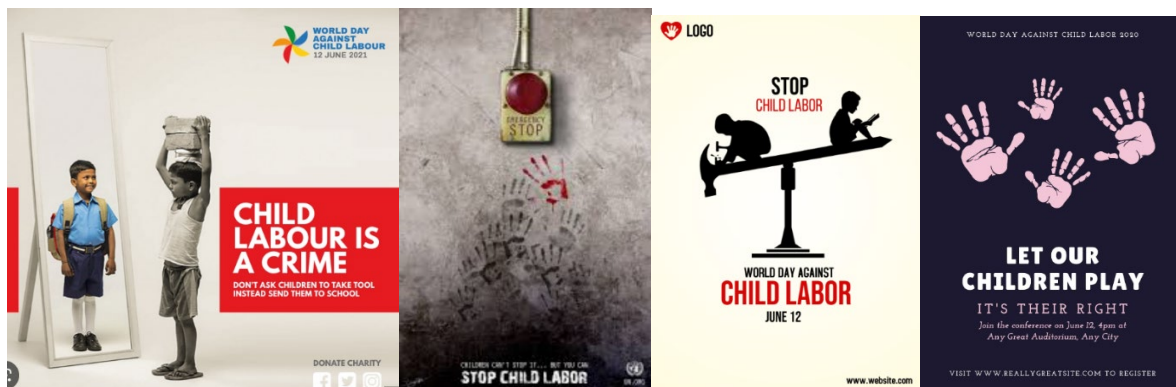
Source: ILO; UNICEF

World Day Against Child Labour: JUNE 12TH

Slogan ideas:

Children lack protection

The youth is our future



CONDENSED INFO:

COMPANY: SAVE THE CHILDREN CANADA

MISSION: Bring awareness to the role Canada plays in supporting African child labour

SLOGAN: WE ARE NOT FOR SALE

FACT: 1 IN 5 AFRICAN CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED BY CHILD LABOUR | Africa ranks highest among regions both in the percentage of children in child labour and the absolute number of children in child labour .

The term “child labour” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

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