



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO FRAMEWORK ON **ENDING** **CHILD LABOUR** IN AGRICULTURE



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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The overall consultative process was implemented under the authority of Máximo Torero, FAO Chief Economist and Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CPF	Country Programming Framework
DRE	Decent rural employment
EAS	Extension and advisory services
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESMG	Environmental and Social Management Guidelines
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmer field school
FSN	Food Security and Nutrition
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IPM	Integrated pest management
IPPCCLA	International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUF	International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations
JFFLS	Junior farmer field and life school
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NWFP	Non-wood forest product
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSH	Occupational safety and health
PFS	Pastoral field school
PO	Producer organization
SAFA	Sustainability assessment of food and agriculture systems
SFVC	Sustainable food value chain
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDROIT	International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
YUNGA	Youth and United Nations Global Alliance

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE FRAMEWORK

The Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO) acknowledges that child labour undermines the Organization's efforts to eradicate hunger, malnutrition in all its forms and poverty of present and future generations. If children are still overwhelmingly found working in harsh conditions instead of benefiting from education, it is not possible to achieve sustainable agriculture and food systems feeding the world, protecting the planet and guaranteeing good livelihoods for farmers. FAO recognizes accountability within its programmes and support to its Members, and takes responsibility to contribute to the elimination of child labour in agriculture. The 2030 Agenda and its Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), together with the impetus provided by the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour declared by the United Nations General Assembly, call for wider engagement and provide for greater opportunities to make a difference.

The purpose of the FAO Framework on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture is to guide the Organization and its personnel in the integration of measures addressing child labour within FAO's programmes and work at the global, regional and country levels. It aims to enhance compliance with the Organization's operational standards and strengthen coherence and synergies across the Organization and with partners. In particular, the Framework intends to: increase the understanding of what child labour is in agriculture; clarify why FAO works on the issue and what its mandate

and areas of work are; help country offices in liaising with FAO stakeholders, such as agricultural line ministries, and other relevant ministries (in particular the ministry of labour) and partners, raising their awareness on the links between child labour and FAO's areas of work; and support country offices in liaising with resource partners and mobilizing partnerships and action to help end child labour in agriculture.

The Framework is also relevant for FAO governing bodies and Members, and provides guidance and a basis for collaboration with development partners. The Framework is also to be used as key guidance to assess and monitor compliance with FAO's environmental and social standards addressing prevention and reduction of child labour in FAO's programming. The Framework has been developed based on consultations across the Organization, and builds on the results of the work carried out to date by FAO in the area of child labour in agriculture. The Framework is also informed by the findings of FAO publications and guidance documents on child labour in agriculture.

THE FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE

The Framework is structured, as follows, in five chapters:

1. **FAO and child labour in agriculture:** definition, vision and mission.
2. **Rationale for FAO engagement** on child labour in agriculture.
3. **FAO guiding principles** on child labour in agriculture.
4. **FAO areas of work** on child labour in agriculture.
5. **Key strategies** for engagement.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENDING CHILD LABOUR WILL BE DECIDED IN AGRICULTURE

Eliminating child labour is a global priority, embedded in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7, which provides for the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025.¹ The world will not be able to achieve this goal without the elimination of child labour in the sector of agriculture.² Indeed, the International Labour Organization (ILO) 2017 global estimates show that child labour is overwhelmingly concentrated in agriculture. Of the 152 million children who are in situations defined as “child labour”, the vast majority – 108 million girls and boys between the ages of 5 and 17 – are to be found in farming, livestock, forestry, fishing or aquaculture (ILO, 2017a).

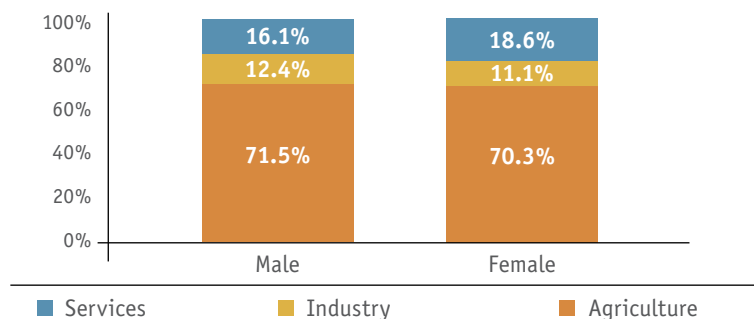
Ending child labour in agriculture is crucial for future decent youth employment opportunities, the reduction of poverty and the achievement of food security. It strongly interlinks with SDG 1 for poverty reduction and SDG 2 for food security and nutrition.

¹ This SDG target is under the responsibility of the ILO.

² Clarification of terms: The Framework applies to different forms of agricultural and food security programmes and projects. For reasons of legibility, the expression “agricultural programmes” used herein covers all these forms. The term “agriculture” includes the following subsectors: crop production; livestock husbandry and herding; fisheries and aquaculture; and forestry.

Agriculture is by far the greatest employer of both girls and boys in child labour.

Sectoral composition of child labour, percentage distribution, 5-17 years age range, by sex



Note: By “employer”, the ILO refers to agriculture as an occupational sector. An employment relationship does not necessarily involve permissible work, remuneration or a formal contract.

Source: ILO (2017a).

There is an economic case for ending child labour in agriculture. In 2004, an ILO study calculated that the costs of eliminating child labour worldwide would be in the area of USD 760 billion, while the benefits would be nearly seven times that – an estimated USD 5.1 trillion in the developing and transitional economies where most child labourers are found (ILO, 2004).

The need to address child labour within the scope of agricultural programmes can be approached from different angles:

- > Child labour is a human rights issue. All children have a right to childhood, including the right to protection from economic exploitation and from labour that jeopardizes their development, education or health. Children are not small adults: their bodies are developing and as such, they proportionally need more sleep and more water, and they inhale more often than an adult. A task that is innocuous for an adult can have a long-term negative effect on the physical and cognitive development of a child (FAO, 2019a). There is a **shared responsibility** to ensure that agricultural, food security and nutrition interventions **do not cause any harm** to children and offer sustainable alternatives to child labour.

CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE KEY FACTS

- > Across the world, **152 million children** are exploited in child labour. Some 71 percent of them – nearly 108 million boys and girls – work in agriculture.
- > A total of **45 million girls** and **63 million boys** are in child labour in agriculture, but girls shoulder a disproportionate responsibility for household chores.
- > Most girls and boys trapped in child labour (70 percent) are “**invisible**” unpaid family workers.
- > The number of child labourers in agriculture increased by **10 million** between 2012 and 2016, driven in part by conflicts and climate-induced disasters. The incidence of child labour in countries affected by armed conflict is **77 percent** higher than the global average.
- > In the next decade, up to **175 million children** are likely to be affected every year by natural disasters brought about by climate change (UNICEF, 2010).ⁱ
- > Agriculture is one of the three most dangerous sectors, together with mining and construction. Globally, **73 million children** are involved in hazardous work.
- > Nearly half of all child labour in the world takes place in Africa where **72 million children** – or one in five – are in child labour and the vast majority are engaged in agriculture; it is followed by Asia with **62 million**.

ⁱ **UNICEF**. 2010. *The benefits of a child-centred approach to climate change adaptation*. London. (also available at <https://www.unclearn.org/sites/default/files/inventory/unicef02.pdf>).

Source: ILO. 2017. *Global estimates of child labour: Results and trends, 2012–2016*. Geneva. (also available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575499.pdf).

- > Child labour is detrimental to children’s education, acquisition of higher-level skills, health and nutrition,³ and it decreases their chances of accessing decent employment as youth and adults.

³ More research is needed on the impacts of child labour on children’s nutrition.

- The children of today are the farmers, fishers, foresters and livestock raisers of tomorrow. Ending child labour in agriculture means building a **safe path for girls and boys, providing them with a choice to contribute to society based on their individual capacity and interest, potentially empowering them to become active agents of the transformation and modernization of agriculture**; reducing gender inequalities in agriculture, by paving the way for equitable socio-economic opportunities for boys and girls; supporting agriculture that can feed the world of tomorrow and preserve the environment.

THE RATIONALE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FAO'S ENGAGEMENT (Chapter 2)

Addressing (the underlying causes of) child labour in agriculture contributes to poverty reduction and zero hunger. FAO's engagement in addressing child labour plays a part *vis-à-vis* FAO's global goals: child labour contributes to and derives from rural poverty, and is intertwined with hunger and the degradation of natural resources. Through its interventions, FAO has the potential to make a difference in the lives and future of children in the agricultural sector and rural areas, preventing their exposure to hazardous work, enabling access to education (and vocational training for children above the legal working age), improving livelihoods and the resilience of their families, and ultimately breaking a trans-generational cycle of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, in a gender equitable manner.

Addressing child labour is a prerequisite for sustainable agricultural development. Productivity and the development of the agricultural sector suffer as a result of the negative health and social outcomes of premature work and poor working conditions. Furthermore, when children drop out of school they have fewer chances of accessing decent job opportunities (IPEC, 2015) and fewer choices of livelihood. By integrating systemically child labour issues in the Organization's interventions including in its environmental and social policies, FAO can strengthen the sustainability of agriculture and food systems from subsistence-based settings to the upper stages of value chains. FAO cannot afford the cost of leaving child labour unaddressed.

Addressing child labour will be ever more urgent in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, unpredictable weather patterns and soil depletion, which forces families to seek alternative sources of income.

FAO's comparative advantage in addressing child labour in agriculture lies in its technical expertise in the different subsectors of agriculture, and in rural development and food security, and its capacity to address two of the main drivers of child labour in agriculture – the economic and functional dependency of families – and in promoting transformative approaches in agriculture-related legislative and normative processes and social policies. FAO's widespread presence at the country level, and its longstanding and solid relationships with agricultural and rural stakeholders represent unique assets.

FAO'S APPROACH TO ENDING CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE IS INFORMED BY FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES (Chapter 3)

- > **Inclusiveness.** Age groups, gender, social and cultural contexts – with a life cycle approach – are comprehensively considered.
- > **Sustainability.** Social, environmental and economic dimensions reinforce each other and should be considered jointly. While child labour belongs to the social pillar, which is often left lagging behind, it depends strongly on environmental and economic considerations.
- > **Integrated approach.** Child labour has multiple underlying causes; addressing one at a time – for example, poverty or labour market aspects – is not sufficient. Complementary aspects are taken into account, such as food security and agriculture and food production systems.
- > **Collaboration.** Joint and coordinated efforts across FAO and with external partners are required to end child labour in agriculture.

WHAT DOES FAO DO TO END CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE? (Chapter 4)

The prevention of child labour is already integrated in FAO's operational sustainability standards and policies such as the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESMG) and the associated Compliance Reviews (FAO, 2015a) (Box 3). But FAO also works to address the main underlying causes of child labour across agricultural subsectors through the following entry points:

- > A large share of child labour is due to the hazardousness of the tasks undertaken by children.
 - Promoting the adoption of **safer practices** in agriculture to reduce hazardous work in particular by developing capacity on occupational safety and health.
- > Much of child labour happens in agriculture because of the labour-intensive nature of the tasks or the difficulty of identifying and remunerating an adult workforce to accomplish those tasks.
 - Fostering **labour-saving technologies and practices** to reduce demand for labour (in particular for tasks that often engage children).
- > Hunger is a strong factor pushing families to send their children to work.
 - Strengthening the nexus between **food security and nutrition** interventions and child labour through the common lens of hunger as a trigger for negative coping mechanisms.
- > Education is often not valued in agricultural communities because it is considered not relevant for rural areas and is yet another negative factor for child labour.
 - Integrating agriculture and nutrition topics in **education in rural areas** to make school more relevant and valued by caregivers resorting to child labour.
- > Most interventions targeting youth overlook younger workers aged 15–17 who are in child labour situations but could be in decent employment if their working conditions improved.
 - Including children that reach legal working age – “younger workers” – in **decent rural youth employment** interventions.



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- Household poverty and economic vulnerability are the main determinants of child labour.
 - Fostering economic inclusion of rural households through **social protection** and initiatives aimed at enhanced productivity, income diversification strengthened producer organizations and other measures including child labour-sensitive targeting of agricultural and poverty reduction programmes and investments.
- Child labour is found in many local, regional and global agricultural value chains since children's work is free or cheap and lowers the costs of production.
 - Integrating child labour concerns in interventions that support the development of **sustainable agricultural value chains**.
- When a crisis strikes, a child's life is likely to be negatively affected. This includes their role within the household and the community.
 - Integrating child labour concerns, from assessment to impact, in interventions in **humanitarian and fragile contexts**.
- Climate change and environmental degradation make agricultural work more intensive, more hazardous and income less predictable. Children might work to meet labour demand and compensate for the economic vulnerability of their families.
 - Integrating child labour concerns throughout **climate change programmes and related guidance**.

HOW DOES FAO WORK TO END CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE? (Chapter 5)

FAO relies on six strategies derived from the Organization's core functions:

- > **Knowledge generation.** FAO works to address specific knowledge gaps on child labour across countries and within different agricultural subsectors. The Organization also develops communication materials and facilitates the exchange of good practices and lessons learned at the local, regional and global levels.
- > **Monitoring and evaluation.** FAO's monitoring and evaluation framework helps to plan preventive, mitigating and corrective actions of its programmes towards child labour.
- > **Policy advice.** FAO supports governments to integrate child labour issues into national agriculture and rural development policies and strategies and helps agricultural stakeholders' involvement in labour policy dialogue.
- > **Capacity development.** FAO develops tools to increase the understanding of agricultural stakeholders *vis-à-vis* child labour and the role they can play at various levels (policy, statistics, partnerships, communication and advocacy, private sector, good agricultural practices) to address it.
- > **Reaching scale.** FAO recognizes that specific programmes targeting children will not be enough to prevent all forms of child labour. Ending child labour needs to come from broader food security and agricultural and rural development programmes that lift people out of poverty. The link between the rise of child labour in agriculture and the increase in conflicts and climate-induced disasters also requires that FAO programmes fully take on board this issue.
- > **Promotion of advocacy and partnerships.** FAO engages in major international initiatives, including the World Day Against Child Labour, to raise awareness on priority areas of action to eradicate child labour in agriculture. Regional initiatives and more localized action also have a key role to play in advocacy and partnerships.

INTRODUCTION

Child labour in agriculture requires urgent attention and action

Over the last decades, the majority of child labour persists in agriculture and the proportion of child labourers in agriculture has increased by more than 10 percent from 2012 to 2016 (ILO, 2017a), driven in part by conflicts, forced migration and climate-induced disasters. This trend represents an enormous economic and social cost for children, their families and society, perpetuates the cycle of poverty, and ultimately undermines efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular those that are closely related to the work and mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), such as SDG 1 on poverty reduction and SDG 2 on zero hunger and nutrition.

While the available knowledge and data on the prevalence of child labour in the different agricultural subsectors indicate that child labour is present, evidence is scattered and uneven. The International Labour Organization (ILO) releases regular global estimates on the agricultural sector at large, and no disaggregation by subsector or major value chain is available. But there is a great disparity between the attention granted towards global value chains in recent decades, resulting in more knowledge of the share and characteristics of child labourers in cocoa, shrimp or cotton, versus sub-sectors, i.e. crop farming, fisheries, livestock or forestry as well as domestic and regional value chains where most child labour happen and which have been largely overlooked.



Progress or failure on Target 7 of Goal 8 will be decided in agriculture. Target 8.7 calls for “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, [...] and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.” Progress in achieving this goal requires a breakthrough in agriculture.

Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition interventions can provide solutions to child labour

By contributing to poverty reduction, agriculture and food security interventions have the potential to produce positive impacts on the situation of children and are already contributing to children’s survival and healthy nutrition.

Agricultural, food security and nutrition interventions are not child-labour neutral. They can have positive but also unintended negative impacts on children. These interventions are extremely diverse and this framework provides basic guidance on the nexus between areas of work and their related interventions and child labour and how to improve the integration of child labour concerns in those interventions (Chapter 4). However, in most cases the impacts are not considered. Integrating child labour concerns in all FAO interventions is important to identify good practices, reduce risks and mitigate unintended negative consequences.

Coordinated efforts are needed to end child labour in agriculture

FAO has a longstanding collaboration with the ILO at the country, regional and global levels to eradicate child labour in agriculture. FAO collaborates with other agencies, such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – in particular in the aftermath of crisis and in the framework of the country-level collaboration facilitated by the activation of clusters (Protection, Food Security) – as well as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), on exploring how to mainstream child labour in agriculture issues in large agricultural investment programmes.

Since 2007, FAO has been a member of the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA), which brings together the ILO, IFAD, the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The Partnership aims to foster the participation of agricultural organizations in global efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture, but also to build capacities of key actors in the agricultural sector to address child labour issues in national policies and programmes. In addition, FAO is a member of the Global Coordinating Group of the Alliance 8.7, joining forces globally to end child labour.

In 2017, at the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Argentina, representatives from the United Nations (UN), governments, and employer, worker and civil society organizations signed the Buenos Aires Declaration on Child Labour, Forced Labour and Youth Employment. For the first time in the history of the global conferences on child labour, the need to address child labour in agriculture was given high relevance in the official outcome document.

Two years later, on World Day Against Child Labour 2019, FAO, the European Commission and the ILO jointly organized the global conference “United to End Child Labour in Agriculture”, calling for acceleration and joint efforts to achieve the target of zero child labour by 2025.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2021 the “International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour”. FAO is releasing this Framework to help end child labour in agriculture.

1

FAO AND CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE: DEFINITION, VISION AND MISSION



1.1

Child labour definition

The definition of child labour is set by the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), which are only a few countries short of being universally ratified. Additional guidance is provided in the related Minimum Age Recommendation, 1973 (No. 146) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999 (No. 190). Protecting children from economic exploitation is also included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Article 32.

Child labour is commonly defined as work that is inappropriate for a child's age, affects children's education, or is likely to harm their health, safety or morals. It is work that impairs children's well-being or hinders their education, development and future livelihoods (Figure 1).

The worst forms of child labour include, in addition to hazardous work, all forms of slavery (sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict), and the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution or pornographic materials or performances, as well as for

FIGURE 1 Definition of child labour



Source: FAO (2017a).

illicit activities (Box 1). These worst forms jeopardize the physical, mental or moral well-being of a child, either because of their nature or because of the conditions in which they are carried out.

Hazardous work is work that is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of a child (Article 3[d] of Convention No. 182). This work is dangerous or occurs under unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed, or injured and/or made ill as a consequence of poor health and safety standards and working arrangements. Some injuries or ill health may result in permanent disability. Often health problems caused by working as a child labourer may not develop or appear until the child is an adult. Hazardous work should be identified at the national level (Box 2).

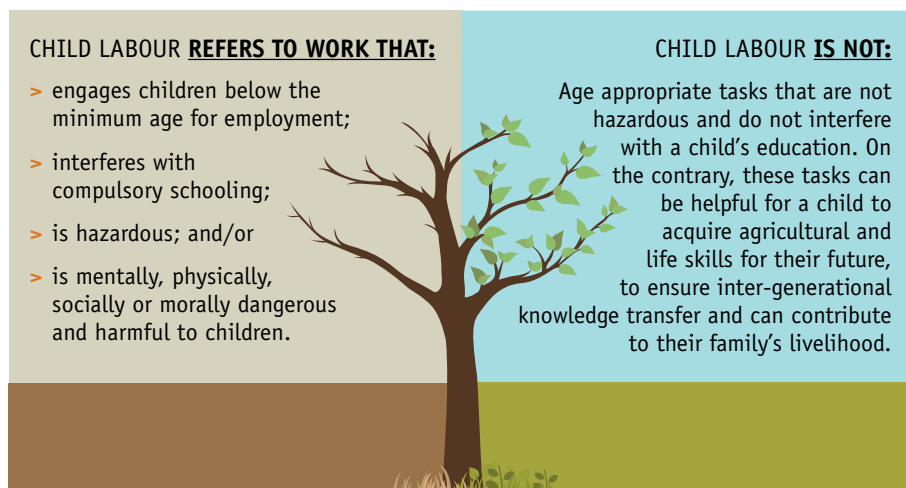
The overlap group (14/15–17 years) belongs both to the child (0–17) and youth (15–24) age groups. The overlap group corresponds to a category where children have reached legal working age (set at 14 years old in some developing countries, and 15 or 16 in most countries). They can be either in child labour or in youth employment as younger workers. The determining factor is the danger of the tasks performed by those younger workers. A child of this age group spraying hazardous pesticides is a child labourer. A child of this age group applying safely biopesticides is a younger worker.



Given its mandate, the focus of FAO's work in this area is child labour in the agricultural sector, including in family-based agriculture, with particular attention to the nexus between child labour and poverty. Not all work carried out by children in agriculture is considered child labour. Some activities may help children acquire important agricultural and life skills for their future, ensure intergenerational knowledge transfer and contribute to their family's livelihood.

However, because agriculture is among the three most dangerous sectors to work in at any age in terms of work-related illness, accidents and fatalities, understanding what is and what is not child labour is key to successfully addressing the issue.

Here are some core criteria that can help draw the line between what is and what is not child labour:



As mentioned above, the line between permissible activities and child labour to be eliminated therefore depends on the **child's age**, the activities performed (and related **hazards**) and (non-) **interference with compulsory education**:

- > Children who are over the age of 13 (in developing countries this can be 12) can do **light work** as long as it does not threaten their health and safety or hinder their education or training. National governments are expected to determine what is acceptable light work at the local level, although few countries have done so. A threshold of 14 hours per week, together with the obligation to undertake working hours during daylight, are two important universal provisions for light work.
- > Children who are over the age of 15 (in developing countries this can be 14) or younger workers can **work** full time as long as it does not threaten their health and safety or hinder their education or training.
- > Children under the age of 18 are not allowed to do dangerous work or work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions which could result in illness, injury or death. This is known as **hazardous work**.

FAO'S VISION AND MISSION on ending child labour in agriculture

FAO's ultimate vision is that of:

a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner (FAO, 2013a).ⁱ

Acknowledging the multiple dimensions of child labour in agriculture and the interlinkages between child labour in agriculture, poverty reduction, sustainable agriculture, and food security and nutrition, the vision and mission guiding FAO's work on ending child labour in agriculture are the following:

VISION: Zero child labour in agriculture to achieve zero hunger

FAO strives for a world where children are not exposed to hazardous work and have access to quality education and vocational training in rural areas, and sufficient and nutritious food, giving them the resources to grow and to become healthy, productive and skilled producers or workers of tomorrow.

MISSION

Informed by the knowledge and evidence generated on child labour in agriculture, and in collaboration with relevant partners, **FAO supports governments** to address child labour issues through national policies that fall within FAO's mandate (e.g. food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development, rural poverty reduction and natural resource management), enhancing dialogue between in-line ministries, in particular agriculture and labour ministries, and with other stakeholders such as producer organizations and the private sector engaged in agriculture.

FAO aims to develop the capacity of agricultural stakeholders to address the root causes of child labour in agriculture and promote alternatives, by securing better livelihood options for rural households, fostering safe agricultural practices and technologies, and decent work opportunities for rural youth who have reached legal working age.

FAO advocates and raises global awareness on child labour in agriculture, through its engagement in major international initiatives, including the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCCLA), the World Day Against Child Labour and the Alliance 8.7. Across its work areas, FAO pays increasing attention to child labour issues and ensures that these are considered in its global mechanisms.

ⁱ **FAO.** 2013. Reviewed Strategic Framework. Paper prepared for the thirty-eighth session of the FAO Conference, June 2013. FAO internal document. Rome.
(also available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/027/mg015e.pdf>).

Developing countries that have ratified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) have the option to designate a higher age or, in exceptional cases, an age 1 year lower than the standard. For example, the ILO recommends the minimum age for employment in fishing vessels to be 16 (Article 9.1, Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, [No. 188]⁴), given the specific challenges of this occupation.

1.2

Characteristics of child labour in agriculture and rural areas

Child labour in agriculture is driven by pull (demand side) and push (supply side) factors and is much determined by the features of agriculture as an economic sector and occupation.

Some features of agricultural work may present additional challenges for controlling the way it is carried out, especially among children. It may be:

- > **seasonal** – agricultural labour demand depends on production cycles and seasonal movements of animals;
- > **informal** – many economic activities in agriculture are, by law or practice, not registered or insufficiently covered by formal regulations;
- > **hazardous** – agricultural work often involves the use of hazardous tools or equipment, and toxic substances such as pesticides, and agricultural workers can also be exposed to extreme weather conditions, rough seas, biological hazards, long/irregular working hours, or carrying heavy loads;
- > **under-regulated** – workplaces can be in remote locations or fragmented, or concealed for illegal purposes, making law enforcement difficult (FAO and ILO, 2017a).

Child labour in agriculture is often invisible as most children work as unpaid family workers in dispersed small-scale farms or rural enterprises, or is actively

⁴ The Convention establishes that the minimum age for work on a fishing vessel is 16 years, or 15 for persons who are no longer subject to compulsory schooling, and who are engaged in vocational training in fishing or performing light work during school holidays. Full text at: https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312333

hidden by employers facilitated by the limited reach of labour inspectors in rural areas (FAO, IFAD and ILO, 2010). Data available on girls' and boys' labour in agriculture are limited and not captured by conventional surveys as children in a situation of child labour are often referred to as "helpers" assisting the parents on the family farm, on fishing boats, in plantations, in mountain areas, herding livestock – although they may do similar work to adults and the tasks are equally strenuous. Furthermore, most national surveys still do not take into account domestic chores, failing to capture the children's "double-burden", more often shouldered by girls.⁵ Another characteristic is the **very early entry into work** of children as young as 6 and 8 years (Guarcello, Lyon and Valdivia, 2016). **Gender aspects and distribution of tasks** within the household are key determinants of why, how and under what conditions children engage in labour. Also, the consequences of child labour are highly gendered, leading to the reproduction of gender discrimination patterns in agriculture. Girls who enter early marriage are no longer considered children, regardless of their age, representing an additional characteristic of girl child labour in agriculture.

The seasonality of agricultural work is yet another contributing factor to child labour. Seasonal work sites may be far away from schools and other services, such as day care, and admission on a seasonal basis may be problematic or even impossible due to the informal or irregular status of seasonal migrant workers. Workers may be paid by output or may need the labour of all family members to pay back debts incurred in the migration process. Consequently, children may be brought to the fields to support their parents working and are exposed to many of the same workplace hazards as their parents. Difficulties in rejoining the education system on their return may further increase the risk of child labour in the areas of origin. Children who remain at home while adult family members migrate may be at risk of being engaged to replace adult labour on the farm, in particular if the family went into debt to support the migration or is not receiving money or goods from the family member who migrated. While migration can provide new opportunities for families and their children (improved incomes, better access to education), it can also be an important determinant for child labour, in particular for children of seasonal agricultural migrants.

⁵ There is a fine line between household chores performed by girls and girl child labour, but what we can say is that the household chores have implications for opportunity of schooling or for succeeding at school (De Lange, 2009).

Household poverty and economic vulnerability are important push factors for child labour. Poor households without access to credit can be less likely to be able to postpone children's involvement in work and invest in their education, and more likely to resort to child labour in order to meet basic needs and deal with uncertainty. In addition, rural families may have less access to financial and insurance markets, limiting their potential to increase or maintain productivity, and therefore influencing their dependency on child labour. In this context, children can also actively seek work opportunities to gain independence, glimpse into adulthood, earn an income, and escape parental control or school responsibilities. The **lack of access to basic and meaningful quality education and skills training or limited employment opportunities** in rural areas can create little incentive for households to send their children to school.

Children are also pushed into child labour by **uncertainties, risks and negative shocks** affecting households, which can reduce their incomes and cause children to drop out of school and work to contribute to the family income. Economic, agricultural and **environmental and climate-related disasters**, such as drought, crop failure or floodings, can affect agriculture, creating large swings in income, such as an adult member of the family losing his/her job, and/or health-related shocks, with the surge of diseases induced by climate change (e.g malaria, dengue), like a serious illness or an employment injury, can drive children to work to support their families. **Conflicts** represent another push factor.

Moreover, **cultural, social and demographic factors** in rural areas are powerful drivers of child labour in agriculture. For instance, rural families may perceive the involvement of children in agriculture as part of their culture and a way of "helping out" and learning. There is also the case of children fostered with wealthier members of the extended family being expected to work in the fields and carry out domestic work in exchange for access to education or in order to give the opportunity for younger siblings to access education. Caregivers or parents may not be aware of the harmful consequences of certain activities and circumstances, including being out of school. Establishing space for dialogue and discussion at the local level is important to understand and value local knowledge, attitudes and practices, while raising awareness on harmful situations and promoting practical solutions.

2

RATIONALE FOR FAO ENGAGEMENT ON CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE



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The causes of child labour in agriculture are multiple, but a central root cause is household poverty. And conversely, child labour – and its opportunity cost as children are deprived of education and healthy development – perpetuates the vicious cycle of remaining poor in the future. **Rural poverty reduction – a core mandate of FAO – is therefore the starting point for successful strategies against child labour**, since improving overall household economic situations and increasing agricultural productivity can improve families' income security and reduce dependence on extra labour or income supplied by children.

A sustainable food system is one that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases for generating food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised. Child labour is untenable for the realization of sustainable food systems. More specifically, FAO's comparative advantage resides in its:

- > **Mandate**, which encompasses areas of work that are critical to end child labour in agriculture and, in particular, reduce rural poverty, enable more inclusive and efficient food systems and increase resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. FAO as the UN specialized agency with intergovernmental status in food and agriculture has a comprehensive mandate, authority and capacity to work globally on all aspects dealing with agriculture.
- > **Technical knowledge of agriculture**, which is critical to support countries to design and implement efficient and sustainable measures, policies and programmes, for example by promoting agricultural practices and technologies that reduce or remove work burden and hazards, or demand for labour. FAO has staff with a broad range of expertise across its areas of mandate working in an interdisciplinary fashion. FAO has extensive experience in supporting partners, Member States and other international, national and local development actors to access knowledge, information, training tools, good practices and services in capacity building in its mandate areas.
- > **Privileged relationships with agricultural stakeholders** who play an important role in ending child labour, including national governments and agriculture-related ministries. FAO has facilitated stakeholders' processes and participation to develop proposals for designing national agricultural strategy and policy, supporting the updating and revision process of related legislation and strengthening the effectiveness of public institutions, in line with development priorities and agricultural stakeholders' needs and demands.

- **Longstanding experience in bringing together and facilitating dialogue and collaboration** among diverse actors as governments, producer organizations, extension officers, civil society associations and research institutes. FAO has networking capacity at the national, regional and global levels with convening power to facilitate policy dialogue, foster negotiation of agreements and bring a wide range of stakeholders together to debate policy and agree on solutions.

2.1

Addressing child labour in agriculture to reduce poverty

Child labour is a cross-cutting issue interplaying with all of FAO's strategic programmes to end poverty and hunger in particular in rural areas, where child labour is frequent.

How poverty and child labour are interconnected. Many low-income households in rural areas find it difficult to meet their immediate basic needs and to achieve sustainable livelihoods. This condition is particularly worsened by the impacts of climate change as they merely increase the already-prominent levels of vulnerability of rural communities relying on healthy ecosystems for their subsistence. They see no way other than to engage children to supplement or substitute adult labour. In many cases, children are pulled out of school to engage in agricultural labour, or their performance at school suffers. They are less likely to find decent work when they are older, less likely to adopt new practices and technologies and innovate if they remain in agriculture, and more prone to be trapped in poverty and suffer the long-term effects of the hazardous conditions they faced as children. This has a negative impact on communities and perpetuates a vicious cycle of poverty (Figure 2).

Breaking the vicious cycle. Ending child labour in agriculture can be achieved through prevention and reduction. Preventing can mean enabling rural children to benefit from healthy development, education and training. This allows them to have increased economic potential once they become youth and adult producers or employees, and be more likely to adopt new,

FIGURE 2 Vicious cycle of child labour in agriculture



Source: FAO (2016a).

sustainable practices and technologies if they remain in agriculture. Skilled youth are in a better position to bargain and negotiate working conditions if waged workers, or to gain access for selling their commodities if young entrepreneurs. In turn, this will increase the productivity of the agricultural sector as well as the availability, quality and capacity of a skilled workforce leading to better incomes and enhanced food and nutrition security (Figure 3).

Agricultural, food security and nutrition programmes that aim to increase productivity, reduce poverty and improve livelihoods all have the potential to reduce child labour. This entails integrating child labour concerns in those programmes from the design to the monitoring and evaluation phase. The FAO and the ILO e-learning course on ending child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2016a) and the FAO handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b) provide guidance on how to integrate the issue of child labour in programmes and policies.

FIGURE 3 Virtuous cycle – from ending child labour to better livelihoods



Source: FAO (2016a).



2.2

Ending child labour: a prerequisite for sustainable food systems

Ensuring sustainable productive food systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and is spelled out under SDG Target 2.4. SDG 2 is also linked with the increase of production and incomes of small-scale food producers (see SDG 2.3).

A **sustainable food system** is a food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised. This means that:

- it is profitable throughout (**economic sustainability**);
- it has broad-based benefits for society (**social sustainability**); and
- it has a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment (**environmental sustainability**) (FAO, 2018a).

How to make food systems beneficial for children as part of social sustainability? (UNICEF, 2019). Children should be considered as a distinct group. Sustainable food systems should consider ensuring children's food security and healthy diets. At the same time, in order to put an end to child labour in agriculture and food production, sustainable food systems should address the challenges and pressures that food producers and others in the systems have to cope with, impacting economic sustainability.

The nexus between child labour and productivity in small-scale and family farming is a complex one. Practitioners could argue that the transitory involvement of children in food production is inevitable to reach a minimum level of production in the absence of mechanization and an available or affordable workforce. Another assumption is that once a threshold of productivity is reached, the coping practice to resort to child labour would automatically end with limited and short-lived negative effects on the child's capacity to access decent work and secure sufficient income as a youth and adult. However, evidence points to the opposite (IPEC, 2015). Sustainable food systems and efforts to

increase productivity to feed the planet and secure a decent income for food producers are about the implementation of strategies to reach productivity levels by investing in knowledge, technologies and innovative practices, and through income diversification, and by not relying on child labour.

For several decades, [FAO has been at the forefront of work towards sustainable food production and agriculture](#). In 2014, an FAO report (FAO, 2014a) laid down five principles for sustainable food and agriculture. Principle 3 supports human systems: “Agriculture that fails to protect and improve rural livelihoods, equity and social well-being is unsustainable.” The report puts forward a vision where “farmers, pastoralists, fisher-folks, foresters have decent employment conditions and work.” This is only possible if child labour in agriculture is addressed. The prevention of child labour is already integrated in some FAO documents that guide the development and implementation of FAO programmes.

The [development of sustainable food value chains can offer important pathways out of poverty for the millions of poor households in developing countries](#). The FAO Guiding principles for developing sustainable food value chains (SFVCs) (FAO, 2014a) look at the principles underpinning the development of SFVCs. The first three principles relate to measuring value chain performance from the perspective of the triple bottom line: economic, social and environmental sustainability. In terms of social sustainability, the upgraded value chain model should generate additional value and have no impacts that would be socially unacceptable, such as unhealthy work conditions and child labour.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) developed [Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems \(CFS-RAI\)](#) (CFS, 2014) that apply to all types and sizes of agricultural investment. The principles provide a guidance framework for public and private stakeholders in investment promotion, regulation, planning and implementation to ensure that agricultural investments contribute to sustainable development, including food security and nutrition and poverty eradication. Addressing the four dimensions of food security and nutrition – availability, access, stability and utilization – requires a significant increase in responsible investment in agriculture and food systems. The principle 2 supports the effective implementation of other international labour standards, where applicable, giving particular attention to standards relevant to the agri-food sector and the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

The guidelines on [Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems \(SAFA\)](#) (FAO, 2014b) provide a holistic global framework for the assessment of sustainability along food and agriculture value chains. The guiding vision of SAFA is that food and agriculture systems worldwide are characterized by four dimensions of sustainability: good governance, environmental integrity, economic resilience and social well-being. Absence of child labour is here an element of well-being.

The importance of child labour prevention through specific means is also integrated in: the Rotterdam Convention; the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management of FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO); the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (FAO, 2015c); and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains. The CFS is also developing voluntary guidelines for nutrition and food systems which aim at promoting sustainable practices.

[Building on these guiding documents,](#)
[FAO has an important role to play in supporting governments](#)
[to integrate child labour in policies and programmes](#)
[within its mandate.](#)

3

FAO GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE



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FAO's approach to child labour in agriculture is informed by four principles: inclusiveness, sustainability, integrated approach, and collaboration, which should guide planning and operations in this area of work.

3.1 Inclusiveness

Mainstreaming. The principle of inclusiveness implies that FAO's interventions and project implementation systematically include the issue of child labour from the start during assessments and field studies to identify potential child labour situations, and incorporate child labour prevention as a cross-cutting issue in the design and planning stages, and in monitoring and evaluation systems.

Directing attention also to overlooked situations. Currently most financial resources dedicated to addressing child labour are channelled towards addressing child labour in global value chains (cocoa, coffee, cotton) and their upper tiers, whereas child labour in small-scale production, including in local or regional value chains, remains largely neglected, despite its prevalence. It is important to go beyond the exclusive focus on selected global supply chains and increase resources for ending child labour in all situations, including local and regional value chains and subsistence farming. This means paying attention to child labour in all agricultural subsectors, especially where limited understanding exists regarding the share and characteristics of child labour (e.g. in livestock or forestry).

Age sensitivity. Inclusiveness also means paying attention to different age groups. For example, particular attention is needed for youth who are above the minimum age for work but are still under 18 and, are neither in employment nor in education or training. Ensuring that they are either in decent youth employment (as younger workers) or in continuing quality education or a vocational training/apprenticeship scheme is essential for their own social and economic rights. It is therefore important to ensure coherence between child labour reduction and youth employment interventions, considering the specificities of children who have reached legal working age (usually 14 or 15 years).

Gender sensitivity. Boys and girls are treated differently in most social systems, and therefore they perform different tasks and face different hazards (FAO, IFAD and ILO, 2010). For instance, boys tend to be more involved in hazardous agricultural work, such as operating machinery, herding animals in remote places, capturing fish on vessels and diving to disentangle nets. Girls, on the other hand, are often expected to help out with household chores, and their work burden often combines both productive and reproductive activities and may expose them to longer hours of work and other hazards specific to the tasks they perform, such as carrying heavy loads when collecting water or fuel, inhalation of smoke from cooking stoves or fish-smoking kilns, but also sexual harassment and gender-based violence. Gender differences in child labour vary depending on the local farming system, poverty levels, demographic conditions and social norms, among other factors. It is important to consider less visible forms of child labour, such as domestic work frequently assigned to girls. Tasks that are considered household chores (e.g. water and firewood collection) are very often linked with farm work, blurring the division between girls' productive and reproductive work.

Recognition of indigenous identity. For indigenous communities, traditional work undertaken by children is perceived as essential for the transmission of knowledge and skills and for ensuring the continuity of cultural identity of indigenous groups. The FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (FAO, 2015d) was formulated to ensure that FAO makes all due efforts to respect, include and promote indigenous issues in its work. When it comes to child labour issues, it is important to have a clear understanding of what constitutes child labour as opposed to indigenous traditions of engaging children in certain tasks. In certain cases where indigenous communities are marginalized, indigenous children are more exposed to exploitation, sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment (ILO, 2006).

Recognition of the voice of children. Children should have the opportunity to take part in focus group discussions to inform programme design and to be considered in questionnaires on the distribution of tasks at the household level in farm settings.

3.2 Sustainability

FAO has developed a common vision and an integrated approach to sustainability across all agricultural sub-sectors (FAO, 2014c). This perspective, which is the basis for the effectiveness of FAO's action on the ground, must equally address social, economic and environmental dimensions to ensure sustainability. **Neglecting any one area jeopardizes the attainment of sustainability in the other areas.**

The common vision is built around five principles which provide a basis for developing national policies, strategies, programmes, regulations and incentives that will guide the transition to an agriculture that is highly productive, economically viable, environmentally sound and based on the following principles of equity and social justice:

1. Improving efficiency in the use of resources.
2. Conserving, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems.
3. Protecting and improving rural livelihoods and social well-being. Enhancing the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems, addressing the changes induced by climate change; and
4. Promoting good governance of both natural and human systems.

In line with these principles (in particular Principles 3 and 4) the elimination of child labour in agriculture is an essential component of social sustainability and a precondition for achieving sustainable food and agricultural programmes. A do-no-harm approach is essential but not enough. Especially for interventions implemented in regions or value chains where child labour is prevalent, it is important to take an intentional approach to help end child labour in agriculture and incorporate specific activities and indicators to address the issue.

FAO has developed a series of guidance documents (FAO, 2014a, 2015c; CFS, 2014; OECD and FAO, 2016) that explicitly recognize the need to comply with international core labour standards and provide guidance to address a range of environmental, social and economic issues, including the elimination of child labour and the promotion of decent employment, as part of a responsible and sustainable approach.



3.3 Integrated approach

Child labour is a multifaceted problem requiring an integrated and holistic approach. This means the involvement of different stakeholders and the implementation of different interventions responding to the demand and supply sides of child labour. An integrated approach can involve supporting families to increase their income and access to social protection, facilitating access to quality education, smoothing school-to-work transition, and improving families' and children's safety and health in farm and agricultural settings. This approach also requires raising awareness and building the capacity of agricultural stakeholders to integrate child labour prevention in policies and programmes.

The Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016 (Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, 2010), adopted in 2010, recommended mainstreaming child labour concerns into development

strategies at the national and local levels, especially those directed at poverty reduction. The Roadmap highlighted the areas that support an integrated approach to preventing and reducing child labour in agriculture: education, social protection, labour market policy, national legislation and enforcement, and sustainable and rural development.

In the context of the work programme on Decent Rural Employment, FAO has developed and been implementing an Integrated Country Approach (FAO, 2020a) to support countries in adopting and implementing more youth-inclusive and employment-centred agri-food system development policies, strategies and programmes. The approach provides another entry point to support countries in addressing child labour in agriculture and the opportunity to increase coherence and synergies between policies intended to address child labour and decent youth employment. This is particularly important to respond to the needs of children aged between 14 and 17, who are often not acknowledged in policies and interventions targeting the heterogeneous group of youth and rural youth.

3.4 Collaboration

Within FAO – promoting collaboration among divisions, and between headquarters and decentralized offices. The objective is to strengthen coherence and synergies across the Organization but also to help staff of regional and country offices to address child labour issues in their work, when liaising with traditional FAO stakeholders, such as agricultural line ministries, labour-related stakeholders, and other agencies and resource partners. The Country Programming Framework (CPF) elaboration can represent an ideal process and dialogue between the country office and the host government, taking into consideration the priorities of the Cooperation Framework⁶ (UN, 2019). FAO can provide technical assistance to strengthen the sustainability and accountability of the CPF and integrate child labour concerns throughout use of this key planning and programming tool.

⁶ United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) – formerly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

At the country level – facilitating inter-ministerial dialogue and coordination. In most countries, the ministry of labour has primary responsibility for child labour policy and action, convening and coordinating steering committees and other mechanisms. However, FAO works with the ILO to facilitate inter-ministerial dialogue, especially collaboration between the ministry of agriculture (and other subsectors) and the ministry of labour, but also between other relevant ministries such as social development and education, at the national and decentralized levels to improve coherence of policies and programmes.

Effectively addressing child labour requires the support of ministries beyond agriculture and labour (e.g. social protection, education, health). This can be done by including child labour in the Cooperation Framework, since the elimination of child labour is an objective aligned with the guiding principles of the Cooperation Framework (i.e. leaving no one behind, a human rights-based approach to development, sustainability and accountability). Collaboration between agencies and institutions may require the establishment of a formal contract (letter of agreement or memorandum of understanding) or may happen through national coordination arrangements (focal points, technical working groups, committees). These formal processes are important to facilitate dialogues, share relevant information and identify linkages to ensure coherence in policies and intervention.

In collaboration with extension and advisory services (EAS) providers and producer organizations (POs) – taking advantage of their capillary presence in communities and on the frontline, interacting with farmers, fishers and livestock raisers on a daily basis. Importantly, EAS providers include not only public extension, but also a wide range of non-state and informal actors, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), agri-inputs dealers, producer groups, farmer leaders, development projects. Thanks to this pluralism, they provide a very wide range of relevant services related not only to production but also to the promotion of safer and labour-saving technologies and the improvement of livelihoods. Moreover, if sensitized and properly capacitated, various EAS providers can also provide feedback to researchers and policymakers about the child labour situation on the ground, contribute to data collection, and raise awareness about the harmful effects of child labour. EAS providers are also considered “bridging institutions”, because they can play an important role in bringing various stakeholders together and facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration

at both the national and the community level to eliminate and reduce child labour in agriculture. Hence, FAO works to build the capacity of public and non-public EAS providers including POs on child labour prevention, sharing information on hazards and the identification of alternative practices (Box 3).

In collaboration with small and medium enterprises involved in agriculture and food systems – promoting social dialogue with agricultural workers and working conditions that abide to fundamental rights at work, and the elimination of child labour. The promotion of fair and inclusive business practices, equitable and transparent transactions, and efforts to track the supply chain can successfully help to address child labour in agriculture.

At the global level – involving different UN agencies (Box 4) and other actors which support the achievement of SDG Target 8.7 and the elimination of child labour. FAO partners with the ILO and IFAD within the UN system, and with IUF through the IPCCLA. FAO also supports the Alliance 8.7 and advocates for the integration of child labour in agriculture issues in international frameworks. In addition, FAO has a longstanding collaboration with UNICEF in researching the impact of cash transfer programmes and has recently expanded collaboration with IFAD to mainstream prevention of child labour in agriculture in the formulation of their investments programmes.

4

FAO AREAS OF WORK ON CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE



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As previously mentioned, agricultural, rural development, and food security and nutrition programmes have an important role to play in addressing the root causes of child labour. By helping countries to improve livelihoods of poor rural people, smallholders and family farmers, in particular by increasing their productivity and diversification of income, FAO contributes to reducing the dependency of those families on child labour.

Key notions and messages about child labour can be embedded in FAO's typical outreach and rural education tools, such as farmer field schools (FFS), nutrition field schools, farm business schools, and junior farmer field and life schools (JFFLS).

Moreover, different entry points and approaches can be used to prevent child labour and protect children above the minimum legal age of employment from hazardous work and its consequences. This chapter presents the essential entry points.

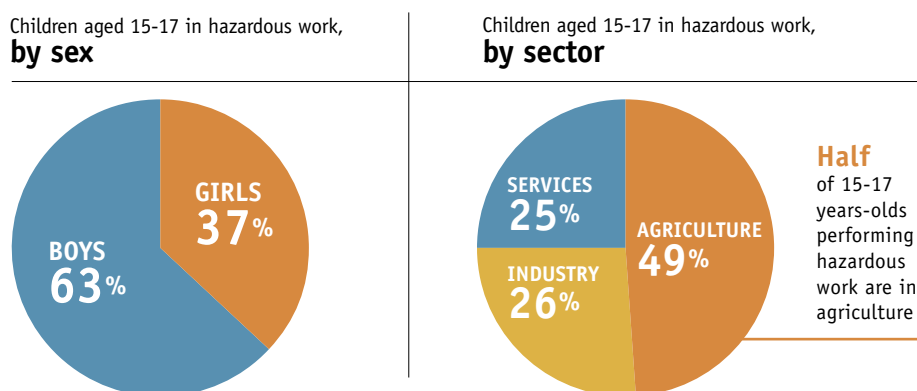
4.1

Promoting the adoption of safe practices in agriculture

Children have special characteristics in terms of physical, cognitive, behavioural and emotional growth that make them more vulnerable to hazardous work and expose them to additional risks. Some 48 percent of children worldwide undertake hazardous work, likely to harm their health, safety or morals. Nearly half of these children are in the youngest age group (5–11 years), and 42 percent are girls (ILO, 2017a). Moreover, almost 50 percent of children aged 15–17 working in hazardous work are found in the agricultural sector (ILO, 2018a) (Figure 4).

Common hazards across agricultural subsectors include long working hours, carrying heavy loads, repetitive movements, exposure to extreme temperatures, toxic chemicals, dangerous equipment and tools, and abuse or harassment. Other hazards specific to farming, fisheries, livestock and forestry also exist (Annexes 1–4). Agricultural family-based work can be as hazardous as work outside the family (ILO, 2018b), since children tend to carry out tasks similar to those performed by adults and caregivers. Depending on the nature of agricultural production, children and adults face similar hazards, but the risks those hazards present are greater for children.

FIGURE 4 Children aged 15–17 in hazardous work



Source: ILO (2018a).

APPROACHES

FAO works on promoting sustainable agricultural production and safer agricultural practices for all, raising awareness on children's exposure to hazardous work, and promoting alternative practices and risk management. Entry points and approaches include:

→ **Developing educational materials** on hazardous work for children and ways to reduce hazards (e.g. pesticides). Materials include visual tools, videos or educational game apps (e.g. a mobile app developed in Lebanon, which looks at risks and hazards associated with different agricultural settings such as horticulture, field crops and greenhouses).

The development of curricula for vocational training and higher education that integrate human health and occupational safety concerns, with special attention to children, represents a unique opportunity to better equip the new generation of professionals to address the issues of child labour, hazardous work and decent work in their future functions.

→ **Raising awareness and enhancing capacity** of agricultural stakeholders at the national and local levels, on health and safety risk assessments to identify work hazards for children and young workers and put in place

occupational safety and health (OSH) measures that address exposure of working children to identified hazards.

This can happen through national capacity-building workshops, training programmes for agricultural extension officers – including private extension services provided by buyers or development and education services provided by NGOs – and plant protection officers, and the incorporation of child labour concerns into extension guidelines, agribusiness curricula or FFS curricula.

At the community level, awareness raising can take different forms such as participatory assessments, Dimitra Clubs, radio and TV programmes, public and village meetings, and Theatre for Development (Box 5).

→ **Supporting the integration of agricultural hazards for children into national hazardous work lists.**

These lists are required by all countries that have ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). They include hazardous work activities and sectors that are prohibited for children in consultation with workers' and employers' representatives. FAO can play a role in identifying agriculture-related hazards to be included in the lists and in supporting the inclusion of agricultural stakeholders in the consultation process. At the country level, the various EAS providers (public, NGOs, POs etc.) who work with producers on a daily basis can contribute to collecting information on activities performed by children and related hazards, and relay them in the framework of this legislative effort (Box 6).

→ **Facilitating collaboration between agricultural and labour stakeholders**

to identify complementary actions to address children's exposure to work hazards in agriculture, especially in the informal economy and rural areas where labour inspectors tend to be less active. This includes FAO interventions in the context of the IPCCLA and initiatives such as the Clear Cotton Project (FAO, 2019b).

→ **Promoting alternative practices and enabling legal framework on sustainable agriculture and environmental issues that reduce health and safety hazards and risks in agricultural work.**

To reduce occupational hazards related to pesticide use, FAO promotes an integrated pest management (IPM) programme that combines different management strategies to grow healthy crops and encourage natural pest control mechanisms. Jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme, FAO performs Secretariat

functions for the Rotterdam Convention, which contributes to regulating the import and export of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides among its parties. It collects data on vulnerable groups, disseminates information via analogous and various digital means, and delivers technical assistance and capacity-development training to provide national stakeholders with strengthened capacity on pesticide management. Its work ensures that policymakers become aware of the risks farmers face when using pesticides and regulatory action can be taken. It further escalates the knowledge of these risks to the global level.

Strategies need to be adapted to the production characteristics, especially size. Specific examples for crop production, capture fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock are provided in sections 4.6–4.9.

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Introduction to child labour in agriculture – Lesson 3: Hazardous work and agriculture
- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes
- Pesticide management and child labour prevention

Ending child labour. The decisive role of agricultural stakeholders (FAO, 2017b)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

4.2 Fostering sustainable labour-saving technologies and practices

Labour-saving technologies and practices can address labour constraints, reduce the time and effort needed to carry out specific tasks and increase productivity. In situations where family labour remains the main source of farm labour, labour-saving technologies and practices can improve labour productivity and enable families to be less reliant on the labour of their children. They can also provide safer working conditions for children and younger youth that are helping

out on the farm. Introduction of new technologies, especially for post-harvest activities, can support livelihoods and family incomes and release children from the involvement of related tasks within the family unit. It should be noted that technologies and practices could have different impacts on the workload of women and men, and of girls and boys, depending on the division of labour and the specific tasks they are responsible for, but also depending on social norms. Their adoption and the formulation of needs in relation to labour-saving technologies and practices should be accompanied by strategies to overcome some social norms and behaviours ingrained in local contexts (FAO, 2015e).

APPROACHES

FAO works to improve agricultural productivity and foster the uptake of appropriate labour-saving technologies and practices, which have the potential to reduce the need for children's inputs. Interventions need to be designed and implemented in a socially responsible manner, taking into account the gender dimension of agriculture. Entry points and approaches include:

- **Considering labour-saving technologies for activities that are usually carried out by children.** For example, in many countries, children are commonly engaged in weeding. Technologies that save time and reduce the efforts for weeding include manual or mechanical weeders. Mulching (e.g. made of crop residues or plastic) or cover crops are also an efficient way of controlling weeds while also improving water retention in the soil. There are many labour-saving technologies that can be used for different cropping systems. In rice production systems, these include drum seeder, rice transplanter, portable cutter and reapers. The promotion of labour-saving technologies needs to be accompanied by proper training on their use and maintenance. Support services such as repair shops and spare parts need to be available where these technologies will be promoted to ensure their sustainability over time.
- **Supporting the provision of mechanization services** (e.g. by individual farmers) in rural communities. Mechanization can help to address major bottlenecks in labour supply and respond to peaks of labour demand, representing an agribusiness opportunity for increasing income and creating jobs while addressing the issue of child labour.



- **Improving access and reducing the time necessary for collection of water.** This can have multiple positive effects related to child labour, especially for girls, as this role is often taken on by girls and women. Water harvesting at the household level can reduce child labour in water fetching. Girls spend less time collecting water, and have more time to go to school, and women spend less time collecting water and can dedicate their time to economically productive activities that increase household income and decrease the pressure on children to work (and/or carry out other domestic chores, again freeing up girls' time for school) (Box 7).
- **Investing and disseminating labour-saving technologies for post-harvest activities.** For example, decreasing the labour requirement for storing, processing and transforming agricultural products can lead to a reduction in child labour in agriculture and the food sector along the chains. Assessment of this indirect effect would need to be systematically carried out (e.g. through food loss analysis), in order to identify critical loss points to be addressed for enhancing livelihoods and income generation.

- **Reducing women's work burden.** The majority of women in developing countries are confronted with the need to combine economically productive work with household chores and the care and nurturing of their children. When women have to work away from home, children may take the responsibility of caring for their siblings or helping in the field instead of going to school. Labour-saving and mechanization technologies in general can reduce the drudgery of operations in the field while improving the labour productivity. These technologies can be used not only in on-farm operations (e.g. planting, transplanting and harvesting), but also for post-harvest and processing operations typically carried out by women (e.g. shelling maize with mechanical shellers) (FAO, 2018b).⁷ Such interventions can generate behavioural changes at the household level when combined with a gender-transformative approach, using for example the Gender Action Learning System (FAO, 2019c) and the Dimitra Clubs.
- **Monitoring the disruptive impact (including unintended consequences) of labour-saving technologies.** While labour-saving technologies or practices reduce the demand for child labour in one particular area of activity, the child may not necessarily attend school instead. The supply and demand for child labour might be transferred to other areas of agricultural activity, unless awareness raising about the benefits of education takes place and possibilities to easily access quality education are fostered (FAO, 2015b).

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Introduction to child labour in agriculture – Lesson 3: Hazardous work and agriculture
- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

⁷ For saving time on processing of fish and adding value to the final product see an example in Sri Lanka at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePB9CbuWymw&t=41s>

4.3

Including agriculture, food and nutrition in school curricula in rural areas

There is a correlation between available indicators of school quality and child labour. Beyond the enrolment and indirect cost, inadequate amenities (including the absence of safe toilet facilities), poor quality and limited relevance of education all play a role in pushing children out of school and into child labour (ILO, 2018a). Introducing or strengthening agricultural and nutrition topics in school curricula can contribute to developing children's knowledge about agriculture and nutrition, increasing environmental awareness, and changing their perception of farming.

APPROACHES

FAO recognizes the important contribution that schools can make in member countries' efforts to overcome hunger, poverty and illiteracy. Programmes around the world show that including food and nutrition in school curricula from as early as primary school raises young people's interest in agriculture and the food sector (FAO, 2018c). FAO works with governments to integrate education on agriculture, food security and nutrition in schools, potentially improving levels of school attendance by making education more relevant to local lifestyles. There is evidence that ensuring a meal for children attending school, improves the rate of school attendance and therefore supports the right to education (Drescher, 2002). Entry points and approaches include:

- **Promoting practical learning.** Learning gardens and farms allow children to be introduced to raising crops and livestock. They can increase the relevance of education for children through active learning and introduction of agriculture, livelihoods, and nutrition knowledge and skills into the curriculum. They also provide children with hands-on practical experience in food production and natural resource management, which serves as a source of innovation they can take home to their families and apply in their own household gardens and farms. In combination with nutrition education, learning gardens at school can provide children with a more diversified meal made with fresh products. Learning garden at school need to be well designed with the participation of families and communities. Their impact must be monitored to also avoid risks of child labour.

Finally, introducing or further emphasizing agricultural topics in school curricula can change children's perception and knowledge of agriculture and employment opportunities along value chains.

→ **Supporting local and inclusive procurement.** FAO developed the **Home-Grown School Feeding Resource Framework** (FAO and WFP, 2018), offering local farmers a regular market (schools) for their production. The framework acknowledges child labour as a barrier to education. This approach can boost local agriculture, create business opportunities for smallholder farmers and other vulnerable producers (including women, youth and members of traditional communities), and contribute to community socio-economic development (FAO, 2020b). Integrating indicators on child labour (e.g. attendance and retention) to interventions that include this approach are critical for better understanding its impacts.

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

→ Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes

Home-grown school feeding resource framework (FAO and WFP, 2018)

School food and nutrition framework (FAO, 2019d)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

4.4

Empowering and building the skills of youth aged 15–17

Youth in rural areas of developing countries face enormous challenges in preparing for and accessing decent work, including in agriculture. These challenges are even greater for youth under the age of 18. This stage in life is typically decisive in terms of how youth will transition from school to work and the likelihood of transitioning out of poverty.

Often there is a gap in national legislation between the age for compulsory school and the legal working age. Youth under 18 in rural areas can easily succumb to child labour if their work is hazardous and they face additional challenges in accessing decent employment opportunities, due to lack of skills, low bargaining power, limited access to information on labour regulations, as well as the existence of legal barriers and labour policy and regulations discrepancies, making them more vulnerable to exploitation. They often end up in the informal sector, working without an employment contract, for a low wage or under unsafe working conditions.

Being below 18 years of age represents a major legal barrier to signing contracts and accessing financial services. Girls face additional barriers due to social and cultural norms, such as early marriage and pregnancy; they tend to limit their interest to traditional skills or simply abandon the learning path early (FAO, 2017c).

The 15–17 age group is also generally excluded with regard to government policy and programme design. Existing youth-related programmes and interventions largely focus on the 18–30 age cohort, mainly due to their emphasis on



entrepreneurship. The 15–17 age group often falls through the cracks of both child labour prevention and youth employment programmes (FAO, 2016b).

The numbers of children in the worst forms of child labour can be dramatically reduced by putting in place effective protection measures for 14–17-year-olds who work in agriculture. Strategies include both measures specifically targeting children and those more broadly improving health and safety for all workers:

- Applying and raising awareness about the national hazardous work lists. For example, based on the results of a survey on child labour, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire updated its national hazardous work list and developed a list of light work activities (acceptable tasks) in different agricultural subsectors for children aged 13–16 (CNS, 2017), adopted in 2017.
- Putting in place OSH measures that address exposure of working children to work hazards.
- Improving working conditions and arrangements, including by separating working children from particular work hazards.

APPROACHES

FAO promotes rural decent employment (Box 8) for youth, recognizing that youth is a diverse group and that those aged 15–17 need special attention to prevent them from doing hazardous work and facilitate their access to skills development activities.

Entry points and approaches include:

➔ **Implementing junior farmer field and life schools (JFFLS).** FAO has developed the **JFFLS methodology** that combines agricultural, business and life skills. The objective of JFFLS is to empower vulnerable children and youth to have a better future and improve their livelihoods and long-term food security. The specific content of a given JFFLS training course is determined in accordance with local needs and the targeted audience (Box 9).

A specific training manual on the prevention of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2010) has been developed in collaboration with the ILO, providing exercises and information for the integration of child labour prevention in JFFLS curricula and as part of the overall modular approach.

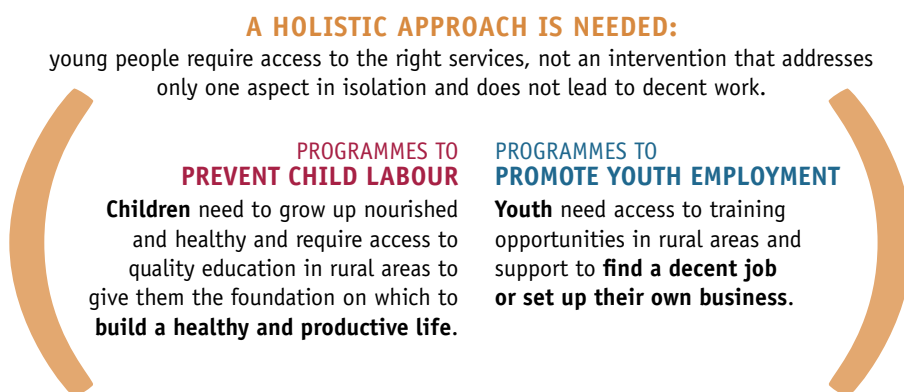


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- **Integrating youth aged 15–17 in decent rural employment initiatives targeting youth.** FAO's Integrated Country Approach for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agri-food system aims to support countries in adopting and implementing more youth-inclusive agri-food system development policies, strategies and programmes (Box 10).
- **Supporting youth employment in agriculture, including financial inclusion for youth.** It is important to take into account the particular constraints and needs of the different **age segments** of youth in assessments, research and interventions to ensure initiatives are effective and that no one is left behind. Financial inclusion for rural youth can be considered a way to build resilience and economic independence, but also to enhance self-confidence and self-esteem. However, in many sub-Saharan countries, the minimum age to open a bank account is 18, while youth under 18 who have already started working would greatly benefit from access to financial services and financial literacy. Interventions that aim to increase financial inclusion in the context of youth employment in agriculture should therefore consider how the needs of different age segments could be met (Box 11).

→ **Adopting a life cycle approach.** Child labour and youth employment are points on a continuum and strategies that address them must be closely linked in a life cycle approach. Child labour is detrimental to long-term health, education and higher-level skills acquisition, and decreases the chances of decent employment in youth and adulthood. As adults, former child labourers are more likely to rely on their own children's labour to meet the household's basic expenses, perpetuating the vicious cycle of poverty, illiteracy and child labour. Programmes to prevent child labour and those that promote youth employment need to be designed taking into consideration a life cycle approach to meet the evolving needs children and young adults (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5 Holistic approach to promote youth employment and reduce child labour in agriculture



Source: FAO (2018d).

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

→ Promoting youth employment and reducing child labour in agriculture

Results from the FAO Expert Meeting addressing the challenges faced by rural youth aged 15 to 17 in preparing for and accessing decent work (FAO, 2017c)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

4.5

Enhancing economic capacity and building resilience⁸ of livelihoods through social protection

Social protection is recognized as a critical strategy for poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Social protection interventions are not usually designed and implemented with the specific aim of reducing child labour in agriculture; nevertheless, by addressing poverty, hunger and vulnerability, they have the potential to reduce children's work and incentivize schooling. More specifically, **social protection addresses economic and non-economic drivers of child labour through the following direct mechanisms** (Singh and McLeish, 2013):

- Contributing to remove the barriers to access education – with special attention to girls – promoting attendance (e.g. through school meals).
- Helping to make income stable and predictable for extreme poor households and minimize the economic dependency on child labour.
- Increasing the resilience of households to economic and climate-related shocks, as well as humanitarian issues, minimizing the risk of negative coping strategies (e.g. selling of productive assets which can lead to an increased demand in manpower, thus child labour) – including coping strategies with almost irreversible effects (e.g. taking children out of school and into work). According to research, crop failure is the economic shock pushing the highest number of children into child labour.
- Providing specific and positive incentives to keep children out of work, for example, by making social protection benefits conditional on the achievement of certain health and education objectives (i.e. strong or “soft conditionality”).

Despite significant progress in the extension of social protection in many parts of the world, only 45 percent of the global population is effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit, while the remaining 55 percent – or 4 billion people – are left unprotected and the majority of these people live in rural areas (ILO, 2017b).

⁸ Resilience is the ability of people, communities or systems that are confronted by disasters or crises to withstand damage and to recover rapidly.

APPROACHES

For FAO, social protection encompasses three pillars: social assistance, social insurance and labour market regulations. FAO works to promote the expansion of social protection in agriculture and rural areas and recognizes the linkages between social protection and decent rural employment, with the potential to prevent child labour (FAO, 2017d).

→ **Implementing cash transfer programmes.** FAO and partners – including in the context of the Transfer Project (The Transfer Project, 2020) and From Protection to Production Project (**Box 12**) – have generated solid evidence on the impacts of national cash transfer programmes on child labour, highlighting not only the positive impacts, but also specific considerations in terms of design and implementation to prevent unintended impacts. Most of evidence on social protection and child labour has been concentrated in cash transfer programmes. Cash transfers reduce the economic barriers to access education, nutrition and health services, contribute to food security and dietary diversity, and have the potential to address some of the economic drivers of child labour.

→ **Implementing school feeding programmes** to reduce child labour by increasing school attendance. The last decade has seen a new component introduced into school feeding programmes, with food for the school canteen purchased from local smallholders through the public food procurement process. Home-Grown School Feeding programmes are conceived as an opportunity to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, boost local agriculture and strengthen the nexus among nutrition, agriculture and social protection, moving people out of poverty.

The role and positive impact of social protection in preventing child labour and in addressing some of the drivers of child labour is not automatic. Careful consideration is needed in the design and implementation of interventions. For instance, evidence generated by FAO, UNICEF and partners clearly shows that access to social protection, including cash transfers, can enhance economic activity, including on farm. This may increase the demand for labour which sometimes can be met only by the members of the family, because of the unavailability or unaffordability of hired casual work. In these cases, children may need to take over some of the parents' activities instead of going to school. Similarly, the decision

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- Intervene as early as possible where children are at risk, in order to prevent irreversible impairment or harm – children working in agriculture tend to start working very early compared to other sectors.
- Consider the age- and gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities of children throughout the life cycle.
- Mitigate the effects of shocks, exclusion and poverty on households.
- Include the most vulnerable children, such as children without parental care, and those who are marginalized within their families or communities due to their gender, disability, ethnicity, HIV and AIDS or other factors.
- Include the voices and opinions of children, their caregivers and youth in the understanding and design of social protection systems and programmes.
- Adopt an integrated social protection approach, sensitive to potential gender discriminations.

Source: UNICEF & ILO. 2019. *Towards universal social protection for children: Achieving SDG 1.3*. ILO-UNICEF Joint Report on Social Protection for Children. (also available at <https://www.unicef.org/reports/towards-universal-social-protection-children-achieving-sdg-13>).

to send children to work instead of school may not only depend on functional (dysfunctioning labour market) or economic (lack of liquidity) factors, but may also depend on other factors, including the geographical position of the household with respect to the school, poor quality of education or weak infrastructure.

Social protection interventions can be child labour sensitive:

- **Inclusive assessments including age and gender.** During assessments and programme design, the focus should be on the situation of children, existing child labour and potential risks due to vulnerabilities or poverty levels. It is important to identify the need for different age groups, sex groups and types of employment. This will provide opportunities to design social protection programmes that prevent and reduce child labour. Separate assessment on the situation of children and child labour may be needed. The assessments will need to estimate the direct and indirect expenses related to schooling, and the opportunity cost of no longer relying on the income brought by children in order to formulate interventions effectively addressing child labour.

- > **Monitoring of impacts.** Indicators must be formulated to assess the impact of the interventions on child labour; there is no standard list of child labour indicators adapted to all situations. Indicators must be specific to the programme context and need to be selected on the basis of the child labour dynamics in the different agricultural subsectors. Ultimately and where possible, any data collected needs be disaggregated by age and sex. In certain circumstances, it may be useful to organize unplanned visits to field sites to ensure children are not engaging in hazardous work or being out of school as a consequence of the intervention.
- > **Integrated approach and partnerships.** Social protection has the potential of addressing child labour in a holistic manner, implementing a comprehensive approach to address household vulnerability in the short and long term, and working in coherence and collaboration with key actors, such as those in education, protection, labour, social development and agriculture. Coordination among development agencies is particularly important to ensure there is no negative impact on children (e.g. making sure interventions are complementary and do not place an additional burden on families).

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

→ Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes

FAO Information Note on social protection and child labour (forthcoming)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

4.6

Addressing child labour in crop production

A major issue in farming is the exposure of children to pesticides. Pesticide poisoning is especially harmful to children, because their body, brain and nervous systems are at critical stages of development. Because they are in a development stage, children have fewer natural defences and can develop serious health problems as a result of pesticide exposure⁹. For example, children have larger pores and can, therefore, absorb more chemicals into their bodies; their organs are also still developing, making exposure to toxins potentially more dangerous. For both biological and behavioural reasons, children are typically more vulnerable than adults to risks associated with pesticides. No child under 18 should be involved in the direct use of hazardous pesticides. Children can also be exposed to other health and safety risks, such as injuries related to sharp tools and machinery, back pains from long working hours (e.g. weeding), heavy work during land preparation, falls in unguarded wells and asphyxiation from working in grain solos or pits.

APPROACHES

FAO places major emphasis on raising awareness on protecting children from pesticides and other OSH issues while simultaneously promoting safe and sustainable farming practices in order to improve productivity. Entry points and approaches include:

→ **Advocating for the need to protect children from pesticides.** FAO works with partners to take into account children's specific vulnerability in international conventions and codes in order to reduce their exposure to pesticides. For example, The FAO-WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management recognizes children as one of the vulnerable groups for pesticide exposure. The Code of Conduct is voluntary, but establishes a minimum international standard for monitoring the standards of governments and the pesticide industry.

⁹ A recent study in Egypt on adolescents using hazardous pesticides in agriculture reported among the target group reduced lung function, neurobehavioural deficits, increased Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and changes in neurobehavioural outcomes (Rohlman et al., 2015).



The 2013 revision of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management widened the provisions regarding the protection of children from pesticide exposure. Other important binding conventions and non-binding codes include:

- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) – including measures specifically targeting children (article 7 and article 10).
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. This Convention can contribute to reducing the exposure to toxic chemicals of children engaged in scavenging/recycling activities or living on or near dumps rather than specifically influence child labour in agriculture.
- Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184) – the first international instrument that addresses the safety and health hazards faced by workers in agriculture in a comprehensive manner. Specific requirements on the sound management of chemicals can be found in articles 12 and 13.

Only through specific actions related to pesticide management, simultaneously carried out by governments, pesticide control boards, researchers, producer organizations and all actors involved, will it be possible to effectively reduce children's exposure to pesticides. Awareness raising on this risk in the context of the Rotterdam Convention led to a better understanding of the issue and the need for collective action (**Box 13**).

- **Raising awareness at the community level.** It is important to raise awareness on child labour among farmers and communities. This can be carried out, for example, through rural radio programmes, farmer listeners' clubs (e.g. Dimitra Clubs) and farmer field schools. Extension agents and producer organizations have an important role to play and can be trained to provide advice to farmers to reduce health and safety hazards. For example, in Ghana, extension agents, as well as local facilitators, leaders of farmer groups and organizations, were trained on child labour, OSH, risks of hazardous pesticides and labour-saving technologies.

FAO has developed a series of **knowledge materials** on protecting children from pesticides:

- JFFLS visuals, posters and facilitator's guide (FAO, 2010).
- e-learning course "Pesticide management and child labour prevention" (FAO, 2016c).
- Facilitators' visual guide, Protect children from pesticides! (FAO and ILO, 2015) – with the technical and financial support of the Rotterdam Convention – used successfully in different settings to raise awareness and promote alternatives: Uganda (FAO, 2018e) and Guinea-Bissau (Vimeo, 2019).
- Short visual story about the dangers of pesticides for younger, potentially illiterate children. Developed in Lebanon, it targets especially Syrian refugee children (FAO and ILO, 2017b).

→ **Promoting safe and sustainable farming practices.** In order to reduce exposure of workers to pesticides and thus contribute to the reduction of hazardous child labour, farmers should be encouraged to control pests using IPM to decrease the use of pesticides and minimize environmental and health risks. For example, field schools that train farmers in alternative methods of pest control have succeeded in nearly eliminating the use of toxic pesticides in a community of cotton growers in the Bla region of Mali, where FAO established a field school programme in 2003. Other farming practices promoted through conservation agriculture and agro-ecology have the potential to reduce child labour by decreasing labour requirements, reducing pesticide use and improving incomes of farmers. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the FAO conservation agriculture programme reported an increase in average maize yields from 1 tonne/ha to 6 tonnes/ha, without use of additional agrochemicals. Farmers have also been able to diversify into commercial crops, resulting in increased income generation and more balanced nutrition for their family, with a positive impact on food security. Farmers in both countries reported a significant reduction in labour demand at peak ploughing and planting times (FAO, 2012a).

→ **Combining technologies and approaches.** The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) can increase rice productivity while using smaller quantities of inputs (seeds, water, chemical fertilizers and pesticides). The result is increased yields and greater savings on inputs. But while SRI reduces the time spent on pesticide application and transplanting, it can increase the time spent on weeding. This can affect the demand for child labour, as weeding is often done by children. Therefore, combining SRI with alternative practices or technologies, such as simple mechanical weeders, can reduce the time needed for weeding and ensure maximum benefits for the household. Other labour-saving technologies (e.g. specialized tools for planting and weeding) or techniques (e.g. mulching) can save farmers' time and energy, reducing the amount and type of work undertaken by children. Small-scale processing technologies (e.g. peanut shellers) also have the potential to reduce the work burden and free children's time to attend school. Combining approaches, while also raising awareness in the community about child labour, can increase productivity of small-scale agriculture and create opportunities to move up the value chain or diversify income-generating activities.

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes
- Pesticide management and child labour prevention

FAO & ILO Pesticides visual facilitator's guide produced in collaboration with the Rotterdam Convention (Rotterdam Convention, 2020)

Ending child labour. The decisive role of agricultural stakeholders (FAO, 2017b)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

Hazardous child labour: FAO's contribution to protecting children from pesticide exposure (FAO, 2015f)

4.7

Addressing child labour in capture fisheries and aquaculture

Fishing is one of the most dangerous occupational activities in the world. On a global scale, child labour is widespread in the sector, as fishers, fish farmers, and fishing and aquaculture communities are often poor and vulnerable. In certain cases, the depletion of fishery resources is the reason attributed to hiring children as workers and as a source of cheap labour (Mathew, 2010).

Children engage in a wide variety of tasks in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, including fishing, pre-trip preparation, post-harvest activities (processing and marketing), feeding, guarding and harvesting fish in ponds and cages, boatbuilding as well as net making and mending. In line with adults' gender roles in fisheries and aquaculture activities, boys tend to be more involved in fishing and girls in post-harvest activities. Occupational hazards exist in both categories (Ngajilo and Jeebhay, 2019; Watterson *et al.*, 2019). Because of their developmental status, as well as their lack of skills compared to adults, children are more at risk than adults from safety and health hazards (2015f).¹⁰

APPROACHES

FAO aims to achieve a sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sector that accounts for economic, social and environmental matters. This includes contributing to decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture for all, and preventing child and forced labour, by building more knowledge on the subject, raising awareness on hazardous work in the sector, supporting the integration of child labour considerations in international instruments and guidelines, and contributing to compliance with these standards and guidelines. Entry points and approaches include:

→ **Ensuring child labour issues are taken into account in international fisheries instruments.** Decent work and child labour considerations are included in some FAO guidelines related to fisheries and aquaculture. For example, the FAO 2011 Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification

¹⁰ For examples of common hazards in fisheries and aquaculture and potential health consequences, refer to FAO (2018d).

(FAO, 2011), established to guide the development, organization and implementation of credible aquaculture certification schemes, states that “child labour should not be used in a manner inconsistent with ILO Conventions and international standards”. The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (FAO, 2015c), endorsed in 2014 by the FAO Committee on Fisheries includes a chapter on social development, employment and decent work with explicit reference to child labour eradication.

FAO cooperated with the ILO in the development of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) to improve working and living conditions at sea. The Convention sets standards for decent work on fishing vessels and establishes the minimum requirements to be enforced. The standards of the Convention can also play a preventative role in addressing unacceptable forms of work in the sector, including forced labour and child labour. Collaboration between FAO and the ILO is essential to strengthen the capacity and coordination between labour and fisheries authorities at the national level in the application of this Convention. In 2020, the ILO became a member of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters. The FAO Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture discussed in 2015 decent work issues in aquaculture, in particular child labour (FAO, 2015f). New international guidelines are being developed to confront substandard working conditions in the seafood industry.

- **Integrating child labour issues in fisheries policies.** At the national level, FAO supports governments in the integration of child labour issues in national fisheries policies (Box 14).
- **Protecting children from hazardous work through risk assessments and appropriate national hazardous work lists.** Improving OSH in fisheries and aquaculture and reducing risks faced by young workers can help transform situations of child labour into decent employment opportunities. At the national level, FAO raises awareness on OSH in fisheries and aquaculture and conducts risk assessments with a focus on children’s vulnerabilities. Risks assessments can assist in preventing children being exposed to hazardous work and can be useful for governments in the process of developing or revising their national hazardous work lists (Box 15).



→ **Promoting technologies and practices to reduce the sector's demand for child labour.**

The demand for child labour can be reduced by introducing technologies and practices that eliminate the need for children's labour. This could include, for example, improved community infrastructure with regard to water supplies, as well as roads, transport and landing site arrangements, to avoid carrying heavy loads. In the informal economy, engagement of communities together with organizations of fishers, fish farmers, fish workers and employers, and other sectoral institutions is particularly important.

→ **Building knowledge on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture.**

More quantitative and qualitative information on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture is needed to understand its causes and consequences. Cost-effective ways to improve basic information include:

- adapting and integrating aspects of child labour in fisheries and aquaculture into standard household and living standard measurement surveys through the introduction of sector modules or specific questions; and
- ensuring sufficient data disaggregation in relevant surveys (all data should be disaggregated by age, by sex and profession/occupation).

Building evidence is important for cross-sectoral capacity development in support of policy coherence; child labour concerns should be taken into account in fisheries and aquaculture policies and programmes, while the characteristics of fisheries and aquaculture need to be considered in child labour strategies.

- **Strengthening fisheries management and governance to offer long-term solutions.** Low return on labour and decreasing income due to overfishing and overcapacity are underlying factors prompting fishers to cut corners off labour costs and look for cheap or free labour including child labour. There is a vicious circle between poverty, depletion of fisheries resources and the use of child labour. Decreasing incomes, along with poor enforcement capacity of fisheries administrations and weak management are also at the origin of the environmental and legal breaches in fisheries. A functioning management and governance of fisheries represents a comprehensive strategy to address some of the root causes of child labour and its worst forms, hazardous work and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Solid fisheries management – accompanied by solutions to address waste and loss in fisheries value chains, increase value addition strategies and promote access to markets – can support the economic viability in the sector and further soften the root causes of child labour.

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes
- Monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture

Guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture (FAO and ILO, 2013)

Eliminating child labour in fisheries and aquaculture – Promoting decent work and sustainable fish value chains (FAO, 2018f)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

4.8

Addressing child labour in livestock

Livestock keeping in developing countries has deep historical and cultural roots and the involvement of children can be very common. Both girls and boys typically start herding and caring for livestock at a very young age. Aside from herding, children are involved in feeding and cleaning (animals and sheds), collecting fodder and water, working with draught animals, and helping with processing. Worldwide, reports reveal that children work in poultry and other small livestock (on farms and in their homestead), dairy production, slaughterhouses and other meat processing operations, though information on the scale and areas of occurrence is extremely limited.

Work conditions of children engaged in herding differ greatly across contexts. Children may herd either for an employer or for their families. Child herders working outside the household appear to be most vulnerable to exploitation and verbal/physical abuse by employers. Children can even run into debt when they are forced to compensate for lost cattle and destroyed crops. Particularly worrisome are situations where children are trapped in bonded labour or are trafficked to engage in herding in and outside of country borders (FAO, 2013a).

Children are more vulnerable than adults when exposed to the occupational hazards inherent in working with livestock. Health problems can be caused by working long hours in extreme weather conditions, poor sanitation and hygiene, contamination through manure handling, use of chemical products (e.g. veterinary drugs and disinfectant), exposure to harmful animal handling, highly biological and physical hazardous activities in slaughterhouses, inhalation of livestock dust and animal-to-human disease transmission (zoonoses). In addition, there is a high risk of injury when handling animals and sharp tools. Children may be bitten, kicked or stamped on, attacked by wild animals while herding, or develop musculoskeletal disorders. Boys mostly, but also girls, who guide oxen to plough the fields run the risk of being gored. In Mali, some communities have trained older oxen to do the ploughing, contributing to reduce the need for a child to walk in front of them. Long periods of isolation, fear of cattle raiders and punishment by employers, or overwhelming feelings of responsibility for the family capital can generate psychological stress that constitutes a major

threat to the well-being of children. Herding activities are generally difficult to combine with education, because they occupy children for a large portion of the day. Migration can create additional obstacles in the absence of adapted services. Many herders are school dropouts and some have never been to school. Once out of school, children are less likely to return.

APPROACHES

FAO aims to raise awareness and build knowledge on child labour in the livestock sector and support governments and partners in addressing the issue through its ongoing work on livestock (FAO, 2013a). Entry points and approaches include:

→ **Contributing to reduce the knowledge gap** on child labour in the livestock sector by supporting research initiatives on the issue and advising national governments in the development of key child labour-related indicators to be included in national surveys and censuses. The precise extent of child labour in livestock is not easy to establish due to a lack of data disaggregated by subsector. This informational deficit makes it much more difficult to design effective policies and programmes to address child labour in agriculture, including in livestock.

EAS providers working with herders could contribute to relay and collect information on child labour in the livestock sector.

→ **Building awareness, shifting behavioural changes and enhancing capacity on OSH** at the national and local levels with relevant stakeholders by linking FAO's work on improving health and welfare of working animals (transport and traction) (FAO, 2014d) with child labour.

→ **Collaborating with government bodies and partners to support the development and implementation of pastoralist-smart education systems**, with primary (and secondary) school curricula that are relevant to the rural and agricultural context and pastoralist societies and can promote decent rural employment. The links between livestock and education are key to sustainable livestock development and to poverty reduction. If the efficiency of livestock production systems is improved (e.g. through improved livestock practices and management), the children of poor, livestock-dependent households can be freed from child labour and gain better access to education (FAO, 2018g) (Box 16).

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes
- Monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture

Child labour and education in pastoralist communities in South Sudan (ILO, 2013)

Children's work in the livestock sector: herding and beyond (FAO, 2013a)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

4.9

Addressing child labour in forestry

Child labour in forestry is thought to be widespread, although this is the agricultural sector with the least data, with the exception of forestry plantations. One of the reasons for this data gap is that most reports do not distinguish forestry activities from other agricultural activities, in addition to the fact that forestry activities may be conducted in an informal, and sometimes illegal, way. Forestry activities often take place in remote areas and sometimes in temporary and shifting locations. The isolating situation increases the vulnerability to exploitation, making the application of labour standards, trade union representation and community support difficult. Children may be involved in a wide range of hazardous tasks, such as climbing trees for harvesting fruits and spices, cutting rubber, planting and logging, as well as in nursery and silvicultural work involving exposure to chemicals. They may be involved in illegal logging activities, thus contributing unwillingly to environmentally damaging activities and exposing themselves to further hazards and abuse.

In 2018, FAO undertook an initial scoping study on child labour in forestry. The study, based on a survey among FAO staff and a literature review, indicates that children are engaged in different forest-related activities depending on their age, with potential exposure to hazardous work and the likelihood of disrupting schooling. Initial results of the survey indicate that children from the 5–11 age group were observed in most forest-related activities, particularly in the collection of non-wood forest products (NWFPs), but not in logging.

Those aged 12–13 were observed in all activities, but mainly in the collection of NWFPs and firewood gathering, while older children (14–17) were largely engaged in logging, nursery work and planting. Observations and feedback related to industrial forestry were very limited. One of the main conclusions of the scoping study is the need for more research to better understand the engagement of children in the forestry sector in different regions.

One of the most recent and relevant knowledge products on the sector is an ILO report for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region in Africa (ILO, 2014) which shows that in Burkina Faso, 34.7 percent of the total workforce in forestry/logging comprises children in the 5–14-year age group, while in Guinea, the same age group accounts for 36.5 percent. A study in Paraguay (ILO, 2016), shows that the forestry sector employs 4.4 percent of children and adolescents in child labour for the production of eucalyptus and the exploitation of wood, involving the collection, loading and transportation of firewood on foot.

APPROACHES

FAO aims to raise awareness and build knowledge on child labour in the forestry sector and support governments and partners in addressing the issue through its ongoing work on forestry. Entry points and approaches include:

→ **Supporting governments in the application of the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests** in the context of national food security (FAO, 2012b). The Guidelines state that responsible investments should contribute to preventing situations of child labour, including due to debt bondage on forestry estates and industrial logging concessions.

In the context of supporting sustainable and inclusive development of the forestry sector, child labour should be taken into account in certification processes of forest products, and integrated into relevant guidelines for forestry such as those of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO, 2020). Guidelines and standards should also be strengthened for NWFPs.

→ **Building awareness and capacity on OSH at the national and local levels.** FAO can collaborate with relevant partners such as the ILO to build capacity of extension agents on risk assessment methodologies to identify existing hazards, feasible alternatives and mitigation strategies, and to raise

awareness on child labour among agricultural stakeholders (local forestry stakeholders, including producers, cooperatives and workers), supporting their participation in local child labour monitoring systems.

- **Supporting governments and national forestry stakeholders in raising awareness and increasing application of relevant requirements around child labour enshrined in national legislation.** FAO can collaborate with stakeholders at all levels to build capacity around the application of current legislation, including awareness of requirements and understanding barriers and opportunities for improved compliance (FAO, 2018h).
- **Reducing the knowledge gap** in child labour in the forestry sector by supporting the integration of key child labour-related indicators in forestry-related programmes and undertaking studies in cooperation with partners.
- **Improving working conditions for forest workers**, especially the most vulnerable, such as contractors, migrants, women and youth can help decrease the engagement of children. This can translate into adopting safer work practices, ensuring access to social protection for formal and informal workers, and guaranteeing more secure and stable contracts, all of which can help increase productivity and stabilize access to nutrient-rich and diverse diets (FAO, 2020c).
- **Increasing opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment in forestry while avoiding deforestation and forest degradation.** This requires: removal of constraints (e.g. insecure tenure rights); promotion of the participation of small-scale forest producers in market-oriented activities in agroforestry, tree-growing, small-scale wood processing and provision of ecosystem services; and increased opportunities for green jobs.

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes
- Monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture

Promoting decent employment in forestry for improved nutrition and food security (FAO, 2013b)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)



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4.10

Promoting socially sustainable agricultural value chains

Child labour is mostly found in the lower tier of agricultural value chains and in informal settings, making it more complex to apprehend. But child labourers can also be found at all stages of agricultural supply chains, affecting children, the reputation of enterprises, and rural and agricultural development. An increasing number of countries in Europe are adopting due diligence legislation¹¹ with clear provisions on child labour, while in 2019, the European Commission pledged zero tolerance towards child labour in European Union trade policy. In this context, every actor along the agricultural supply chain, from farmers, to traders, investors and consumers, has a critical role to play. Eliminating child labour should be an integral part of how business is conducted and how crops and other products are produced.

As explained in section 3.2, international instruments have been developed to provide guidance in advancing the agenda of responsible and sustainable agricultural value chains and food systems.

The UN Global Compact Food and Agriculture Business Principles (UN Global Compact, 2014) provide a voluntary framework to advance the positive impact business can have on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture and to engage in principle-based collaboration with the UN, governments, civil society and other stakeholders. One of the Principles reiterates businesses “responsibilities to respect human rights, create decent work and help communities”.

Finally, with increased consumer awareness, voluntary standards and private sector codes are another tool that can be used to address child labour (e.g. certification schemes such as Fairtrade and GLOBALG.A.P). The development of technologies such as blockchains, which ensure the traceability of products throughout the value chain, can be useful to uncover cases of child labour and incentivize companies to take action.

¹¹ See French Duty of Vigilance Law definitely adopted in 2017, and the Dutch Child Labour Due Diligence Bill voted by Dutch Parliament in May 2019.

APPROACHES

FAO is working to make agricultural value chains more sustainable (economically, environmentally and socially) and more inclusive by increasing opportunities for smallholders to engage and promoting the elimination of child labour. Entry points and approaches include:

→ **Raising awareness and developing capacity of agricultural stakeholders.**

This may include raising awareness and developing capacity on hazardous work and promoting alternative agricultural practices, facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues and developing guidance around business strategies to end child labour in agriculture. FAO and the ILO have jointly developed a series of e-learning courses to help practitioners in the agricultural sector with knowledge and practice guidance on concrete actions to end child labour in agriculture. Particularly relevant to those working on agricultural supply chains is the course: Business strategies and public–private partnerships to end child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2016d). This course presents a number of business-oriented strategies to reduce child labour in agricultural supply chains, including in crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. Public–private partnerships can directly address child labour by supporting education, increasing productivity and raising awareness.

→ **Providing guidance on appropriate contractual arrangements.** Fair contract farming principles can help farmers break down barriers to entry into markets and facilitate access to credit and capital, thereby stabilizing the incomes of farmers and increasing their profits. Fair contracts can have an important role to play in fostering decent rural employment practices, including the ending of child labour.¹² EAS providers should be capacitated to link producers to such services and to provide guidance to them on fair contract conditions, as well as strengthen their negotiation skills. The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming (UNIDROIT, FAO and IFAD, 2015) provides advice and guidance on the entire relationship, from negotiation to conclusion. It specifically states that responsible contract farming arrangements can represent an important instrument for promoting

¹² For more information on the benefits of contract farming: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/contract-farming/en>

sustainable agriculture, and better and safer agricultural practices to reduce hazardous work, as well as labour-saving practices and technologies that reduce dependence on child labour.

- **Integrating child labour concerns in value chain development programmes and inclusive business practices.** This can happen through the promotion of decent youth employment with special attention to include youth aged 15–17. It is important to integrate key indicators related to child labour in the monitoring and evaluation framework of value chain development interventions, and collaborate with partners and actors along the value chain – both small-scale producers and multinational companies – to prevent or take actions to eliminate child labour.
- **Integrating decent work dimensions in distributed ledger or blockchain technologies.** FAO has the opportunity to extend its technical expertise in agriculture and work together with other organizations to include decent work – including child labour-related – dimensions in blockchain technology used to improve traceability along agricultural value chains. Blockchain technology provides transparency and traceability that can incentivize supply chains to be child labour-free (**Box 17**).

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes
- Business strategies and public-private partnerships to end child labour in agriculture
- Monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

4.11

Reducing risks and vulnerabilities in the context of protracted crisis, food chain crisis and natural hazards





One in four children grow up in areas affected by conflict or natural hazards

(FAO, 2017a). Fragile economic existences, food insecurity, widespread damage, extensive violence, forced displacement, prolonged humanitarian responses, and significant protection and security risks all contribute to children's vulnerability. Children might be drawn into child labour – for example, to repay the debt of their guardians – and be exposed to several forms of abuse while at work and on their way to work. Increase in gender-based violence may further exacerbate the severity of child labour situations. Moreover, the tasks children were performing, or the subsectors of agriculture they were engaged in, prior to a conflict may become more dangerous (e.g. more difficult access to natural resources and exposure to risks such as unexploded ordinances and explosive remnants of war).

Situations of encampment with restricted mobility and limited access to basic services and natural resources may increase unregulated and informal work for children, as they support household food security and income. The need to seek alternative sources of food and water for their livestock due to conflict over resources can increase the exposure of pastoralist children to violence. Children sent from camps to collect water, wood and fuel are also at risk of violence and abuse and of dangers related to natural events or wild animals.

The change in prevalence and forms of child labour after natural disasters is not always consistent between contexts. Where families already depend on children's income, unemployment can place them at increased risk of unsafe migration and trafficking in search of work. Massive reconstruction efforts that follow natural disasters can create additional types of child labour and pull children into inappropriate reconstruction, extraction or processing activities.

APPROACHES

	PREPAREDNESS PHASE 0	Understand whether child labour would be a problem if an emergency were to affect agricultural communities.
	FIRST 2 WEEKS PHASE 1 & 2	Identify any immediate indications that child labour is a considerable concern in agricultural communities following an emergency.
	WEEKS 4 TO 8 PHASE 3	Understand how the situation has changed and continues to change.
	6 TO 12 MONTHS PHASE 4	Collect data to identify the impact of economic shock on families and their livelihood coping mechanisms and child labour.

Agriculture and food security programmes as life-saving interventions, like other interventions, can have potentially both positive and negative effects on children. Integrating child labour concerns in those interventions is important to prevent or mitigate exposing children to harmful situations. Entry points and approaches include:

→ **Gathering information on child labour issues during needs assessment.**

FAO has adopted a five-phase assessment approach to align with the framework of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and to identify specific tools to be used in each phase. Child labour concerns should be integrated into each step of the assessment, including pre-assessment training and briefings.

→ **Targeting and integrating child labour-sensitive activities in the design and implementation** of food security and agricultural programmes:

- Based on the data collected during the assessment phase, profile and identify families with high levels of vulnerability that may resort to child labour as a coping strategy, carefully considering the role of gender, age and disability.
- Provide safe work opportunities for caregivers and children of working age, whose families are vulnerable to child labour. For children who are above the minimum working age and below the age of 18, access to safe and decent work is crucial and can help alleviate financial difficulties experienced by families who are displaced and/or recovering from a crisis. For example, reserve a percentage of places in recovery and rehabilitation programmes and provide financial education to adolescents (consider that boys and girls are likely to require different provisions to participate safely and equitably).

- Integrate and combine strategies with other partners and sectors (e.g. between food security, education and protection clusters and working groups) to address child labour in agriculture. Where possible, create flexible and ongoing pathways for targeting and inclusion in programmes, so that households identified through other sector programmes, such as child protection or education, can be referred for support and included in case management mechanisms (Box 18).

→ **Carrying out monitoring and evaluation** is key. In cases of crisis, programmes must be monitored regularly to ensure that any risks faced by children as a result of the emergency or response are identified and mitigated at an early stage. This entails including indicators to monitor the implementation of programme activities related to child labour (e.g. inclusion of child labour in trainings, use of age verification techniques and understanding of child labour by programme staff and partners, number of producers and communities reached by awareness-raising activities on child labour in agriculture, number of youth under 18 included in programme activities) (Box 19).

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes
- Monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture

Child labour in agriculture in protracted crises, fragile and humanitarian contexts (FAO, 2017a)

Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2015b)

4.12

Reducing risks and vulnerabilities in the context of climate change and environmental degradation

Climate change threatens global food security and the ability of countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. It affects in particular rural populations in the poorest countries that rely on natural resources and are subject to changing rainfall patterns, unpredictable weather events, sudden natural disasters etc. In the same vein, environmental degradation leads to droughts, floods, failing crops and soil erosion. Resulting in higher food prices, food insecurity, strained natural resources, economic vulnerabilities and potential migration.

Climate- and environment-related disasters have disproportionate impacts on children and young people, especially in rural and marginalized communities. WHO estimates that 26 percent of the annual 6.6 million deaths of children under 5 are linked to environment-related causes and conditions (Terre des Hommes, 2017). According to UNICEF, over the next two decades, between 37.5 and 125 million African children will be subjected to water scarcity, and by 2050 an estimated 25 million more children will be undernourished as a result of climate change. While more research needs to be done, the link between the degradation of environmental conditions and child labour is undeniable. The impacts of climate change exacerbate one of the root causes of child labour: poverty. This causes children to start work, to work in unsafe conditions or undertake illicit activities contributing to further environmental damage, or to migrate for work. Extreme and sudden climate events may compel people to migrate. Migration induced by such circumstances has been identified as a key factor in stopping children from attending school. Children are also the youth of tomorrow. Reducing risks and vulnerabilities for children increases their chance of becoming young people with the skills and abilities to deal with climate change.¹³

¹³ See for instance the involvement of youth in UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 (UN Environment Programme, 2019).

APPROACHES

By integrating a child labour lens into its support to countries facing climate change and environmental degradation to provide a roadmap for the transition to the green economy in the countries' rural economic sectors and agri-food value chains, FAO can better assess how climate change and environmental degradation affect children in rural areas. FAO can guide countries to reduce children's vulnerability and lower the risks of resorting to child labour as coping strategies. Interventions may also provide opportunities for older children to increase their skills and engage in climate-smart agriculture activities. Entry points and approaches include:

- **Including a child's lens in risks and vulnerability assessments** – for example using resilience index measurement and analysis to inform policies and programmes. This will increase the understanding of levels of vulnerability of families and children faced with, for example, loss of livelihoods due to drought, desertification, deforestation, and pollution of soils and water, and help to understand how they (adults and children) cope with shocks and stressors. Services for children and infrastructure in disaster-prone areas need to be strengthened to reach the most vulnerable; access for all needs to be sustained despite environmental shocks and stresses (Diwakar *et al.*, 2019). This can inform strategies for adaption to climate change for most vulnerable households (e.g. by integrating the creation of alternative employment opportunities for adults as an integral relief component).
- **Strengthening synergies among child labour prevention, environmental sustainability and climate resilience.** Many of the unsustainable, hazardous practices in agriculture disproportionately impact children, but also degrade the natural resources and ecosystems on which agriculture relies. By providing an alternative to child labour through green, sustainable technologies and practices in agricultural sectors and its value chains, climate resilience can be strengthened while increasing countries' capacity in the transition to the green economy. An integrated approach increases the coherence between policies and interventions that deal with the protection of the environment, climate change and disaster risk management, as well as child protection.

→ **Providing children and young people with knowledge about the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and possible solutions.**

The Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA), hosted by FAO (FAO, 2020d), brings together UN agencies, government institutions, civil society organizations and other groups that work with children and young people to develop their capacities. The activities of the Alliance's members are intended to help boys and girls and young men and women care for and conserve the environment, natural resources, and biodiversity, while addressing a range of social issues. FAO developed a facilitator's guide focused on climate change for the JFFLS (FAO, 2015h).

→ **Engaging through advocacy in climate change and green economy platforms.**

FAO, UNICEF and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have advocated for giving youth organizations observer status in UNFCCC negotiations. In 2009, these efforts contributed to the formal recognition of YOUNGO as the official children and youth constituency to the UNFCCC (FAO, 2019e). The initiative of the UNFCCC Secretariat, "Action for Climate Empowerment", initiative is the focus of Article 6 related to education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation. This initiative can be an entry point to raise awareness on the vulnerabilities of children, in particular those living in rural areas and affected by climate change.

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Addressing child labour in agricultural programmes
- Monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture

Climate change. Junior Farmer Field and Life School – Facilitator's guide (FAO, 2015h)

Youth in motion for climate action! A compilation of youth initiatives in agriculture to address the impacts of climate change (FAO, 2019e)

Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) website (FAO, 2020d)

5

KEY STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGEMENT



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All projects and programmes developed by FAO require the application of environmental and social safeguards in order to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people and their environment from project design and stakeholder engagement, to project implementation and exit. This is also a requirement of international financing institutions involved in funding agriculture and rural development when screening new potential investments.

The process of applying safeguard measures in relation to child labour prevention can be an important opportunity for stakeholder engagement, enhancing the quality and effectiveness of project proposals. When identifying and designing a project, safeguards should help assess the possible risks and the impacts (positive or negative) on child labour associated with a development or humanitarian intervention. During project implementation, those safeguards should help define measures and processes to mitigate risks and enhance positive impacts.

A SHORT GUIDE TO TYPICAL ESTABLISHED MECHANISMS, LEGISLATIONS AND POLICIES ON CHILD LABOUR

- > Anti-child labour legislation belongs to labour law and typically sets the national minimum age for employment, comprises the list of hazardous work forbidden to youth under 18, and potentially includes a list of admissible light work tasks; minimum age and hazardous work legislation is available in most countries.
- > The ministry of labour usually heads national committees against child labour.
- > National Action Plans on child labour elimination are the main policy document on child labour and exist in most developing countries; they are elaborated with the support of the ILO.
- > The ILO supports countries to collect data on child labour per sector (but rarely per subsector) through national child labour surveys.
- > In crisis and protracted crisis situations, child labour falls mostly under the responsibility of the protection (child protection) cluster.

Note: Agricultural stakeholders are still too rarely associated with these typical mechanisms, legislative processes and policies.

The FAO guidelines on environmental and social management (FAO, 2015i) in Environmental and Social Standard 7 (under revision) provide guidance to promote the application of international labour standards, including the prevention and elimination of child labour in agriculture.

In addition, the FAO handbook for monitoring and evaluation in child labour (FAO, 2015b) includes useful tools to assess programmes and integrate the child labour topic at each stage of the programme cycle, from needs assessment, targeting and planning, to implementation, monitoring, adaptation and evaluation.

FAO's strategies for engagement on child labour are also aligned with the Organization's core functions, namely, knowledge generation, policy advice, capacity development, advocacy and outreach.

The overarching goal is to complement efficiently the action on child labour of other organizations and sectors at the global, regional and local levels.

5.1 Knowledge generation

Data and research on child labour in agriculture and on viable alternatives are essential to inform policy and programmes. Several regional and local studies on child labour in the various subsectors of agriculture have already been commissioned by FAO (FAO and ILO, 2019; League of Arab States, ILO and FAO, 2019). More disaggregated data and information are needed to better tailor interventions.

> **Assess availability and quality of data** and information sources that could contain information on child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2019f). When available data are not sufficient, support data collection on child labour in agriculture, for example, by identifying statistical indicators for data collection and integrating child labour questions into regular data collection activities (e.g. labour force surveys, population and household-based censuses, agricultural censuses and surveys) and research proposals (e.g. include child labour concerns in the development of technologies and impact assessments). Data on child labour are sensitive data, and the term “child labour” is almost never used in a survey. Instead, data are gathered indirectly – collecting information on

activities carried out by children, the nature and duration of the activities, and the circumstances in which they are undertaken. On this basis, it can be determined whether or not child labour is present. The choice of survey respondent (adult or child, male or female) and the time of the year *vis-à-vis* the agricultural calendar can also affect the results. The ILO has produced checklists that can be used before, during and after research (ILO, 2003).

- > **Generate knowledge on child labour in agriculture.** FAO undertakes specific research activities (qualitative and quantitative) to gain more knowledge on child labour in particular sectors, regions and value chains. The knowledge produced by this research is useful to raise awareness, and to inform the design of policies and programmes to address child labour issues in a more effective manner. For example, the research on child labour in the rice and cotton value chains in Mali was used to build knowledge on the situation and alternatives and to develop recommendations for a roadmap to reduce child labour in agriculture. Research in the coffee sector in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, provided valuable information for understanding the underlying causes of child labour in that sector, and thus for identifying strategies and partnerships needed to address the issue and to inform policy. The information generated could also help to address important knowledge gaps about child labour in relation to malnutrition and food insecurity (e.g. whether children working suffer more from malnutrition because of physical strain) or assess comprehensively the positive effects on child labour reduction that could be generated by adopting improved labour-saving practices, introducing mechanization and promoting post-harvest technologies. Further documentation is necessary in order to improve action on the ground.

5.2 Monitoring and evaluation

The inclusion of child labour in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks can help to determine at an early stage whether agricultural, food security and nutrition programmes have an effect on the child labour situation, and whether they should take preventive and corrective action. By considering the child labour topic in an M&E framework, it is also possible to document good practices and positive changes in children's lives during the programme duration and

to promote these practices. The inclusion of indicators and questions on child labour in the M&E system of FAO programmes is an important strategy to stimulate significant positive changes

FAO developed a handbook for the monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture, offering guidance and tools for assessing the impacts of agricultural and food security programmes and projects on child labour in family-based agriculture (FAO, 2015b).

Avenues and guidance for FAO programmes to integrate child labour considerations include:

- > **Inclusive assessments considering age and gender.** During assessments and programme design, pay attention to the situation of children, existing situations of child labour and potential risks due to vulnerabilities or poverty levels, and identify the needs for different age groups, sex groups, and types of employment. If possible, try to access a baseline value on the school enrolment rate.
- > **Monitoring impacts.** Formulate indicators to assess the impact of the interventions on child labour; there is no standard list of child labour indicators adapted to all situations. Indicators must be specific to the programme context and need to be selected on the basis of the child labour dynamics in the different agricultural subsectors. Ultimately and where possible, any data collected needs be disaggregated by age (considering the minimum age for employment as a possible threshold) and sex. In certain circumstances, it may be useful to organize unplanned visits to field sites to ensure children are not engaging in hazardous work or being out of school as a consequence of the intervention.

5.3

Policy advice

Provisions relating to eliminating child labour in agriculture can be found in a number of Conventions, guidelines and instruments. Some tackle child labour in general: Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); the Minimum Age Convention, 1973

(No. 138). Others are specifically relevant to child labour in agriculture: the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188); the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184); FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.

For the elimination of child labour in agriculture, issues relating to agriculture and rural areas must be adequately covered in different policies, strategies and programmes.

FAO can provide support in terms of the following:

- > **Assessing policies and legislation** to identify gaps in relation to the agricultural sector (e.g. age for compulsory school and legal working age, including agriculture-related hazardous tasks in the national hazardous lists). Also, assessing agricultural policies in order to establish entry points for accelerating action against child labour in agriculture. It is important to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are consulted in this process (Box 20).
- > **Facilitating collaboration** between labour and agricultural stakeholders, through inter-ministerial groups or national committees on child labour, but also at the district and local levels, ensuring that all stakeholders are included in policy dialogues and processes, in particular those representing rural communities, women and men, and youth, rural organizations and cooperatives.
- > **Enhancing policy coherence** and advising on the adoption of an integrated approach to the elimination of child labour in agriculture. Also identifying synergies among relevant policy areas such as education and training, social protection, decent work for youth and adults, and sustainable agriculture and rural development (Box 21).

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Engaging stakeholders to end child labour in agriculture
- Incorporating child labour in policies and strategies



5.4 Capacity development

For the sustainable elimination of child labour in agriculture, all stakeholders must be on board, sensitized and better equipped, with a clear understanding of the difference between child labour and tasks that are acceptable for children, and of good practices to address the issue.

FAO can provide support in terms of the following:

- > **Identifying capacity development needs** on child labour for agricultural stakeholders. Depending on the specific needs, an assessment of capacity needs may focus on a specific value chain or on farming, livestock, forestry or fisheries, and consider different stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels. Assessments may be done through consultative workshops on decent rural employment or stakeholder surveys.
- > **Designing and facilitating capacity development interventions.** FAO delivers national and regional workshops and training courses, bringing together labour and agricultural, national and local stakeholders to: ensure a common understanding of child labour in agriculture (e.g. age-appropriate work for children above and below the minimum legal age; child labour and hazardous work); inform how to analyse potentially negative impacts of programmes on children; and identify entry points to tackle child labour. FAO in collaboration with the ILO designed a series of e-learning courses on child labour in agriculture, available online (FAO, 2016a).
- > **Scaling up capacity development interventions** and institutionalizing prevention and reduction of child labour in agriculture by:
 - mainstreaming child labour concerns in existing capacity development activities (e.g. including a session on child labour in training colleges or refresher training courses for labour inspectors, public or private extension and advice providers, FFS facilitators, incorporating the issue in local group discussions using for example the Dimitra Clubs to improve community awareness, increase buy-in and take concrete measures);
 - integrating capacity development on child labour prevention and reduction as a specific component in national agriculture, rural development and poverty reduction programmes;

- making use of existing networks and affiliations to reach a larger audience (e.g. giving a presentation on child labour in agriculture at the general assembly meeting of an umbrella organization for producer organizations); and
 - partnering with other organizations (e.g. the collaboration between FAO and the ILO within the framework of the IPCCLA has been instrumental in scaling up actions and promoting a holistic approach to addressing child labour in agriculture).
- **Communicating effectively on child labour in agriculture.** FAO has developed a series of educational and communication tools to advocate addressing child labour in agriculture and rural supply chains (FAO, 2019g). The choice of tools and messages will depend on the target audience (pictures and cartoons for parents and communities, policy briefs for government officials).

5.5 Reaching scale

FAO recognizes that specific programmes targeting children will not be enough to prevent all forms of child labour. It will have to come from broader food security and agricultural and rural development programmes that lift people out of poverty. The link between the rise of child labour in agriculture and the increase in conflicts and climate-induced disasters also requires that FAO programmes related to emergency and climate take into account this issue.

Such programmes are not child labour neutral; they have immense potential to address decent work and child labour issues. In order to maximize the potential of these programmes to eliminate child labour, FAO can provide support in terms of the following:

- Integrating decent work and child labour issues in the design of large-scale and investment programmes in agriculture, supply chains, rural development and food security and nutrition – taking into account harder-to-reach child labour situations in agriculture such as local and regional value chains and family-based agriculture. This includes providing technical assistance on the topic of child labour in agriculture when designing investment programmes with partners such as the ILO and IFAD and other development and financial organizations.

- Improving capacities for effective dialogue and collective action by sharing information and analysis of decent work and child labour in agriculture within existing multi-sector and multi-actor platforms and spaces (hosted, chaired or facilitated by FAO), and providing guidance for programmes and investments to prevent child labour. Platforms and spaces may include:
 - FAO inter-divisional working groups on sustainable value chains and responsible agricultural investment;
 - governing and statutory bodies (e.g. technical committees on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries, International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment);
 - Committee on World Food Security; and
 - Rotterdam Convention.

By using its influence in governance mechanisms around agriculture, rural development and food security and nutrition, FAO is in a privileged position to play an integrative role bringing together member countries, development partners and private industries to contribute to the elimination of child labour in agriculture (Box 22).

5.6

Promotion of advocacy and partnerships

Partnerships and international development cooperation remain critical to eliminate all forms of child labour. FAO cannot act alone; it fosters close collaboration with a range of organizations to address child labour issues in different contexts, in particular with the ILO on OSH issues and the promotion of decent rural employment. Since 2007, FAO has been a member of the International Partnership of Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA) (IPCCLA, 2007), to increase collaboration and cooperation among agricultural stakeholders and also with other key stakeholders (e.g. labour, education).

FAO also supports the Alliance 8.7 – a global partnership to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and all forms of child labour in accordance with SDG Target 8.7 – launched in 2016 as a vehicle to promote active collaboration and leverage expertise across a wide range of like-minded stakeholders.

FAO engages in major international initiatives, including the World Day Against Child Labour, to raise awareness on priority areas of action to eradicate child labour in agriculture. In 2018, after the announcement by the ILO that child labour in agriculture had started to rise again, FAO launched a communication campaign. To achieve #ZEROHUNGER, we must have ZERO CHILD LABOUR.

To mark the 2019 World Day against Child Labour, FAO, the European Union and the ILO joined forces to organize the conference “United to End Child Labour in Agriculture”. On this occasion, FAO urged nations to pay greater attention and allocate more financial resources to addressing child labour in domestic and local food supply chains and in subsistence farming where the vast majority of child labour in agriculture occurs.

TO GO FURTHER >>>

FAO and ILO e-learning courses (FAO, 2016a):

- Engaging stakeholders to end child labour in agriculture
- Incorporating child labour in policies and strategies



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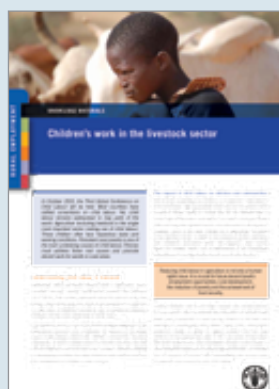
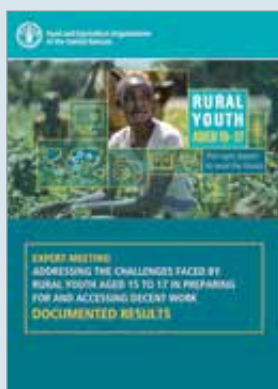
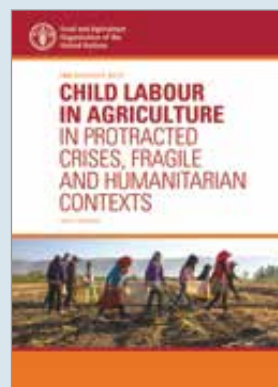
FAO. 2019. Incorporating child labour in policies and strategies.

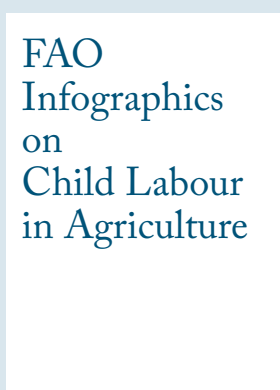
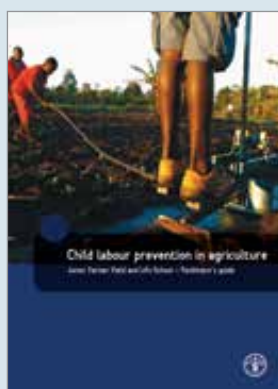
In: *FAO elearning Academy* [online]. Rome.

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=510>

FAO RESOURCES ON CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE

FAO
Knowledge
products
on
child labour
in agriculture





FAO & ILO Pesticides Visual Tools

In collaboration with
Rotterdam Convention

AFRICA REGION



www.fao.org/3/a-i3527f.pdf



www.fao.org/3/a-i3527e.pdf



www.fao.org/3/a-i3527o.pdf

NEEA REGION



www.fao.org/3/b-i3527a.pdf

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION



www.fao.org/3/a-i4598s.pdf



www.fao.org/3/b-i4598o.pdf



www.fao.org/3/a-i4598e.pdf

EASTERN EUROPE,
CAUCASUS AND
CENTRAL ASIA REGION



www.fao.org/3/a-i4716r.pdf

ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC REGION



www.fao.org/3/a-i4715e.pdf

BOXES

BOX 1 EXAMPLES OF CHILD LABOUR IN ILLICIT ACTIVITIES IN AGRICULTURE

- > Illegal logging
- > Illegal hunting
- > Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- > Illegal activities leading to deforestation and forest degradation
- > Illegal drug crops cultivations, which often also leads to illegal deforestation

BOX 2 EXAMPLES OF HAZARDOUS TASKS IN AGRICULTURE

- > Long working hours
- > Carrying heavy loads
- > Repetitive movements
- > Extreme temperatures/weather
- > Work underground, underwater, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces
- > Exposure to or direct application of chemicals/hazardous pesticides (work in greenhouse)
- > Exposure to accidents and biological hazards (work in slaughterhouses)
- > Use of dangerous equipment or machinery, sharp tools
- > Abuse or harassment

BOX 3 ROLE OF EXTENSION SERVICES

In Malawi, the Department of Agricultural Extension Services within the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development together with the National Smallholder Farmers' Association initiated a nation-wide campaign against child labour in agriculture. First, they included child labour-related messages in their regular extension materials. Then they developed a series of leaflets and posters specifically on eliminating child labour that were distributed through district agricultural offices across the country. In parallel, the ministries extension services developed a documentary on child labour in agriculture. Using a mobile van, they screened the film in remote villages across the country. The tours targeted agricultural sectors such as tea, coffee, fisheries and cattle-herding, among others. The tour dates were announced in advance through local radio channels. More than 10 000 rural women, men and youth viewed the documentary and debated it afterwards with extension agents. Representatives from a number of the villages where the video was screened pledged to raise the issue of child labour in the local council meetings and to adopt local by-laws as a deterrent for the use of children in tasks that are unsuitable to their age. In the build-up to the campaign, the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture helped develop the capacities of extension agents in district agricultural offices across the country in collaboration with the ministries of agriculture, labour and social affairs.

Source: FAO. 2017. *Ending child labour. The decisive role of agricultural stakeholders*. Rome. (also available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i8177e.pdf>).

BOX 4 ROLE OF DIFFERENT UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES CONTRIBUTING TO END CHILD LABOUR

Organization	Role contributing to end child labour
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Improving labour conditions, promoting the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of working children; decent work agenda (member of the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture [IPCCLA])
Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)	Ending hunger and malnutrition, reducing poverty, promoting safer agricultural practices, sustainable agricultural and food systems, and decent rural employment (member of the IPCCLA)
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Eliminating extreme poverty and hunger in rural areas, promoting decent work for youth (member of the IPCCLA)
United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	Welfare and development of children, in particular through nutrition and social protection programmes, child protection interventions as well as access to education
World Food Programme (WFP)	Providing assistance in terms of food and improved nutrition as well as access to education through school meals programmes

BOX 5 DIMITRA CLUBS

The FAO Dimitra Clubs are **groups of women, men and young people** – mixed or not – who decide to organize themselves to work together to bring about changes in their communities. They meet regularly to discuss the challenges they face in their daily lives, make decisions and take action to resolve their problems.

Dimitra Clubs have proven to be effective **gender- and age-sensitive channels** to mobilize and empower rural communities to address different issues including child labour in agriculture.

The capacity of the Dimitra Club facilitators and leaders was strengthened on child labour through a series of training sessions. The topic of child labour in agriculture was then introduced and discussed in the 30 Dimitra Clubs in 6 communes of the circle of Bandiagara, in the north of Mali. These discussions gave the members of women's, men's and youth clubs the opportunity to improve their understanding of the dangers linked to child labour in agriculture, express their views and opinions, and **find solutions to reduce child labour**. In a final assembly, they decided with the traditional leaders which immediate measures could be taken. A series of recreational/socializing activities to further awareness were also identified (e.g. theatre).

BOX 6 COUNTRY EXPERIENCES RELATED TO HAZARDOUS WORK LISTS

Occupational safety and health hazard assessment in agricultural-pastoral and fisheries facilities in the Niger (2018)

The Niger has not yet adopted a hazardous work list for children as foreseen by the Minimum Age Convention, 1974 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). The main objective of the assessment was to evaluate the hazards faced by workers in the agropastoral and fisheries sector and to identify the challenges and primary needs of farm owners in the Niger in order to make recommendations for the improvement of safety conditions in farms and working conditions for the children and adults concerned.

The data collected allowed for the formulation of recommendations for the improvement of working conditions on farms and the promotion of occupational safety and health in the Niger. It also supported the development of a recommendation guide for the hazardous work list in these three subsectors employing child workers.

Development of a list of light work activities authorized for children aged 13–16 in Côte d'Ivoire (2017)

Based on the results of a survey on child labour, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire updated its national hazardous work list and developed a list of light work activities for children aged 13–16 (CNS, 2017), adopted in 2017. A distinctive and innovative aspect of this list is its inclusion of tasks acceptable for children in the 13–16 age group in different agricultural subsectors.

Source: CNS. 2017. Les documents fondateurs. In: *Comité National de Surveillance des Actions de Lutte contre la Traite, l'Exploitation et le travail des Enfants* [online]. [Cited 22 May 2020]. <http://www.travaildesenfants.org/fr/documents-fondateurs/la-liste-des-travaux-l-gers-autoris-s-aux-enfants-dont-l-ge-est-compris-entre>

BOX 7 A CHILD LABOUR LENS IN IRRIGATION PROGRAMMES

An irrigation programme could take into account not only technology for the transportation of irrigation water to the fields, but also the provision of safe drinking water closer to households and animal watering points. This would **lessen the need for children to herd animals** and **reduce the time spent by children collecting water** for crops and for household use.

BOX 8 DECENT RURAL EMPLOYMENT – FAO APPLIED DEFINITION

Decent rural employment refers to any activity, occupation, work, business or service performed for pay or pro-fit by women and men, adults and youth, in rural areas that:

1. respects the core labour standards as defined in ILO Conventions, and therefore **is not child labour**, is not forced labour, does not entail discrimination at work, guarantees freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining;
2. provides an adequate living income;
3. entails an adequate degree of employment security and stability;
4. adopts sector-specific minimum occupational safety and health measures;
5. avoids excessive working hours and allows sufficient time for rest;
6. promotes access to adapted technical and vocational training.

Source: FAO. 2015. *Understanding decent rural employment*. Infographic. Rome.
(also available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bc270e.pdf>).

BOX 9 JUNIOR FARMER FIELD AND LIFE SCHOOLS IN UGANDA

In Uganda, FAO and its partners have implemented junior farmer field and life schools (JFFLS) to address the immediate needs of vulnerable children living in rural communities affected by conflict.

The project targeted both **children and youth from 12 to 18**, from households of internally displaced people (IDP), some directly or indirectly affected by HIV and AIDS, others with severely disabled parents or living with elderly grandparents or guardians, and either out of school or with low school attendance. Planned around the local agricultural calendar, the programme enabled children to develop agricultural, entrepreneurial and social skills through classroom-based studies and practical sessions in the field, which were complemented by life skills sessions, local theatre, art, dance and music.

JFFLS is a **tested modular methodology** used to teach either vulnerable and disadvantaged children or young people of legal working age about agriculture, entrepreneurial skills and how to take care of themselves and set goals in life. These schools follow a “living classroom” approach in which the students or children out of school observe the crops throughout the growing season.

As a result, in Uganda, the JFFLS not only increased school enrolment, performance and attendance of children in primary schools, but also helped improve the diet of children and increase their knowledge on agriculture. In Panyangara Primary School in Kotido District, 40 pupils returned to school between 2012 and 2013, thanks to the JFFLS. In Kaberamaido District, 64 children belonging to community JFFLS were also attracted back to school in 2008. Improved attendance has also resulted in improved performance among vulnerable children. In 2012, some of the topics covered in the JFFLS curriculum appeared in the Primary Leaving Examinations. Children trained in the JFFLS became role models and went on to share the knowledge and skills acquired with other family members and the wider community.

The JFFLS methodology has been introduced and implemented in over 20 countries in a variety of contexts, either to “rebrand” agriculture as fun within schools or to support the entrance of rural youth in the agricultural sector in various value chains.

Source: FAO. 2014. FAO's Farmer Field and Life Schools give children a voice.

(also available at [www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/FAO%20Uganda%20Junior%20Farmer%20Field%20and%20Life%20Schools%20\(JFFLS\).pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/FAO%20Uganda%20Junior%20Farmer%20Field%20and%20Life%20Schools%20(JFFLS).pdf)).

BOX 10 COFFEE CAMPS IN GUATEMALA: 127 YOUTHS AGED 16–29

La Nueva Generación Cafetalera (New Coffee Generation) is an initiative implemented within the context of FAO's Integrated Country Approach for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agri-food system. This initiative aims at helping rural youth discover the sector of speciality coffee as a space for personal growth and job opportunities. It builds the capacity of youth in production, roasting, tasting and barismo, raising their entrepreneurial spirit and establishing links with coffee markets. More than one hundred youth between the ages of 16 and 29 were involved in a five-stage learning journey to discover and build their capacities in the coffee value chain. At the end of the programme, 22 girls and 19 boys were selected based on their level of interest and motivation to undertake an internship with different businesses in the coffee community of Guatemala. This journey was transformational for all the participants in terms of self-discovery, learning about the different facets of the coffee sector and their own potential as well as skills development.

Source: FAO. 2019. *Nueva Generación Cafetalera. El café de especialidad: Una ventana de oportunidad para la población joven en el área rural*. Rome. (also available at www.fao.org/3/ca4278es/CA4278ES.pdf).

BOX 11 UGANDA'S NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE

In 2017, FAO, through its Integrated Country Approach, supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda (MAAIF) in the development of the five-year **National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture (NSYEA)**. The NSYEA aims to strengthen the institutional framework of youth employment in agricultural value chains, invest in youth education and learning by creating national information centres to serve as innovation hubs and unlocking the specific constraints that limit the start-up and expansion of their agricultural enterprises. The strategy also targets youth between 15–17 by working with **national public and private actors to foster their inclusion in** programmes dedicated to agricultural sector development. A concrete example in this regard is the Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture (YIYA) initiative, piloted with FAO support in 2017 under the NSYEA, and to be replicated and scaled up in 2020. The main objective of the YIYA was to create and promote youth employment in the agricultural sector by fostering role models of youth agro-entrepreneurs. Through a nationwide competition facilitated by FAO and MAAIF, 25 young agripreneurs (all over 20 years old) were selected as “Youth Champions” to train and coach other youth (including younger youth) in their communities. Following the success of the initiative, a survey was conducted in 2019 to better understand the needs of younger youth as mentees (including 14–17-year-olds and in school and school dropouts). The results of the assessment will shape the next, scaled-up round of the YIYA initiative and inform the overall youth mentorship strategy of the Government of Uganda.

BOX 12 UNVEILING LINKAGES BETWEEN CASH TRANSFERS AND CHILD LABOUR REDUCTION IN KENYA

The From Protection to Production (PtoP) project is a multi-country impact evaluation of cash transfers in sub-Saharan Africa. In Kenya, the PtoP evaluation revealed a positive linkage between social protection and child labour reduction.

A programme entitled Kenya's Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC) was launched in order to encourage fostering and retention of children and promote their human capital development. The national child protection programme provided a monthly cash transfer to ultra-poor families with orphans and vulnerable children aged 17 or under.

The intervention reduced on-farm child labour by 12 percent; the impact was concentrated among boys and there was no significant impact on girls. It also improved the economic livelihoods of beneficiaries, who were primarily agricultural producers. It increased accumulation of productive assets (especially livestock), and agricultural producers growing local maize and beans using traditional technologies diversified into casual wage labour and non-farm enterprises.

Source: FAO. 2013. The impact of the Kenya CT-OVC programme on productive activities and labour allocation. Rome. (also available at http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/p2p/Publications/Kenya_HH_2012.pdf).

BOX 13 INCREASED AWARENESS THROUGH THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade provides information and requires action on certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides. Designated National Authorities (DNAs) can share this information with ministries of labour to contribute to the drafting or revision of national hazardous work lists for children.

Through the Rotterdam Convention, FAO is able to facilitate dialogue among various national stakeholders (ministries of agriculture, environment and labour, and pesticides control boards) and build their awareness on child labour and the protection of children from pesticides. This has been translated to capacity-building activities with DNAs to increase their understanding of the potential hazards of child labour, and its negative impacts. Information, tools and support have been provided on how to prevent it, how to consider child labour in national risk assessments of pesticides and what actions can be taken to protect children from the risk of pesticides and hazardous labour.

BOX 14 INTEGRATION OF CHILD LABOUR IN NATIONAL POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS: CAMBODIA

In recent years, the Cambodian Government and FAO have worked to address child labour issues in fisheries and aquaculture. In particular, the **Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries** (MAFF) has proactively integrated child labour concerns into existing policies and legal frameworks. These efforts to mainstream child labour into national programmes have led to the drafting of a first **Child Development Strategy** for the Ministry as a whole, which includes a component on child labour prevention.

Such achievements are the result of a **continuous multi-stakeholder approach**, which started in 2010 when FAO and the ILO held an International Experts Workshop on Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Government of Cambodia was one of the key actors involved in the workshop, which led to the development of the FAO-ILO Guidance on Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture. In Cambodia, the Guidance has been used to improve the understanding of the nature, causes and consequences of child labour in fisheries and aquaculture. For instance, the document has been adopted by World Vision in the implementation of its US-funded programme to combat exploitative child labour in the country.

In 2011, following a request for support by the Government of Cambodia, FAO conducted a participatory scoping study on child labour in Cambodia. The study was undertaken within the framework of the national consultations with fisheries organizations for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). Moreover, in 2015, MAFF finalized a first draft of the **National Action Plan 2015–2020 on gender mainstreaming and elimination of the worst forms of child labour in the fisheries sector**.

BOX 15 CAPTURE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN NATIONAL HAZARDOUS WORK LISTS

Côte d'Ivoire. Article 11 of the 2012 Hazardous Work List (MEMEASS/CAB, 2012)¹ includes specific reference to work in fishing when citing prohibited work. Specifically, children under 18 years of age should not undertake fishing at sea, in the lagoon or in rivers, nor should they perform deep-sea diving in lagoon and coastal areas or rivers. The List also prohibits more general hazardous work relevant to fishing and aquaculture and which can damage the development of the child, including handling and application of chemical products.

Indonesia. The Hazardous Work List (Decision of the Ministry 2003, Attachment C-5)² cites tasks endangering the health and safety of children, including jobs in offshore fishing activities, fishing in deep/pelagic waters and jobs on ships. The List also includes jobs that expose children to general hazardous conditions that can be relevant to fisheries and aquaculture, such as jobs underwater, lifting heavy weights and operating machinery.

¹ CNS. 2017. Les documents fondateurs. In: Comité National de Surveillance des Actions de Lutte contre la Traite, l'Exploitation et le travail des Enfants [online]. [Cited 22 May 2020]. <http://www.travaildesenfants.org/fr/documents-fondateurs/la-liste-des-travaux-l-gers-autoris-s-aux-enfants-dont-l-ge-est-compris-entre>

² IPEC. 2014. National Legislation on Hazardous Child Labour. Indonesia. (also available at <https://www.ilo.org/ipecinfor/product/download.do?type=document&id=27090>).

BOX 16 PARTICIPATORY, HANDS-ON APPROACHES TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOUR IN LIVESTOCK

Innovative approaches that aim to address barriers to education for pastoralists include distance learning, mobile schools, school feeding programmes or cash transfers, as well as boarding schools, pastoral field schools (PFS) and livestock farmer field schools (livestock FFS). Based on an adaptation of the FFS approach, PFS are “schools without walls”, where capacity is developed from existing local knowledge. They are guided by the following key principles:

- > Learning is by doing and problem based.
- > The herd and the landscape are the main learning grounds.
- > Discovery-based learning tools trigger a spirit of curiosity and innovativeness.
- > Trained facilitators guide the learning process, not by teaching but by facilitating.

The PFS concept, currently developed in Kenya and Uganda, is being taken up in other countries such as Ethiopia and Djibouti and by multiple actors from non-governmental organizations to governments. To better deal with the drought risk in a collective manner, the PFS approach has in many cases been implemented in complementarity with the Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) approach, and powerful platforms for collective action have emerged in intervention sites in Karamoja, Uganda and Turkana, Kenya.

Note: The PFS approach (an adaptation of farmer field schools to the pastoral situation) was piloted in 2006 by the International Livestock Research Institute and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, working directly in the arid and semi-arid and conflict-prone areas of Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan. For further information on the PFS approach: <http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/news-list/detail/en/c/883112>

BOX 17 DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY AND BLOCKCHAIN

A distributed ledger is a type of database – or system of records – that is shared, replicated and synchronized among the members of a network.

A blockchain is a type of distributed ledger that comprises unchangeable, digitally recorded data in packages called blocks, where each block is then “chained” to the next block, using a cryptographic signature.

Blockchains can allow consumers to track and trace products through the value chains. It can also help companies and partners address social issues such as decent work and child labour.

Note: Adapted from the working definitions used by the ITU-T Focus Group on Application of Distributed Ledger Technology (as of September 2018) (ITU – International Telecommunication Union).

Source: FAO & ITU. 2019. *E-agriculture in action: Blockchain for agriculture. Opportunities and challenges*. Bangkok. (also available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca2906en/ca2906en.pdf>).

BOX 18 ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR IN THE CONTEXT OF CRISIS – THE EXAMPLE OF LEBANON

Within the framework of the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan, FAO has joined forces with ILO and UNICEF to address child labour in agriculture among refugee children by contributing to the ongoing efforts under Lebanon's National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the work of the child protection cluster, and by providing training throughout the country to members of the food security cluster.

This fruitful UN partnership has resulted in the production of material aimed at strengthening the capacities of stakeholders to address child labour in agriculture among refugees, such as a poster on protecting children from pesticides and the FAO-ILO facilitator's visual guide, *Protect children from pesticides!* (in Arabic).¹ An educational tool to reduce and prevent exposure of children to pesticides, but also to protect human health and the environment from the potential harm of hazardous chemicals in rural areas, children can relate to it and it has been used in different primary and high schools. An FAO-UNICEF storybook – a short visual story for younger potentially illiterate children (in Arabic)² – especially targets refugee children who live in refugee camps and informal rural settlements. It focuses on displaced and refugee children and had a catalytic effect with the production of a guidance note on child labour in agriculture in protracted crisis, fragile and humanitarian contexts, aligned with FAO commitments made during the World Humanitarian Summit in favour of International Human Rights to uphold the norms that safeguard humanity.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/b-i3527a.pdf>

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7165a.pdf>

BOX 19 SAFEGUARDS TO MONITOR AND SUPPORT DECENT WORK AND PREVENT CHILD LABOUR THROUGH AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAMMING

- > Screen participants for age during registration.
- > Monitor participants' age and their age related to tasks during activities.
- > Develop clear standards for children who are engaged in cash- or food-for-work programmes or other food security and agriculture interventions.
- > Identify appropriate and safe tasks vs hazardous and heavy tasks for children above 14/15.
- > Seek support to have workplace safety guidelines in farm and other agricultural or fisheries-related settings.

BOX 20 A SUCCESSFUL APPROACH TO MAINSTREAMING CHILD LABOUR ISSUES IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE POLICY

In Cambodia, in October 2011, a national consultation to combat child labour in the fisheries sector was held, with representatives from relevant ministries, and employer and worker organizations and community fisheries institutions, to identify strategies and areas for action and to develop a draft National Plan of Action (NPA) on Eliminating Child Labour in the Fisheries Sector of Cambodia.

The NPA outlines specific steps for addressing child labour in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, specifying who is responsible for each step. In addition, the Government of Cambodia included child labour elimination targets in fishing communities as part of the ten-year Strategic Planning Framework for fisheries and incorporated child labour concerns in the Cambodia Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CAMCODE).

BOX 21 QUESTIONS WHEN LOOKING AT COHERENCE AMONG RELEVANT POLICY AREAS

Area	Questions
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Are there significant gaps in enrolment/attainment between rural and urban areas?> Do children in rural areas have adequate access to schools (e.g. are there prohibitive costs such as school fees or uniform), qualified teachers and curricula relevant to rural communities?> Are there vocational training opportunities for out-of-school children?> Are there provisions to provide schooling to nomadic children and children of seasonal workers?> Are issues relating to agriculture incorporated into the school curriculum?> Are issues related to child labour in agriculture incorporated into the food and agriculture curricula in universities and vocational education?
Social protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Are there significant gaps in rural/urban service provision?> Are there social protection provisions specific to agriculture, for example social insurance to cover crop failure (this is important because “income shocks” caused by crop failure can mean that families can no longer afford to send children to school)?> Do agricultural and rural workers have access to healthcare, medical insurance and clinics?

(continues)

Box 21 (continued)

Area	Questions
Labour market policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Do labour market policies support the productive activities of vulnerable families? > Do they help to provide decent work opportunities for rural adolescents above the minimum age for employment? > Are the policies suited to the needs of rural communities? > Do they support decent work in agriculture?
National legislation and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Are all forms of child labour in agriculture covered in national labour and child protection policy? > Is there adequate capacity and know-how to enforce child labour legislation in agricultural settings? > Do labour inspectors have a mandate to cover agricultural areas, including family-based settings (and not only commercial farming)? > Are there provisions to protect children working in the informal economy?
Sustainable agriculture and rural development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Do agricultural policies aim to improve rural livelihoods or reduce vulnerability to risk? > Do policies promote practices or technologies to reduce the labour demand for tasks typically undertaken by children or to make agricultural work safer? > Are youth of legal working age supported to access productive resources?

BOX 22 HOW CHILD LABOUR ISSUES ARE CONSIDERED IN FAO GLOBAL MECHANISMS

In 2013, a revised International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management was approved at the 38th Session of the FAO Conference to encourage governments and the pesticide industry to adopt measures to reduce children's vulnerability to exposure. New international guidelines are being developed by FAO to confront substandard working conditions in the seafood industry and are to be discussed at the Committee on Fisheries meeting in July 2020.

The Vigo Dialogue sessions in 2014 and 2015 discussed the promotion of decent work issues, including child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, and in 2015 focused on benefits and incentives of decent work in the sector.



ANNEXES

Annex 1

Tasks, hazards and risks of children's work in crop production

Tasks	Hazards	Health risks
Preparation of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of farm vehicles and heavy machinery > Excessive exposure to noise > Draught animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Accidents with vehicles and machinery > Entanglement or getting dragged into machinery > Hearing loss > Injuries from animals
Application of fertilizers and spraying of chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to pesticides and other toxic chemicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Acute pesticide poisoning > Chronic effects of pesticide exposure (e.g. cancer, neurological damage, respiratory diseases)
Weeding, harvesting and processing of collected crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of sharp tools (machetes, knives, scythes, sickles) > Exposure to skin irritants contained in crops > Exposure to high levels of organic dust from fields > Contamination from pesticide spray drift, from not observing pesticide re-entry intervals, or from contact with contaminated soil and water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Injuries from sharp tools > Skin problems (e.g. allergies, rashes or blistering) > Allergic respiratory diseases > Pesticide poisoning
Outdoor crop activities (e.g. planting of seedlings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to extreme weather and solar radiation > Lack of drinking water > Exposure to wild animals and insects (especially without appropriate protective clothing, footwear and shelter) > Attacks from dangerous wild animals and insects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Frostbite, sunstroke and other thermal stresses > Skin cancer > Dehydration > Respiratory infections in cold and wet working conditions > Diseases from drinking stagnant or polluted water > Diseases transmitted through insects and wild animals > Cuts, bruises, puncture wounds from thorns
Loading and carrying produce and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Handling of heavy loads > Extended awkward postures > Repeated movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Musculoskeletal injuries and disorders > Blistered hands and feet > Aches, pains, sprains, strains

Annex 2

Tasks, hazards and risks of children's work in livestock

Tasks	Hazards	Health risks
All activities involving handling or being near livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to biological hazards through direct contact with the animal, with substances derived from it or with contaminated environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Numerous zoonotic or parasitic infections and diseases
All activities involving direct contact with large animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Large or dangerous animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Being bitten, jostled, butted, gored (by horns), kicked, stamped on or trampled by animals; infection of wounds
Outdoor livestock activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to extreme weather and solar radiation > Lack of drinking water > Exposure to wild animals and insects (especially without appropriate protective clothing, footwear and shelter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Frostbite, sunstroke and other thermal stresses > Skin cancer > Dehydration > Respiratory infections in cold and wet working conditions > Diseases from drinking stagnant or polluted water > Bites, stings and diseases from wild animals and insects > Cuts, bruises, puncture wounds from thorns; infection of wounds
Having the responsibility for herding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure – or fear of exposure – to punishment or beatings for animal loss or crop destruction by animals > Excessive feeling of responsibility for (family) capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Injuries related to physical abuse from employers > Psychosocial stress or trauma
Herding away from home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Poor diet and inadequate food intake > Long periods of isolation > Fatigue or drowsiness > Long hours or many days spent working away from home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Malnutrition > Stunted growth > Psychosocial stress from working in isolation > Poor judgement in performing duties, potentially leading to dangerous decisions
Herding on horseback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to horse-related accidents and diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Injuries related to handling horses (bites, kicks) and riding (falls) > Diseases transmitted through bites; infection of wounds > Horse-related diseases or parasites

(continues)

Annex 2 (continued)

Tasks	Hazards	Health risks
Slaughtering or slaughterhouse activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of sharp objects, dangerous tools or machinery > Forceful repetitive movements > Exposure to carcasses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Injuries from slaughtering tools or machinery > Cuts, infection of wounds > Stress injuries > Skin disorders > Zoonotic and fungal infections
Loading and carrying water, collecting fodder and manure (and other similar activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of sharp objects, dangerous tools or machinery > Carrying heavy loads > Extended awkward postures > Repeated movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Musculoskeletal injuries and disorders (e.g. joint and bone deformities) > Injuries and wounds > Blistered hands and feet > Aches, pains, sprains, strains and swelling
Washing animals, fetching water (and other activities related to water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to contaminated water > Drinking stagnant or polluted water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Zoonotic parasitic diseases
Handling chemicals used for livestock treatment of internal and external parasites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to toxic chemicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Rashes and other skin disorders > Allergic reactions > Breathing difficulties > Eye irritation > Chemical poisoning > Liver damage > Nerve and neurological disorders > Cancers > Reproductive health disorders
All livestock activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Poor sanitation and hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Infectious diseases > Dermatitis > Urinary tract infections > Respiratory diseases > Eye disease > Spread of parasites

Annex 3

Tasks, hazards and risks of children's work in capture fisheries and aquaculture

Tasks	Hazards	Health risks
Sorting, unloading and transportation of catches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Carrying of heavy loads > Use of large machines with moving parts > Exposure to loud noises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Joint and bone deformities > Blistered hands and feet > Lacerations > Back and muscle injuries > Amputation of fingers, toes and limbs > Hearing loss
Preparation of food on fishing vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of sharp blades > Use of or working in vicinity of stoves in poor repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cuts > Burns
Diving for certain aquatic species, or to free snagged nets or scare fish into nets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Diving in deep water > Working in polluted water > Working in vicinity of dangerous fish > Exposure to boat propellers > Entanglement in fishing nets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Death by drowning > Hypoxia > Decompression disease > Dizziness > Emphysema > Bites or stings from fish > Hearing loss from ear infections or rapid pressure change
Active fishing; hauling fish onto boat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Carrying and hauling of heavy loads > Use of sharp objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Blistered hands and feet > Lacerations > Back and muscle injuries > Fish poisoning
Going out to sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Lack of appropriate fishing ports, boat shelters and anchorages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Death or broken bones from surf crossing
Dangerous fishing operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Trawling vessel gear snagging on a fastener (due to obstacles on sea bed) > Small seiners capsizing under the downward pressure of a large catch of fish "sinking" during the last stage of net hauling > Entanglement in nets > Ropes running out while setting the gear > Attacks by marine animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Death due to capsizing of vessels > Being swept overboard > Stings, bites, tail kicks

(continues)

Annex 3 (continued)

Tasks	Hazards	Health risks
Working on boats and in water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Working in crowded conditions > Working in deep, cold or polluted water > Slippery walkways > Fumes and odours > Use of loud equipment > Lack of drinking water > Working long hours and at night > Bad weather conditions, poor weather warning systems and lack of radio communication > Working on unsuitable boats > Sudden gales, major storms and heavy fog causing boat accidents > Capsizing, grounding, becoming lost, collisions > Physical or emotional abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Death by drowning > Hypothermia > Nausea > Claustrophobia > Parasitic infections (e.g. bilharzias, guinea worm) > Broken bones and head injuries > Exhaustion > Hunger > Dehydration
Long periods at sea on boats or fishing platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sexual abuse, intimidation, exposure to and pressure or enticement to engage in adult behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS > Alcoholism, drug use and smoking-related diseases
Behavioural responses to fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Risk-taking (in the case of spatial-temporal limits on fishing time or area, fishers may venture further offshore) > Becoming lost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Death by drowning > Physical exhaustion
Cleaning, processing, smoking and selling fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of sharp tools > Exposure to smoke and chemicals > Working long hours standing or bending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Blistered hands and feet > Lacerations > Backache and other musculoskeletal strains and disorders > Exhaustion
Repairing nets, vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of sharp or heavy tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Blistered hands and feet > Lacerations
Tending aquaculture farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to fish and mosquitoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Injury from falls > Death by drowning > Malaria, dengue > Pesticide poisoning

Annex 4

Tasks, hazards and risks of children's work in forestry

Tasks	Hazards	Health risks
Climbing trees to harvest fruits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Working at dangerous heights > Falls from ladders and trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Fatal or non-fatal injuries (e.g. broken bones, skull fractures and head injuries)
Collecting honey from beehives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Attacks by bees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Stings
Planting and logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of sharp tools > Exposure to dangerous machinery > Carrying heavy loads > Repetitive movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Injuries from sharp tools and machinery (e.g. cuts, wounds, amputation) > Musculoskeletal disorders
Working outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exposure to extreme weather, solar radiation > Lack of drinking water > Exposure to wild animals and insects (especially without appropriate protective clothing, footwear and shelter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Frostbite, sunstroke and other thermal stresses > Skin cancer > Dehydration > Respiratory infections in cold and wet working conditions > Diseases from drinking stagnant or polluted water > Bites, stings > Attacks by dangerous wild animals and insects > Diseases transmitted through insect bites and wild animal attacks > Cuts, bruises, puncture wounds from thorns; infection of wounds > Infectious diseases (e.g. malaria, dengue fever)

Annex 5

Good practices for addressing child labour

GOOD PRACTICES FOR ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR – CONTRIBUTING TO THE REDUCTION OF CHILD LABOUR AND THE ELIMINATION OF WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR		
	Components	Content
PREVENTION	Awareness-raising / Sensitization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sensitize communities through campaigns on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the difference between child labour and age-appropriate tasks – worst forms of child labour – causes of child labour – common areas of child labour – negative effects of child labour on both children and the future development of the community > Sensitize national policy-makers, local government authorities, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders about related issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – occupational safety and health – national legislation – international obligations – consequences of child labour
	Income-generating activities and decent work promotion in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Promote income-generating activities (e.g. livestock, seeds for agricultural production) among parents whose children are affected by child labour > Implement livelihoods / decent work creation programmes that address the root causes of child labour in rural communities > Create self-help groups to provide seed money to vulnerable families > Foster inclusive finance and access to other productive resources (e.g. land) to reduce rural poverty > Facilitate access to markets and modern value chains for small-scale producers through inclusive business models to address the root causes of child labour in farming households
	Policy development / Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Change public opinion towards child labour through advocacy with partners (e.g. children, civil society groups, teachers, trade unions and media) > Advocate for new school policies to provide working teens with health and safety information
WITHDRAWAL	Removal of child labourers from hazardous working conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide child shelter for children removed from slave-like working conditions > Advocate at political level for institutional support for former child labourers (e.g. legal protection, repatriation to their families)
	Action plans to combat worst forms of child labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide vocational training to and raise skills of former child labourers > Give support to find decent employment
	Implementation of income-generating programmes to compensate for loss of children's income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advocate at political level for improved legislation and implementation of laws against worst forms of child labour

(continues)

Annex 5 (continued)

GOOD PRACTICES FOR ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR – CONTRIBUTING TO THE REDUCTION OF CHILD LABOUR AND THE ELIMINATION OF WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR		
	Components	Content
PROTECTION	Occupational safety and health legislation, policies and programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advocate for and advise on appropriate policies > Ensure that public–private partnerships adopt responsible business principles including support on health and safety in the supply chain > Establish joint training for labour inspectors and extension agents > Provide training on how to improve health and safety working conditions in agriculture
	Skills development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide vocational or on-the-job training for children above the legal minimum working age
REHABILITATION	Formal and non-formal education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increase access to quality education > Provide non-formal education > Prepare children who have had little schooling for reintegration in formal schooling > Build capacity of teachers
	Vocational training skills for ex-child labourers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Develop entrepreneurship skills of children (above the legal minimum working age) > Prepare youths to be productive and reliable citizens who can be self-dependent in the future
	Social activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Implement social reintegration strategies to ensure the children’s ability to thrive within the community

Annex 6

Assessing programme impacts on child labour

THE TICKS (✓) INDICATE WHETHER THE PROCESS STEPS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A PLANNING, MONITORING OR EVALUATION PROCESS. THOSE STEPS NOT DESCRIBED IN THE HANDBOOK ARE WRITTEN IN <i>ITALICS</i> .	Planning	Monitoring	Evaluation
Preparation of the process			
Research on the child labour situation	✓	✓	✓
Identification of actual and/or potential programme impacts on child labour	✓	✓	✓
<i>Design of the M&E process</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Identification of necessary resources (personal and budget)</i>	✓	✓	✓
Identification of relevant stakeholders, their roles and interests	✓	✓	
Formulation of indicators	✓	✓	
Formulation of guiding questions			✓
Data collection			
Research on existing secondary data	✓	✓	✓
Identification of tools for data collection	✓	✓	✓
Selection of the sample	✓	✓	✓
Collection of data	✓	✓	✓
Data analysis			
Processing, cross-checking and interpretation of data	✓	✓	✓
Follow-up			
Sharing the findings	✓	✓	✓
<i>Planning the follow-up process, setting up a work plan</i>	✓	✓	
Adjusting the programme		✓	
<i>Reporting to financing agency, donor and partner</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Considering the findings for the next programme phase</i>	✓	✓	✓

Annex 7

Examples of potential positive and negative impacts of agricultural programmes on child labour

Unintended negative impacts on child labour	Unintended negative impacts on the target group	Programme activities	Positive impacts on the target group	Unintended positive impacts on child labour
	> Misuse of information	1. Knowledge management (e.g. access to information)	> Increased human capital (e.g. education, health, skills and access to information)	> Increased school attendance of children > Improved health care for children
> Attendance by children at Farmer Field and Life Schools (FFLS) during school hours > Attendance of children below the legal working age at FFLS > Increased workload of children	> Neglect by parents of duties (e.g. working in the rice field) in order to attend time-consuming FFLS	2. Trainings (e.g. Farmer Field and Life Schools (FFLS))	> Improved knowledge and skills > Increased resilience to shocks > Increased household income > Increased awareness about the importance of education (if education is included in the agenda) > Increased interaction with other farmers > Diversified nutrition	> Attendance by children above legal working age at FFLS → children develop responsibility and earn important skills for their future > Increased school attendance of children > Improved nutrition for children
> Use by children of new technologies without proper training → increase in accidents and injuries > Increased labour demand is met with children	> Additional work for parents (especially in the beginning) due to new technologies/practices > New hazards introduced in the workplace	3. Technical support / Introduction of new technologies	> Improved knowledge and skills > Increased household income > Increased resilience to shocks > Reduced labour demand > Work safer for youth and adults	> Reduced workload of children > Work safer for children of legal working age > Increased school attendance of children > Better nutrition for children

(continues)

Annex 7 (continued)

Unintended negative impacts on child labour	Unintended negative impacts on the target group	Programme activities	Positive impacts on the target group	Unintended positive impacts on child labour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increased workload of children to meet additional costs > Increased workload of children e.g. due to increase in land under production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > At the beginning, inability of farmers to meet additional costs of maintenance 	3.1 Introduction and/or improvement of irrigation systems and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Less time spent on irrigation → farmers can spend more time on more income-generating activities > Increased yields and income > Improved food security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Less time spent fetching water (especially for girls) > Reduced workload of children > Increased school attendance of children > Improved nutrition / safe drinking water for children
		4. Extension services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Inclusion of components about child labour → increased awareness about child labour, the hazards and risks for children and the importance of education > Diversification of income sources → decreased vulnerability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Withdrawal of children from hazardous work and reduction of risks > Children's school attendance ensured by parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increased workload as a result of alternative measures to pesticides → greater demand for child labour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increase in labour demand 	4.1 Integrated pest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reduced use of chemical pesticides > Increased knowledge of farmers about the risks of using agrochemicals and their correct application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Improved health situation of children because of their reduced exposure to agrochemicals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increased workload of children during the conversion phase > Increased exposure to herbicides in the initial phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increased labour demand during initial years → greater weeding burden > Increased use of herbicides in the initial phase 	4.2 Conservation Agriculture (CA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sustained land fertility and yield improvement > Reduced labour demand (time saved on activities often done by children) > Improved food security > Reduction of weeding (a task traditionally done by children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Improved health of children because they spray fewer pesticides and do not work in contaminated fields > Increased school attendance of children > Reduced workload of children

(continues)

Annex 7 (continued)

Unintended negative impacts on child labour	Unintended negative impacts on the target group	Programme activities	Positive impacts on the target group	Unintended positive impacts on child labour
> Increased workload of children and longer hours away from home (tasks in livestock and animal-raising traditionally done by children)	> Increased labour demand due to intensive livestock breeding	4.3 Intensification of livestock production / Setting up of animal sheds	> Improved livestock management > Increased income > Reduced labour demand > Improved nutrition > Reduced cost of feeds	> Reduced workload of children > No need for children to walk long distances without shelter > More regular school attendance
	> Farmer vulnerability increased (e.g. due to damage by livestock and wild fire outbreaks in woodlots)	4.4 Afforestation (establishment of woodlots, nursery management, tree planting)	> Increased income through timber	> Less time spent collecting fuelwood > Increased school attendance of children
> Increased workload of children	> Increased labour demand	5. Income generation (e.g. crop intensification)	> Increased income	> Increase in school attendance and lower drop-out rate > Fewer children in child labour
> Increased opportunity cost of sending children to school (if children can usefully be employed)	> Expansion of household productive activity	6. Microfinance services / Establishment of community funds	> Higher income levels > Enhanced group dynamics > Increased food security	> Increase in school attendance and lower drop-out rate
> Application by children of inputs > Increased demand for child labour due to increase in production	> Increased labour demand for application of inputs	7. Input subsidy programme (e.g. provision of fertilizer)	> Increased income	> Increase in school attendance and lower drop-out rate

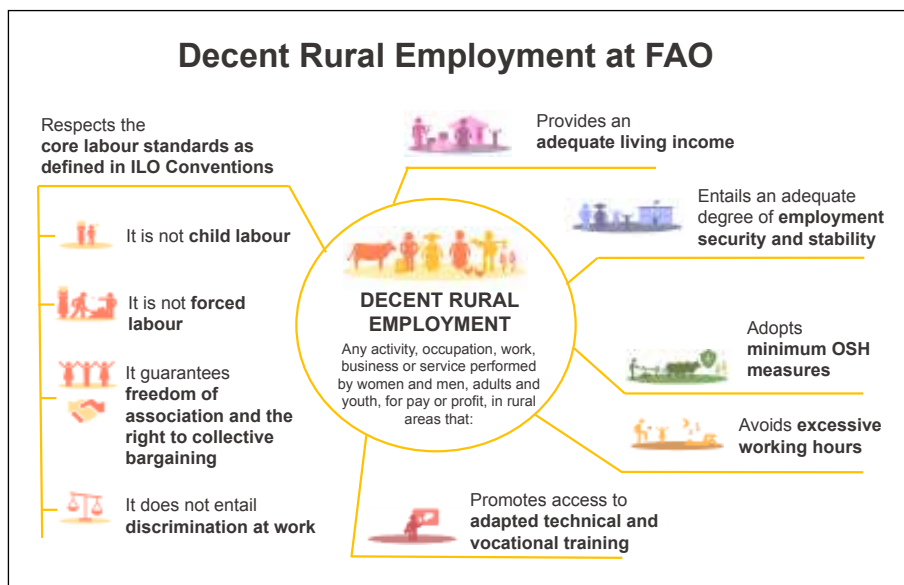
Annex 8

Examples of child labour indicators related to children at the household, community and policy levels

Examples of child labour indicators at household level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reduction in percentage of households with child labourers employed in agriculture. > Percentage of households aware of negative consequences of child labour.
Examples of child labour indicators at community level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Percentage of producers' organizations carrying out actions against child labour. > Number of community/local organizations engaging in child labour monitoring. > Number of community initiatives to raise awareness about child labour and the protection of children's rights.
Examples of child labour indicators at political level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Number of agricultural development policies or programmes integrating child labour in their strategies/objectives. > Number of agricultural support services (e.g. agricultural extension services) that include child labour. > Budget in agricultural development policies or programmes allocated to child labour-related objectives (as a percentage of the total budget). > Number of government agencies (ministries of agriculture, agricultural development agencies etc.) that incorporate child labour into their policy agenda.

Annex 9

FAO Integrated Country Approach to promote decent rural employment



CORE DIMENSIONS OF AN INTEGRATED COUNTRY APPROACH

To be successful, an approach to promote decent rural employment (DRE) at the country level should aim to build synergies across capacity development, institutional support, knowledge generation and partnership creation. For example, providing skills development for youth without facilitating their access to markets and credit may result in failure. Each intervention will reflect national and local circumstances and take due consideration of different levels of development and national capacity. A successful approach should nevertheless include all of the following core activities to varying degrees:

- DRE assessments, focusing – when appropriate – on a specific DRE subtopic (e.g. child labour) or value chain.
- DRE-related capacity development activities, relating to: 1) quantitative and qualitative aspects of work; 2) the public and the private sector (including producer organizations and local government authorities; and

3) employment stakeholders (e.g. ministry of labour, labour inspectors) and agricultural stakeholders (e.g. ministry of agriculture, extension services).

- > Specific activities to support youth engagement in agricultural development (e.g. skills development; entrepreneurship support; access to finance, land, productive tools and markets; group cooperation).
- > Specific activities to support women's economic empowerment and reduce gender inequalities (e.g. skills development; entrepreneurship support; access to finance, land, productive tools, markets and support services [child care]; and group cooperation).
- > Specific activities to improve labour conditions in the agricultural sector, prioritizing child labour and forced labour prevention and elimination, occupational safety and health (OSH), the situation of migrants, and the conditions of casual and seasonal workers.
- > Specific activities to improve the institutional and policy environment for decent work promotion in agriculture (e.g. development of OSH regulations, integration of a decent work section in an agricultural policy under review).

REFERENCE

FAO. 2020. Integrated Country Approach. In: *Decent Rural Employment* [online]. Rome. [Cited 26 May 2020]. <http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/toolbox/module-1-integrated-country-approach/en>

FAO FRAMEWORK ON ENDING CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE

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