

# CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE

Around 70% of all child labourers work in agriculture, nearly 108 million boys & girls!

Defined as work that is inappropriate for a child's age, it affects children's education, or is likely to harm their health, safety or morals. Worldwide, it remains predominantly a rural poverty issue.



This is the typical story of a child labourer in agriculture, increasingly involved in work and obliged to leave school too early

This is the typical story of a child living and learning in a rural area, whose rights are respected thanks to what FAO promotes



6-8 yrs

From a young age, the child is required to **combine school with work that is too long and too heavy for their body.**

9-11 yrs

Over time, **the child is underachieving at school**, too tired, and unable to attend school regularly because of work.



6-8 yrs

The child attends school and **benefits from free, compulsory and quality education.**

9-11 yrs

With the support of cash transfers and free school meals, **the child is encouraged to continue attending school.**



12-14 yrs

The child is obliged to leave school early and **now only works.**

15-17 yrs

The child **has reached the minimum age for employment**, but is engaged in hazardous tasks that mean he/she is still in child labour. The child is also **deprived of the opportunity to benefit from education and vocational training.**

18-19 yrs

The child is now a young adult and has not had the chance to develop the skills needed to obtain decent work. He/she is **trapped in unskilled employment, receives low wages, and has weak social security and limited bargaining capacity.**



12-14 yrs

The child engages in **safe agricultural tasks**, for limited hours, out of school time. The child makes important contributions to their family's livelihood and **acquires useful agricultural and life skills for the future.**

15-17 yrs

The child **attends secondary school and/or vocational training** adapted to rural and agricultural settings. He/she **learns agribusiness and life skills** that can lead to decent rural employment.



18-19 yrs

As a young adult, **their employability has increased**, and they are **able to access either farm or non-farm decent employment.**

20-24 yrs

Due to years of performing hazardous tasks as a child, the young adult **may now be disabled or suffer from the chronic effects of occupational disease.**

**The child is now an adult**

and an agricultural producer. Without education, he/she is less likely to: adopt new technologies and practices, adapt to shocks, allocate resource efficiently, or safely manage the use of agrochemicals. The working conditions are also precarious; this perpetuates the vicious cycle of rural poverty within their rural community.



20-24 yrs

The child is now a young adult in **good health and a productive and skilled producer or worker.**

**The child is now an adult**

with decent working conditions and contributes to the agricultural and economic growth of their rural community where their family is free from hunger.



[fao.org/childlabouragriculture](http://fao.org/childlabouragriculture)



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