

Ten years of FAO experience on ending child labour in agriculture in Africa

A compendium of practices from Malawi, Mali, the Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda

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Acknowledgements	V
Abbreviations and acronyms	vi
Introduction – FAO's work on child labour prevention in agriculture in Africa	1
FAO's approach to ending child labour in agriculture	4
Nature of this compendium	5
Main lessons learned and key messages	7
Part 1 – FAO strategies for the elimination of child labour in Africa	11
Strategy 1: Knowledge generation	11
Background	11
Practices at country level	12
Knowledge generation in the United Republic of Tanzania (2009–2010)	12
Knowledge generation in Mali (2011)	12
Knowledge generation in Malawi (2013–2014)	13
Knowledge generation in the Niger (2014–2019)	13
Knowledge generation in Uganda (2017–2020)	14
Positive outcomes and achievements	17
Strategy 2: Capacity development and awareness raising	18
Background	18
Practices at country level	18
Capacity development and awareness raising in Malawi (2010–2015)	18
Capacity development and awareness raising in Mali (2012–2020)	19
Capacity development and awareness raising in the United Republic of Tanzania (2013–2014)	22
Capacity development and awareness raising in the Niger (2015–2017)	22
Capacity development and awareness raising in Uganda (2016–2020)	24
Positive outcomes and achievements	25

Strategy 3: Policy advice	26
Background	26
Practices at country level	27
Policy advice in Mali (2011–2020)	27
Policy advice in the United Republic of Tanzania (2011–2015)	28
Policy advice in Malawi (2012–2016)	28
Policy advice in the Niger (2014–2019)	30
Policy advice in Uganda (2015–2020)	32
Positive outcomes and achievements	33
Strategy 4: Promotion of advocacy and partnerships	34
Background	34
Partnerships at global and country level	36
Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in Malawi	36
Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in the United Republic of Tanzania	36
Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in Mali	36
Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in the Niger	36
Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in Uganda	37
Positive outcomes and achievements	39
Part 2 – Entry points for ending child labour in Africa	4 1
Promoting safe agricultural practices and labour-saving techniques	
Background	42
Practices at country level	42
Positive outcomes and achievements	44
Facilitating school-to-work transition in agriculture:	4
a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment	
a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment Background	45
a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment	45
a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment Background	45 46
a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment Background Practices at country level	45 46 46
a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment Background Practices at country level Protecting children through the junior farmer field and life schools approach Supporting the transition from child labour to school and	45 46 46
a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment Background Practices at country level Protecting children through the junior farmer field and life schools approach Supporting the transition from child labour to school and decent youth employment through the integrated country approach in Uganda	45 46 46 47
a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment Background Practices at country level Protecting children through the junior farmer field and life schools approach Supporting the transition from child labour to school and decent youth employment through the integrated country approach in Uganda Positive outcomes and achievements	45 46 47 49

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In the last decade, FAO has been supporting governments and agricultural stakeholders to address the root causes of child labour in agriculture in Africa. This compendium provides an overview of the projects implemented, results, promising practices and lessons learned.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

CNLTE National Unit Against Child Labour

CUZA Cooperative Union of Zanzibar

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FFS Farmer field school

Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism **FMM**

Farmers' Union of Malawi **FUM ICA Integrated Country Approach**

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO **International Labour Organization**

IPCCLA International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture

IPPM Integrated Production and Pest Management

ITC-ILO **International Training Centre**

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

Junior farmer field and life school **JFFLS**

MAAIF Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

MFLD Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development

Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II MGDS II

Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development MGLSD

Ministry of Agriculture and Food security MoA&FS MoYD&S Ministry of Youth Development and Sports

NAP National Action Plan

NAPYE National Action Plan on Youth Employment

National Smallholder's Farmers Association of Malawi NASFAM

National Steering Committee on Elimination of Child Labour **NSCC**

OSH Occupational safety and health

PANETEM National Plan For The Elimination of Child Labour

PELUM Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Network

RECA National Chambers of Agriculture Network

Sustainable Agricultural mechanization in Africa SAmA

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

TFC Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNIDROIT International Institute for the Unification of Private Law

Worst forms of child labour WFCL



Introduction FAO's work on child labour prevention in agriculture in Africa

2021 has been declared by the United Nations General Assembly, the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. In this context, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have released the latest global estimates on child labour, which indicate that globally 160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys – are in child labour. The majority of these children (70%) are working in the agricultural sector (ILO and UNICEF, 2021).

The report warns that **progress towards the elimination of child labour has stalled for the first time in 20 years**. This is particularly true for Africa where the numbers of children engaged in child labour have increased. The continent hosts the highest number of child labourers globally with more than 80 percent of its child labourers in agriculture.

Agriculture in Africa is predominantly practised at the subsistence level. Smallholder farmers make up about 80 percent of all farms in sub-Saharan Africa and employ nearly 175 million people (FAO and OECD, 2016). There is a functional and economic dependency upon child labour in the agricultural sector, especially among poor households. The presence of children in agriculture is a key contributor to the sustenance of family livelihoods, and farming operations are often labour-intensive. In addition, adult labour force is not always available or affordable, making it challenging for small-scale farmers to attain the level of production needed for their survival without children's involvement (FAO, 2020).

world combined.



Child labour prevalence stands at 24 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, which is three times that of Northern Africa (ILO and UNICEF, 2021).

sub-Saharan Africa (86.6 million) than in the rest of the

The ratio of children in child labour in agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa stands at 4 in every 5 children (ILO and UNICEF, 2021).

If children continue to form a substantial share of the labour force in agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa, the region is at risk of facing prolonged food insecurity, increased rural poverty, malnutrition and low productivity in general (ILO and UNICEF, 2021). Over the past years, the African continent, and sub-Saharan Africa in particular, has increasingly experienced political instability, high levels of inequality, climate shocks, forced migration and conflicts, which, coupled with structural impediments, contribute to poverty and hunger. This situation has pushed more children into child labour, which is often hazardous in nature, to support their families at the expense of their healthy development. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and its impacts have only exacerbated this situation.

Without a breakthrough on the continent, achieving target 7 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 of ending child labour in all its forms by 2025 remains elusive (ILO and UNICEF, 2021).

African governments are renewing their commitments to change this trend, for example with the African Union's ten-year action plan to eradicate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery (2020–2030) (African Union, 2019). In parallel, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has pledged to increase its efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture and to support agricultural stakeholders in this matter.

FAO has been supporting governments to address child labour in agriculture in Africa, since 2010 in particular, through projects funded by its Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM).¹ FAO's work is done in collaboration with a range of organizations, including with ILO and through the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA). IPCCLA was launched in 2007 to foster the participation of agricultural organizations in global efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture and aims at increasing collaboration and cooperation among agricultural stakeholders and other key stakeholders (e.g. labour and education). IPCCLA supported pilot activities in Mali and Malawi in 2010 and 2011 respectively, and then expanded its support through other projects in the region.

Over the last decade, the combination of FMM funding with other funding sources and close collaboration with partners has enabled FAO to pilot and implement a range of activities to help prevent and eliminate child labour in agriculture in Africa. Several promising practices were implemented through a series of short-term projects in sub-Saharan African countries with a specific focus on Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

FAO's work in Malawi, Mali and the United Republic of Tanzania built on existing awareness-raising activities on child labour in agriculture provided by ILO-supported projects. It was the opportunity to involve key agricultural stakeholders such as ministries of agriculture, producers' organizations and cooperatives who had not been associated and involved thus far. In the Niger, FAO led one of the first projects on child labour in agriculture, focusing on generating knowledge, building capacity and getting buy-in from local and national key stakeholders. In

¹ The FMM is FAO's main pooled funding mechanism for resource partners willing to contribute flexible, voluntary and multi-year resources to the Organization for the achievement of results under FAO's Strategic Framework and the realization of catalytic impacts.

Uganda, FAO used youth employment as an entry point to create synergies with the topic of prevention of child labour through a specific focus on occupational safety and health (OSH).

This compendium is the result of a first-of-its-kind stocktaking exercise looking at FAO activities to address child labour in agriculture in the above-mentioned countries over a decade. It is intended to make a practical contribution to the field of child labour elimination in agriculture, by shedding a light on some of the FAO-supported activities, country processes and practices as well as achievements, and lessons learned.

FAO's approach to ending child labour in agriculture

FAO's mandate encompasses areas of work that are critical to ending child labour in agriculture, including reducing rural poverty, enabling more inclusive and sustainable food systems and increasing resilience of livelihoods to shocks and crises.² As a United Nations specialized agency with intergovernmental status, FAO has a comprehensive mandate, authority and capacity to work globally on a wide range of aspects dealing with food and agriculture. The Organization fulfils its mandate thanks to its technical knowledge of agriculture, its privileged relationships with agricultural stakeholders and its longstanding experience in bringing them together by facilitating dialogue and collaboration.

As indicated in FAO's framework on ending child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2020b), FAO engages in the fight against child labour by following six key strategies for engagement: knowledge generation, monitoring and evaluation, policy advice, capacity development, reaching scale and promotion of advocacy and partnerships.

Along with these strategies, different entry points and approaches can be used to prevent child labour in agriculture and protect children above the minimum legal age of employment from hazardous work and its consequences. FAO's areas of work to address child labour in agriculture are as follows:

- promote the adoption of safe practices in agriculture;
- foster sustainable labour-saving technologies and practices;

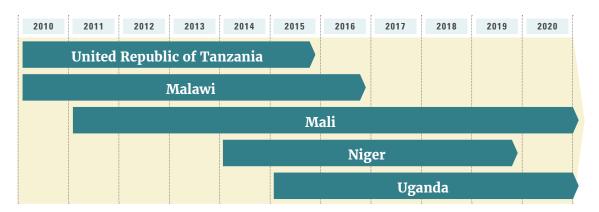
More information on FAO and child labour in agriculture, the rationale for FAO engagement, its guiding principles, areas of work and key strategies for engagement can be found in the FAO framework on ending child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2020b).

- include agriculture, food and nutrition in school curricula in rural areas;
- empowering and building the skills of youth aged 15-17;
- enhance economic capacity and building resilience of livelihoods through social protection;
- address child labour in crop production, capture fisheries and aquaculture, livestock and forestry;
- promote socially sustainable agricultural value chains;
- reduce risks and vulnerabilities in the context of protracted crisis, food chain crisis and natural hazards; and
- ▶ reduce risks and vulnerabilities in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.

Nature of this compendium

This compendium of ten years of experience on eliminating child labour in agriculture in Africa compiles and presents FAO's experience in five sub-Saharan African countries (Malawi, Mali, the Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) from 2010 to 2020 (graphic 1).³

Graphic 1 – Overview of the timeline of the country-level activities between 2010 and 2020



³ A detailed overview of the timelines of these activities can be found in Annex 1.

The compendium structure

Part 1: FAO strategies for the elimination of child labour in Africa

Strategy 1: Knowledge generation

Strategy 2: Capacity development and awareness raising **Strategy 3:** Policy advice

Strategy 4: Promotion of advocacy and partnerships

Part 2: Entry points for ending child labour in Africa

Highlight 1:

Promoting safe agricultural practices and labour-saving techniques

Highlight 2:

Facilitating school-to-work transition in agriculture: a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment

The main objective of this compendium is to take stock of FAO's experience, lessons learned and promising practices that are useful to inform the potential upscaling of solutions to address child labour in agriculture in Africa.⁴ Additionally, the compendium aims at providing in–depth information on country processes in line with FAO's key strategies and areas of work for the elimination of child labour in agriculture mentioned above. Through its content, the document highlights action and compiles knowledge on FAO activities related to the realization of the sustainable development goals, and more particularly the target 7 of the SDG 8 of ending child labour in all its forms by 2025.

The compendium is structured around two main parts on (1) FAO's strategies for engagement and (2) entry points, in line with the FAO framework on ending child

⁴ A promising practice is defined by FAO as (FAO, 2016a):

A practice that has demonstrated a high degree of success in its single setting, and the possibility of replication in the same setting is guaranteed. It has generated some quantitative data showing positive outcomes over a period of time. A promising practice has the potential to become a good practice, but it does not yet have enough research or replication to support wider adoption or upscaling. As such, a promising practice incorporates a process of continuous learning and improvement.

labour in agriculture. Each sub-part includes some background information, a description of the practices at country level and a highlight of main outcomes and achievements.

While the country activities and their corresponding practices are presented separately along the grid of the strategies and entry points, it is important to keep in mind that an integrated approach combining different but complementary actions is essential to address child labour. The document highlights where complementary information about the interplay between the different strategies and related practices at the country level can be found in the different parts and in dedicated boxes of information (in this way).

Main lessons learned and key messages

- 1. Generating knowledge on child labour in agriculture was a key step to raise awareness on risks and hazards faced by children and to engage agricultural stakeholders. By focusing on specific value chains and geographic areas, research allowed to make child labour visible and to understand where it was most prominent. In some cases, it was also instrumental to raise awareness on the reality that far from just helping, some children were undertaking heavy and hazardous tasks. Different value chains and entry points were selected depending on the context: the rice and cotton value chains in Mali; the rice and vegetable value chains and a study on occupational safety and health (OSH) in agriculture in the Niger; the sugarcane, tea out-growers and biofuel sectors in the United Republic of Tanzania; contract farming in Malawi; and the maize and dairy value chains followed by an OSH assessment in Uganda.
- 2. Participatory processes, such as multi-stakeholder consultations and dialogues were essential to inform national action plans and policies. The five countries have organized multi-stakeholder activities such as workshops, which in several cases led to the design and revision of national roadmaps, or action plans to prevent and eliminate child labour in agriculture. Usually, these processes were combined with capacity development and awareness-raising activities, leading to the inclusion of child labour considerations into national policies and frameworks. This was the case for example for the National Fisheries Policy and the national contract farming strategy in Malawi; the inclusion of child labour issues in the third national development plan, the review of the national action plan for the elimination of child labour and the development of the national strategy for youth employment in agriculture in Uganda; the inclusion of child labour issues in the National Fisheries Policy and Aquaculture Development Strategy, and the Zanzibar Livestock Policy in the United Republic of Tanzania; and the identification of

agriculture as a priority in the national action plan for the elimination of child labour and the development of a specific sectoral roadmap in Mali. The existence of "champions" in FAO country offices and ministries of agriculture also played an important role in the facilitation of these processes.

- 3. The lessons learned and experiences from the promising practices presented in this compendium have led to the development of knowledge products that are valuable and should be disseminated widely. Several products, tools and guidance materials have been produced.5 For example, the Protect children from pesticides! Visual facilitator's quide (FAO, 2015) was produced and field-tested by FAO and ILO in Mali, before its wide dissemination in the region and adaptation, including the translation into several local and national languages and visual adaptation, to other contexts all over the globe. The visual tool was instrumental in raising awareness on child labour and pesticides at the community level, including among non-literate populations. The lessons learned from this successful visual approach was used to develop a visual guide in Uganda focusing on OSH. The selection and adaptation of relevant contents that could be disseminated at the local level and in the most remote areas through videos and radio programmes were also key to the awareness-raising efforts. National and cross-country peer-to-peer learning would be useful to promote this knowledge and inspire governments and others engaged in the elimination of child labour.
- 4. Including child labour prevention and OSH considerations into national extension programmes, training of labour inspectors, school curricula and community-based activities ensured a wide outreach. In the Niger, a module was integrated into the guide for plant protection agents of the Ministry of Agriculture. In Malawi, the Department of Agricultural Extension Services integrated child labour considerations in their extension materials. In the United Republic of Tanzania, child labour issues were included in the extension guidelines for the livestock sector. In Uganda, agricultural extension officers and labour inspectors were trained on child labour prevention and OSH in agriculture. In some countries, a child labour prevention module was integrated into the Farmers field schools (FFS) curricula. The Dimitra community listeners' clubs proven to be effective spaces to raise awareness on hazardous work and to identify practical solutions with adults, youth and children themselves.
- Labour saving technologies and decent youth employment proved to be crucial entry points to prevent child labour. Labour-saving technologies and

To access all the FAO resources on child labour, including those that have been informed by the activities mentioned in this compendium, please visit the FAO website (FAO, 2022a).

practices can reduce the need and demand for child labour. An example is the reintroduction of an ancient and forgotten agricultural practice, the use of older and trained oxen for ploughing, or the introduction of jab planter, seeder, reaper and harvesting machines. Another entry point is the facilitation of the access to vocational training and decent rural employment opportunities for youth, in particular for the age group 15–17. In all five countries, to a different extent, the junior farmer field and life schools (JFFLS) methodology was implemented, combining agricultural, business and life skills and tended to increase children's enrolment, performance and attendance in primary schools. As a result, in Uganda, the National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture included considerations for this specific age group.

- 6. Other entry points such as the promotion of fair contract farming principles and commercialization of agriculture provided opportunities to address the root causes of child labour in agriculture. For example, child labour elimination was embedded as an objective of the Malawi National Contract Farming Strategy along with the provision to protect the rights of and train smallholders on improved and safe farming practices. Beyond contract farming, collaboration with agricultural producers and companies engaged in food value chains would be valuable to avoid the use of child labour.
- 7. Collaboration between multiple actors at different levels was important to ensure meaningful policy dialogue, facilitate the implementation of action plans, and increase advocacy. At the national level, this translated into the creation of inter-ministerial groups or national committees on child labour, or the inclusion of agricultural stakeholders in existing child labour units led by the Ministry of Labour. Furthermore, synergies with other programmes, the collaboration between FAO and ILO and among partners of IPCCLA, provided opportunities for an integrated approach to preventing child labour in agriculture. In addition, partnerships at the international level have resulted in increased recognition of the role of agricultural stakeholders, and their participation in global roadmaps and regional and global events on child labour.
- **8. Short-term successive projects and lack of continuous funding was a challenge.** Reaching scale, continuity and sustainability of interventions depend on a combination of complementary factors (changes in mindsets, national ownership and capacity, child-labour transformative policies and programmes, etc.), which require stable, long-term and strategic funding.



Part 1 FAO strategies for the elimination of child labour in Africa

Strategy 1: Knowledge generation

Background

Disaggregated data and research on child labour in agriculture and on viable alternatives are essential to inform policies and programmes and to design tailored interventions. There is still a data gap on child labour in agricultural sub-sectors and value chains and more needs to be done to assess the availability and quality of data and to generate knowledge.

FAO focuses on addressing specific knowledge gaps on child labour in agriculture across countries and throughout different agricultural sub-sectors. FAO's support to knowledge generation is demand-driven, based on data collection on child labour in agriculture or building on available data to develop strategies and actions for a specific country and or sector. In addition, FAO supports purposeful research aimed at influencing as well as initiating transformative policies. Research results are also used to develop communication materials and to facilitate the dissemination and exchange of good practices and lessons learned at the local, regional and global levels (FAO, 2020b).

Practices at country level

Knowledge generation in the United Republic of Tanzania (2009–2010)

The United Republic of Tanzania drafted a specific legislative framework on contract farming in 2009. Such arrangements can provide opportunities for incorporating standards of sustainable agricultural production and resource management into farming systems and instituting safeguards against environmental degradation, farmer exploitation, gender disparities, and child labour in agriculture (see box 3). In parallel, a study on the impact of contract farming systems on child labour in the country was undertaken in 2009 by IPCCLA to inform future activities of the Partnership. It established that among the three sectors considered (sugarcane, tea out-growers and biofuel), child labour was the most prevalent in the sugarcane and tea out-grower schemes,6 with children working all year round. In sugarcane out-grower systems, child labour was found rampant during planting and weeding (use of hand hoe and herbicide application) and constituted more than 60 percent of the workforce. The study also established that children working in the biofuel sub-sector were widely involved in the cultivation and harvesting of castor and jatropha. By being in contact with these crops, children were exposed to health risks when in contact with ricin and the allergenic compounds found on the plants' surface that could lead to permanent nerve damage.

Knowledge generation in Mali (2011)

On June 8, 2011, the Government of Mali adopted the National Action Plan For The Elimination Of Child Labour (Plan National pour l'Élimination du Travail des Enfants au Mali) (PANETEM) and identified the elimination of child labour in agriculture as a priority in its national strategy for development (FAO, 2012a). In the framework of its elaboration, FAO and ILO, on behalf of IPCCLA, consulted various key stakeholders and partners to facilitate the development of a roadmap to prevent and eliminate child labour in agriculture (discover more in policy advice).

In accordance with the actions recommended in the roadmap, FAO and ILO jointly supported a research project on child labour in the rice and cotton value chains to generate more knowledge and inform upcoming actions (Ministère de l'agriculture. Institut d'Economie Rurale, 2011). The project increased the knowledge base on

Out-grower systems are schemes that provide production and marketing services to farmers on their own land.

hazardous child labour in these value chains and supported the identification of sustainable alternatives. The alternatives identified included agriculture technologies and practices such as integrated production and pest management (IPPM) to eliminate the use of chemical pesticides, capacity development on how to effectively work with oxen, and the use of mechanized rice planters and seeders. The results of the study were then presented during a national information–sharing workshop organized to inform the implementation of the actions identified in the roadmap (FAO, 2012a).

Knowledge generation in Malawi (2013–2014)

A study on how the legal framework in contract farming induced or addressed the prevalence of child labour was undertaken and submitted to **the national Commercial Agriculture**, **Agro-Processing and Market Development Technical Working Group in November 2014**. The objective was to support the governmental efforts to prohibit child labour in contract farming schemes by mandating targeted contractual provisions. Its findings and recommendations fed into the development of a national contract farming strategy (see box 3). The legal work went beyond child labour and integrated other decent rural employment aspects.

Knowledge generation oftentimes informs country-level activities, which can, in turn, inform global processes. As such, activities undertaken in Malawi to address child labour in the fisheries sector greatly informed the *Guidance for Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture*, jointly published by FAO and ILO **in 2013** (FAO & ILO. 2013).⁷ The inputs from actors in Malawi were collected during an FAO-ILO workshop on capacity development on child labour in agriculture (including fisheries and aquaculture), organized **in May 2011** and were then reflected in the document.

Knowledge generation in the Niger (2014-2019)

In October 2014, FAO commissioned and launched a case study to unearth the reality of child labour in the agricultural sector in the Niger in the framework of the Zero Hunger Initiative. The study aimed to complement a previous national survey on child labour by providing more detailed data on the working conditions

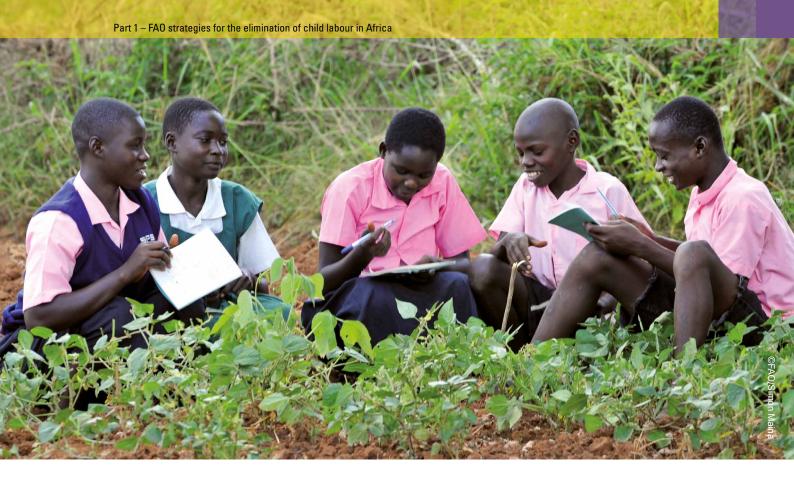
This document is the long term outcome of the recommendations of a workshop on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture held in Rome in 2010, which requested FAO and ILO to develop guiding principles for policy makers, organizations of fishers, fish farmers, fish workers and employers, and other sectoral institutions, development practitioners, and the general public to address child labour in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

of children in the rice and vegetable value chains in three regions along the Niger River (Dosso, Tillabéri and Niamey). It included the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data. The research identified the risks and hazards associated with different activities that children were undertaking. It also laid out priorities in terms of child labour prevention, and partnerships were identified as a key element. The outcomes of the study were then used to initiate and foster capacity development and awareness-raising activities (discover more in capacity development and awareness raising).

Several follow-up activities were undertaken **between 2016 and 2019** to further bridge the knowledge gaps. A reference situation and a mapping of stakeholders involved in child labour prevention have been produced in addition to a communication strategy to reach the audiences identified. Similarly, existing documentary resources and knowledge gaps to be studied have been inventoried in a repository of knowledge. Stemming from this inventory, a study on occupational health and risks in agriculture was conducted. Finally, a methodology document for the implementation and the monitoring of future interventions was developed and notably included the relevant guidance for the promotion of appropriate practices and technologies to end child labour.

Knowledge generation in Uganda (2017–2020)

In 2017, a study on the legal barriers and enablers for children in the 14-17 age cohort to access decent rural employment in the agriculture sector and key value chains in Uganda was carried out. The main objective of the study was to assess the coherence of national laws and the requirements to create an enabling environment for young people of legal working age to access decent employment opportunities. The study identified several inconsistencies among existing laws that created barriers for children aged between 14 and 17 to access decent formal employment opportunities, especially in agriculture and rural areas. Notably, it highlighted that the national minimum age for employment was set at 14 years while the age of completion of compulsory primary education was set at 13 years. Most critically, the study showed that different legal frameworks defined the legal working age differently. For instance, the minimum age for entry into employment is 14 years according to the employment Act of 2006 while the Children's (Amendment) Act of 2016 sets it at 16 years thus creating potential legal barriers regarding when children can be legally employed in any economic activity (Uganda, 2006; Uganda, 2016). Overall, the variation in the minimum legal working age can result in an increase in the number of children aged 14-15 who are out of school and out of work. Finally, the study highlighted that the 14-17 age cohort tends to be overlooked by youth programmes, which usually target youth between 18 and 30



years old. The conclusions of the study provided recommendations to improve existing legal frameworks and a policy brief was drafted to facilitate dialogue and raise awareness on the key issues (FAO, 2017) (discover more in facilitating school-to-work transition in agriculture).

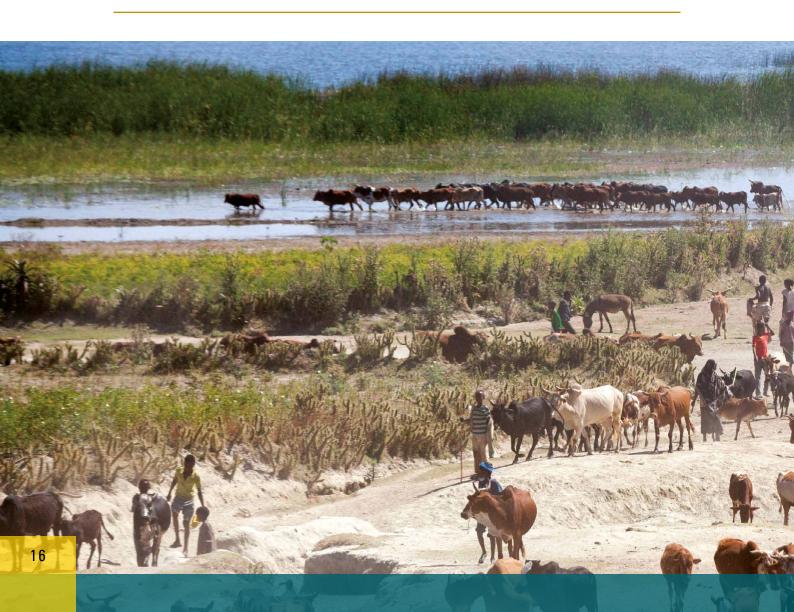
In parallel, a national workshop was held **in 2017** with a wide range of stakeholders to identify the most hazardous sub-sectors in agriculture where younger youth tend to be employed (both formally and informally). Based on the results of the workshop, FAO undertook an OSH risk assessment in the agriculture sector focusing on the maize and dairy value chains in four selected districts in central and eastern Uganda. The research generated information on the segments of the value chains where hazardous activities occurred, the tasks typically carried out by younger youth, the common hazards encountered and potential consequences of such exposure to their health, safety, and development.

To implement the recommendations made during the national stakeholder workshop as well as the key findings of the OSH risk assessment, a visual guide has been developed and is currently being finalized. The visual guide *Protect children and young workers from occupational safety and health risks in agriculture* (FAO, forthcoming) focuses on the main hazards identified. As such, it focuses on a wide range of hazard categories that younger youth typically experience when carrying out agricultural activities such as biological, chemical, physical, ergonomic, and psychosocial hazards. Although the target audience is younger youth, the tool can

be used by agricultural stakeholders of all ages. Once published, the tool will be used to carry out awareness-raising activities among rural farming communities and in schools.

In 2020, a study focusing on child labour in the livestock sector among pastoral communities was conducted in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Centre. The objective of the study was to undertake a situational analysis of the children working in the livestock sector among pastoral communities in the Karamoja sub-region by looking at the prevalence, extent, causes and effects of child labour.

The knowledge generation, awareness-raising and capacity development activities held at the country level, led to the development of knowledge resources and practical tools, available on FAO corporate website on child labour in agriculture (FAO, 2022a) and fostered collaboration at national and international levels.



Positive outcomes and achievements

- Research results and data presented to the national stakeholders, especially the ministries of agriculture and agricultural stakeholders, adequately informed policy action. <u>Discover more in policy advice</u>.
- ▶ Gender and age disaggregated data indicating the risks boys and girls are exposed to was produced and made available, whenever possible.
- ► The identification of legal and policy enablers and barriers to support the fight against child labour has led to policy dialogue to tackle these gaps. Discover more in policy advice.
- ▶ The knowledge resources developed, translated into different languages, and simplified in booklets and other formats have been used to build and reinforce capacity and raise awareness among a broad range of agricultural actors from policymakers to young workers and children. Discover more in capacity development and awareness raising.
- ▶ The resources and tools produced are now available for public use by all agricultural and non-agricultural stakeholders working on the elimination of child labour across the globe.



Strategy 2: Capacity development and awareness raising

Background

To end child labour in agriculture, all stakeholders (public authorities, economic actors, civil society and other actors such as bilateral donors, research institutions, foundations and international organizations) must be on board. The relevant actors need to be sensitized and better equipped, with a clear understanding of the difference between child labour and tasks that are acceptable for children, and knowledge of the good practices available to address the issue.

FAO provides support to identify capacity development needs, to design and facilitate capacity development interventions and their scaling up, and to effectively communicate and raise awareness on child labour in agriculture.

Practices at country level

Capacity development and awareness raising in Malawi (2010–2015)

Between 2010 and 2013, a series of knowledge-sharing and planning workshops on child labour in agriculture was organized by the Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with FAO, ILO and The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) on behalf of IPCCLA. This allowed bringing agricultural, labour, and social welfare stakeholders together at the district level to develop joint action plans. FAO and ILO played a leading role in the initial trainings, while supporting the government stakeholders to increasingly take the lead in delivering the trainings across the country (FAO, 2011). These trainings resulted in the collaborative design of national and district activity plans to address child labour in agriculture such as a national activity plan to support the Child Labour National Action Plan for Malawi (2009-2016) (Ministry of Labour of Malawi, 2010). The plan highlighted four main work areas: policies, legislation and law enforcement, stakeholder coordination, awareness and knowledge and livelihood support at community and family level, including education. The workshops also led to the development of a district training package to support the implementation of the national action plan. Another outcome of the workshops was the inclusion of child labour in the national fisheries policies (discover more in policy advice).

In addition, FAO collaborated with **the National Smallholder's Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFAM)** on various behavioural communication and information materials **throughout 2015**. These materials were developed and widely disseminated through a communication campaign in rural communities. The campaign highlighted the impact of child labour on the vicious cycle of poverty and stimulated debates on child labour prevention. Radio programmes were produced and broadcasted on national media channels. Rural community listeners collected questions and views on getting children back to school. Additionally, NASFAM dedicated their 2015 thematic calendars to the topic of child labour in agriculture, with messages reaching 6 000 smallholders' clubs in the country.

In parallel, in the same year, the Department of Agricultural Extension Services within the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) integrated child labour messages in their extension materials. The messages provided key recommendations to eliminate the harm done to children when involved in agricultural tasks. About 23 000 leaflets and posters were printed and widely disseminated. A 15-minutes video documentary on child labour in agriculture was screened in targeted remote villages with a high prevalence of child labour, especially in the tea, coffee, fisheries and cattle-herding sub-sectors. An extension team travelled in a mobile van and tour dates were announced in advance via local radio channels. Over 10,000 rural people viewed and debated the documentary and many districts pledged to raise child labour issues in council meetings and adopt by-laws as deterrents (FAO, 2016b).

Capacity development and awareness raising in Mali (2012–2020)

In 2012, FAO-facilitated workshops allowed agricultural stakeholders to identify three key gaps in addressing child labour in agriculture: (1) the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture was not engaged in addressing issues of child labour, nor was it considering it as a priority mandate; (2) a knowledge gap on child labour in agriculture due to limited data, especially on small-scale farming in rice and cotton; and (3) the need for solutions and alternatives to child labour.

It was concluded that child labour in agriculture was not adequately addressed in the National Action Plan For The Elimination Of Child Labour (Plan National pour l'Élimination du Travail des Enfants au Mali (PANETEM)) nor in agricultural and rural development programmes due to the identified gaps. To tackle these gaps, the Ministry of Agriculture, supported by FAO, developed a tailored-made capacity development package on prevention and reduction of child labour in agriculture for field-testing.

In addition, **in 2013**, in the framework of the work with farmer fields schools (FFS), a visual facilitator's guide on child labour was developed to raise awareness on the prevention of children's exposure to pesticides-related risks and hazards. The FAO-ILO *Protect children from pesticides!* Visual facilitator's guide (FAO, 2015) was developed, piloted and disseminated to inform and develop capacity at the local level. Since its creation and dissemination in Mali, the visual guide has been disseminated and adapted to many different contexts all over the globe (see box 1). Since then, several farmer fields schools have been set up in the country as a means to share and disseminate good practices and information about safe practices (discover more in promoting safe agricultural practices and labour-saving techniques).



Box 1 – The FAO-ILO Protect children from pesticides! Visual facilitator's guide: a success story that started in Mali

Children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure for various biological and behavioural reasons.

The FAO-ILO *Protect children from pesticides!* Visual facilitator's guide, was initially developed in Mali **in 2013**, where it is now widely used by extension workers, farmer field schools, labour inspectors, and producers' organizations. Being an easily accessible training tool, it helps agricultural extension workers, rural educators, labour inspectors, and producers' organizations in teaching farmers and their families how to identify and minimize risks at home, in shops, and on the farm. Through the guide, they also learn the negative consequences of exposure on health. The guide is not only raising awareness but can also be used to develop capacities by showing what needs to be done.

The user-friendly guide has three main modules: (1) how children are exposed to pesticides, (2) what are the health risks and why children are particularly vulnerable, and (3) what can be done to reduce those risks.

Thanks to the support of the Rotterdam Convention, a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibility in relation to imports of hazardous chemicals, the visual guide has been adapted to different contexts and is now available in several languages. When useful, the graphics and illustrations have also been adapted accordingly.

Source: **FAO**. 2015. Protect Children from Pesticides! Visual Facilitator's Guide. Rome. www.fao.org/documents/card/fr/c/0593e270-8875-48a3-ac63-58b89eb87611

As a follow-up to the activities above, a training document was produced by the team of **the National Unit Against Child Labour (CNLTE)** and validated during a workshop held **on November 23, 2020.** The document is structured in three parts around the concepts related to child labour, the related legal and institutional frameworks and the health and safety of child workers in agriculture. The document will serve as a training tool for field agents, producers and their organizations.

⁸ The Child and Work Unit (*Unité Enfant et Travail*) created in November 2004 was established as the National Unit for the Fight against Child Labor (*Cellule Nationale de Lutte contre le Travail des Enfants*) (CNLTE) in 2010 through the Decree n°10-474/P-RM of 20 September 2010. The CNLTE coordinates Mali's efforts to eliminate child labour, especially its worst forms. It is piloted by the National Steering Committee (*Comité Directeur National*) and chaired by the Ministry of Labour and includes representatives from other government ministries, civil society, and worker and employer organizations. One labour inspector in each region is designated as the point of contact of the CNLTE to facilitate regional coordination (USDOL, 2019).

Capacity development and awareness raising in the United Republic of Tanzania (2013–2014)

Between 2013 and 2014, several FAO-facilitated capacity development workshops on child labour prevention and reduction in the livestock and fisheries sub-sectors were held for the management and technical staff at the Ministries of Livestock and Fisheries Development in mainland Tanzania and in Zanzibar. The trainings focused on the hazardous nature and conditions of work, the risks to children's health and physical development, the negative impact of child labour on education, and the role of stakeholders in preventing and reducing child labour. Notably, local Beach Management Units on child labour were trained by the government in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, and child labour considerations were incorporated into the monitoring of their fisheries programmes. Through these workshops, participants gained valuable knowledge of the distinction between acceptable children's work and child labour, relevant national legislation and the specific hazards faced by children in the fisheries and livestock sectors. These capacity development workshops took place within the framework of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour and brought together national labour and agricultural stakeholders to improve their collaboration and coordination efforts in combating child labour in these sectors. This notably resulted in the inclusion of child labour into the National Fisheries Policy 2015 (discover more in policy advice). As a follow-up action, FAOsupported awareness-raising activities were continuously conducted for actors of the fisheries sector. In parallel, awareness about child labour in agriculture was raised through FAO's participation in diverse child labour fora and initiatives such as the general assembly of the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management network.

Capacity development and awareness raising in the Niger (2015–2017)

In 2015, FAO provided technical support and guidance for the development of a module on child labour prevention, which was integrated into the Ministry of Agriculture's manual for crop protection agents and related training sessions. In the same year, an introductory course on child labour in agriculture was provided to selected members of the national consultative framework on child labour in agriculture (discover more in *policy advice*) with support from FAO.

Following that, several collaborative awareness-raising and capacity-building activities on child labour in agriculture were undertaken with **the National Chamber of Agriculture Network of Niger (RECA)**, the local affiliates of IUF, and several federations of producers' organizations. Notably, RECA was supported to lead a thorough consultation process in order to develop small-scale farmers-specific

communication materials on mitigation measures through good agricultural practices and fact sheets about child labour and irrigation, livestock or crop harvesting. These materials led to the development of *A guide to child labour in agriculture* (*Guide sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture*) (RECA, 2016). RECA also used and widely disseminated the FAO-ILO *Protect children from pesticides!* Visual facilitator's guide tool to protect children from pesticides in agriculture (see box 1). Finally, child labour related messages were integrated in the activities of the IUF affiliates through dialogue with its representatives.

In both Mali and the Niger, child labour was included in the FAO's Dimitra Listeners' Clubs, which contributed to improving the visibility and empowerment of rural populations, women in particular (see box 2).

Box 2 – Tackling child labour through community mobilization: the FAO's Dimitra Listeners' Clubs

The FAO's Dimitra Listeners' Clubs – also called Dimitra Clubs – are:

(...) groups of women, men and young people — mixed or not — who decide to organize themselves to work together and 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.

In Mali, the capacity of the Dimitra Club facilitators and leaders was strengthened on child labour through a series of training sessions that took place in 2017 and in 2020. The topic of child labour in agriculture was then introduced and discussed in 180 Dimitra Clubs in 11 communes, out of which six communes of the circle of Bandiagara, in the center of Mali and five communes in cotton production zones. These discussions allowed women, men and youth to improve their understanding of the dangers linked to child labour in agriculture, to express their views and opinions, and to find solutions to reduce child labour. In final assemblies, they decided with traditional leaders and farmer organizations' leaders which immediate measures could be taken. A series of recreational, socializing and communication activities to further raise awareness were also identified, such as theatre and the dissemination of information through local radio outlets.

In the Niger, as of 2017, Dimitra Clubs were present in 247 villages, spread out in 27 towns of 6 regions. They included 25,335 direct members, of which 16,270 (nearly 60%) are women. FAO's Integrated Production and Pest Management Programme (IPPM) collaborates with Dimitra clubs in the Niger to raise awareness on agricultural hazards, improve open discussion, access to information and knowledge exchange in rural communities, especially among women and youth. The child labour prevention agenda has also been brought into Dimitra listeners' clubs to improve open discussion on the issue.

Source: FAO, 2020b; FAO, 2022b

Capacity development and awareness raising in Uganda (2016–2020)

In 2016, a capacity development workshop was held with stakeholders from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development on the nexus between child labour prevention and promotion of youth employment. Based on the results of this workshop, FAO and ministerial colleagues defined individual and joint activities to be carried out in the coming years, with an emphasis on OSH. In 2017, FAO in partnership with the ILO country office conducted a capacity development workshop on child labour prevention and the improvement of OSH in the agriculture sector, which was attended by 34 agricultural extension officers and labour inspectors from 22 districts. On the same year, FAO Uganda supported Gayaza High School in organizing the fourth Annual School Farm Camp under the theme "Skilling Youth in Agri-business in Tune with Wildlife Conservation". In particular, FAO supported the pre-camp training on child labour prevention and OSH for 72 education stakeholders including secondary school teachers and representatives of the national curriculum development centre in the ministry of education. Gayaza high school students have also been helping to disseminate the FAO-ILO Protect children from pesticides! Visual facilitator's quide during public events such as World Food Day and local events such as the Source of the Nile Show in Jinja organized annually by the Uganda National Farmers Federation.

In all five countries, youth trainers gained knowledge on child labour prevention in agriculture through the FAO junior farmer field and life schools trainer curriculum.

Discover more in promoting safe agricultural practices and labour-saving techniques.



Positive outcomes and achievements

- ▶ Key stakeholders such as national and local officers, partner organizations, district authorities, workers' and employers' organizations, communities and parents have been included in capacity development activities. They continue to pass on messages on child labour prevention in their respective organizations and places of work.
- ▶ The inclusion of child labour in Dimitra Clubs improved open discussion on the role that children have in farm-related operations, on the distribution of tasks within the household, and led to information and knowledge exchange in rural communities, especially among women and youth. This has reduced the level of denial of the existence of child labour at the community level and enabled communities to start protecting their children from child labour.
- ▶ By using adapted tools such as national radio programmes and video documentaries, even isolated publics, such as rural remote communities, were sensitized.
- ▶ The dissemination and integration of the FAO-ILO Protect children from pesticides! Visual facilitator's guide, developed in Mali, in different agricultural and food security programmes over different countries improved understanding among agricultural extension and labour inspection staff and other stakeholders.
- ▶ A diverse range of public and private actors were involved in the elaboration of good agricultural practices documents which included the integration of child labour aspects. This helped to reflect their points of view and adapt the materials to diverse audiences. Similarly, the different project activities were implemented in a participatory manner, ensuring that they were appropriate for local contexts, which led to strengthening the capacity of both FAO staff and key stakeholders.
- ▶ Awareness-raising activities were implemented in close collaboration with ILO activities, which provided opportunities for an integrated approach to reducing child labour in agriculture.



Strategy 3: Policy advice

Background

Provisions for the elimination of child labour in agriculture can be found in several legal and policy instruments at the global level. In turn, issues relating to agriculture and rural areas must be adequately covered in different national policies, strategies and programmes.

Through its activities, FAO supports initiatives ranging from policy dialogue to actual policy formulation and implementation by:

- assessing policies and legislation to identify gaps concerning the agricultural sector, focusing on the difference between the age for compulsory school and entry into employment, the inclusion of agriculture hazardous tasks in national hazardous lists, and entry points in agricultural policies to address child labour;
- ▶ facilitating collaboration between labour and agricultural stakeholders, through inter-ministerial groups or national committees on child labour. The objective is to foster inclusive policy dialogues and processes at all levels, particularly rural communities, women and men, youth, rural organizations and cooperatives; and
- enhancing policy coherence and the adoption of an integrated approach to the elimination of child labour in agriculture. This entails identifying synergies among relevant policies such as education and vocational training, social protection, decent work for youth and adults, and sustainable agriculture and rural development.

⁹ 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.

Practices at country level

Policy advice in Mali (2011–2020)

In June 2011, the Government of Mali adopted the National Action Plan For The Elimination Of Child Labour (Plan National pour l'Élimination du Travail des Enfants au Mali) (PANETEM) and identified the elimination of child labour in agriculture as a priority in its national strategy for development. On behalf of IPCCLA, FAO and ILO led a multistakeholder consultation process in January of the same year. The results were used to facilitate the development of a national roadmap to prevent and eliminate child labour in agriculture in the framework of the elaboration of the upcoming PANETEM. This was followed up by the organization of a national workshop in December 2011 to strengthen national ownership and the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture. FAO provided technical support to national labour and agricultural stakeholders for the implementation of the national roadmap. Subsequently, the ministry took the lead in organizing a follow-up national workshop on child labour in agriculture and proposed a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the roadmap's workplan in collaboration with the National Unit Against Child Labour (CNLTE) and other national partners.

Following the initial adoption of the roadmap in 2011 and the related workshops, FAO and ILO, in collaboration with the National Directorate of Agriculture, proceeded to update and fine-tune the roadmap in 2015 and 2017. However, after the second revision in 2017, it was concluded that the implementation of the recommended activities remained weak. The Ministry of Agriculture requested FAO's technical support to stimulate a new dynamic to strengthen poor rural households' resilience and reduce rural poverty to create a conducive environment for rural children's well-being and development. Seed activities took place between 2019 and 2021 through a technical cooperation project titled Support for the implementation of the roadmap for the elimination of child labour in agriculture in the regions of Segou and Sikasso. The project contributed to the implementation of the roadmap through field activities. In addition, it led to the identification or piloting of several labour-reducing technologies in order to avoid resorting to child labour (discover more in promoting safe agricultural practices and labour-saving techniques).

Policy advice in the United Republic of Tanzania (2011–2015)

In the framework of FAO's policy support on decent rural employment **between 2011 and 2014**, child labour issues were integrated into several policies, programmes and plans such as *the Zanzibar Livestock Policy*, *the Tanzania Mainland Fisheries Sector Development Programme*, and *the Aquaculture Development Strategy*. FAO's support and advocacy on youth employment in the agriculture sector resulted in the revision of *the National Agriculture Policy*, which now includes youth as a target group, decent rural employment, and a focus on child labour prevention.

FAO's technical support also led to the development and launch of *the National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture* 2016–2021, which includes specific programmes to address child labour and OSH standards in agricultural value chains. Finally, with FAO support, **the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development (MLFD)** agreed to include child labour issues and statistics into **the National Labour Force Survey** with a focus on livestock and fisheries sectors as well as to mainstream child labour issues into the extension guidelines for the livestock sector. The MLFD has also integrated child labour issues into *the National Fisheries Policy* 2015.

Policy advice in Malawi (2012-2016)

In 2012, the IPCCLA pilot work in Malawi <u>(see box 5)</u> led to the formulation of a *Framework for Action*, which included a list of priority actions to prevent and reduce child labour in agriculture and promote decent rural employment. The Framework marked a significant breakthrough in having the highest level of political support. Its elaboration was based on workplans developed by public and private sector stakeholders during national and district-development workshops supported by FAO in 2011 (discover more in capacity development and awareness-raising).

Following the formulation of the Framework, FAO's work contributed to creating the momentum and political will within the Government to organize a National Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in September 2012 (Ministry of Labour of Malawi, ECAM and MCTU, 2012). During the event, FAO presented a paper on best practices to reduce child labour (FAO, 2012b), which led to the endorsement of the Framework during the conference. As a result of the technical support provided by FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security joined the National Steering Committee on Child Labour and became its Chair, while the Ministry of Labour became its Secretariat.

The Framework notably includes the strengthening of agricultural extension services and their engagement with labour and social protection stakeholders to address child labour in agriculture (discover more in capacity development and awareness-raising).

Later on, it also included the endorsement of the updated version of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, approved during the 38th FAO Conference in 2013. The Government of Malawi committed to implementing the Code specifically concerning hazardous child labour. A solid regulatory framework for contract farming was also embedded in the Framework, as an instrument to enhance the commercialization of agriculture and a vehicle to reduce child labour in agriculture (see box 3).

Box 3 – Eliminating child labour in agriculture through fair contract farming principles

Contract farming involves an agreement, legally binding, over a determined agricultural production, between a buyer and a farm producer. It can provide opportunities for the advancement of agricultural productivity, commercialization and strengthening of market linkages with rewards of increased farm incomes, export earnings and tax revenue. Such arrangements can also provide opportunities for incorporating standards of sustainable agricultural production and resource management into farming systems and instituting safeguards against environmental degradation, farmer exploitation, gender disparities, and child labour in agriculture.

As such, fair contract farming operations have the potential to lift small-scale farmers out of poverty. There are many potential connections between contract farming and human rights concerns. Contract farming intersects with concerns about the right to food and the right to work, among others.

Working towards fair contract farming operations for child labour reduction and prevention was a groundbreaking experience in Malawi. The government aimed at eliminating child labour in agriculture by mandating contractual provisions in contract farming that prohibit child labour from being used to satisfy the obligations under the contract.

The 2012 National Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in Malawi was organized under the auspices of the State President. The outcome document identified contract farming as a key vehicle to address the root causes of child labour in agriculture. FAO accompanied the drafting and release of the Malawi National Contract Farming Strategy in 2016. For the first time in Africa, child labour elimination was embedded as an objective in a contract farming strategy along with provisions to protect the rights of and train smallholders on better and non-hazardous farming practices.

This experience of explicit reference to child labour elimination in the formulation of a national policy on contract farming was retained as a social innovation during the African regional consultation process that led to the finalization of the global legal guide on contract farming jointly elaborated by FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) in 2015.

Sources: UNIDROIT, FAO & IFAD, 2015; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, 2016

Other IPCCLA and FAO policy support activities in Malawi included:

- ▶ The publication **in 2010** of the Guidance on how to address rural employment and decent work concerns in FAO country activities (FAO, 2011b) which has led to important policy changes in Malawi.
- ▶ The joint FAO-ILO publication in 2013 of the Guidance for Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture (FAO and ILO, 2013) (discover more in knowledge generation), which guided the mainstreaming child labour concerns in relevant policies and practical plans in Malawi. FAO also supported the Government of Malawi in designing the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2013–2018) and an implementation plan with a specific focus on the reduction of child labourers in hazardous work.
- ▶ The Integrated Country Approach (ICA) that has been implemented in Malawi between 2011 and 2013 (see box 8). In this context, a technical component of child labour prevention and reduction in agriculture was formulated. Through the ICA, FAO provided technical support to 36 national policies, strategies and programmes on child labour prevention in agriculture and supported decent rural employment by contributing to the National Youth Employment Creation Programme. Notably:
 - FAO supported the drafting of *the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II* (MGDS II) where explicit attention was given to eliminating the worst forms of child labour by integrating child labour issues into development initiatives and interventions and by reviewing, harmonizing and enforcing existing legislation on child labour.
- ► FAO supported the drafting of *the Child Labour National Action Plan (NAP 2011–16)*. The NAP highlights that the majority of children between 5 and 14 years old engaged in economic activities are based in rural areas, and recognizes that most child labourers work in the agricultural sector.

Policy advice in the Niger (2014–2019)

As a follow-up to **the 2014 study** (**discover more in** *knowledge generation*), a national multistakeholder workshop was organized the same year to identify strategic actions to address child labour (FAO, 2014). Different working groups developed actions and ideas that resulted in a draft roadmap. The proposal of the creation of a **national steering committee on child labour in agriculture** was unanimously approved, and was subsequently implemented. It includes key stakeholders from the government and civil society, including a focal point on child labour appointed

by the Ministry of Agriculture. The committee holds regular meetings to identify priorities, share progress on ongoing activities and identify potential synergies on child labour prevention.

The creation of the **national steering committee** was followed by the creation of a **National Consultative Framework on Child Labour in Agriculture in March 2015** as the result of an inter-regional workshop organized by FAO and ILO in Mali, the Niger and Senegal (*see box 4*).

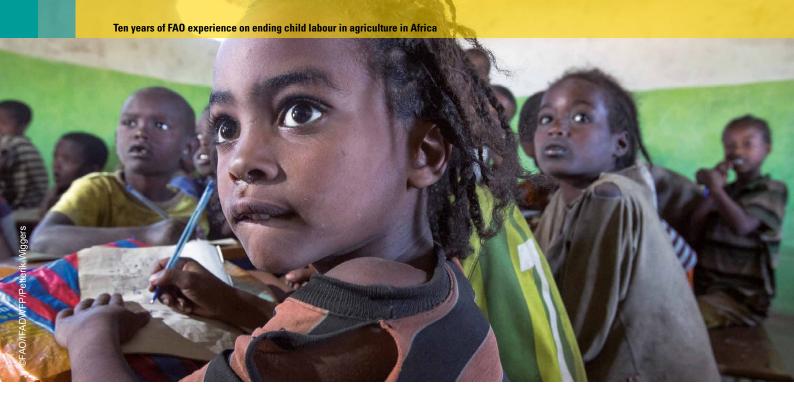
Following these efforts and a request from the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO then continued to provide support through a technical cooperation project titled Reducing child labour for sustainable agriculture in the Niger between 2016 and 2019. It notably supported the strengthening and implementation of the relevant policy, legal and institutional framework to prevent and reduce child labour in agriculture. In this spirit, the national consultative framework on child labour in agriculture has been strengthened (appointment of a coordinator and focal point of the ministries responsible for labour and child protection and creation of a unit on child labour in agriculture within the Ministry of Agriculture) and regional consultation frameworks on child labour in agriculture have been set up in four regions: Tahoua, Maradi, Dosso and Tillabéri. Regional focal points have been appointed and benefited from information and awareness-raising workshops. This initiative was deemed positive by the ministries involved, who recommended extending it to other regions not covered by the project.

Box 4 – Fostering child labour prevention policies through regional exchange of experiences

In December 2015, FAO and the ILO International Training Centre (ITC-ILO) supported a multistakeholder workshop in Dakar (Senegal) Transforming child labour in agriculture into decent rural employment opportunities for young people. The event gathered 28 participants from Mali, the Niger and Senegal, representing governments, ministries of labour, agriculture and rural development, employers, workers and producers, civil society organizations, as well as international development facilitators.

The workshop participants shared diverse country and sectoral experiences, strengthened synergies for intervention among stakeholders and identified joint solutions. Participating countries committed to addressing child labour and creating a conducive environment for decent youth employment.

As a follow-up, the Niger established a national consultative framework on child labour in agriculture while Mali updated its national roadmap to prevent and eliminate child labour in agriculture. Each country adopted a concrete implementation plan with technical support from FAO and ITC-ILO.



Policy advice in Uganda (2015–2020)

FAO started implementing the second phase of the Integrated Country Approach (2015–2017) programme in Uganda in 2015 (see box 8). The implementation began with a mapping exercise to adapt the intervention to the demands of the country and determine specific entry points, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) (discover more in facilitating school—to-work transition in agriculture). With the support of the ICA programme, the Government developed a National Strategy for Youth in Agriculture, contributing directly to the National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAPYE) approved not long before that.

The emphasis on OSH-related activities for the younger youth category led to a stronger partnership between MAAIF and MGLSD. Thanks to their continuous collaboration, FAO and these ministries are now members of the National Steering Committee on Elimination of Child Labour (NSCC) comprising representatives from key government ministries, departments and agencies, employers, employees, non-government organisations, the private sector and selected UN agencies. The purpose of the National Steering Committee is to provide strategic and technical guidance on the implementation of the National Policy on the Elimination of Child Labour and to coordinate advocacy actions to prevent child Labour.

In addition, FAO participated in the review of *the third National Development Plan* 2020/21 – 2024/25 as well as *the Uganda National Action Plan II for Elimination of Child labour* (2020–2021/2024–2025) and made significant contributions aimed at strengthening the role of agricultural stakeholders in the fight against child labour.

Positive outcomes and achievements

- ▶ In Malawi, the Framework for Action, with the scope of preventing and reducing child labour in agriculture and promoting decent rural employment, marked a significant breakthrough in political support at the highest level. The framework included a focus on hazardous child labour, with the commitment to implement the updated International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. In addition, the inclusion of child labour prevention in the formulation of fair contract farming principles has been considered a social innovation with the potential to improve agriculture practices to eliminate child labour in agriculture.
- ▶ **In the Niger**, the **National Steering Committee** is still active and was responsible for elaborating a new ILO child labour programme **that started in 2019** leveraging on the community mobilization and capacity development done by FAO.
- ▶ In the United Republic of Tanzania, sectors that are often neglected in activities related to child labour prevention, such as livestock, fisheries and aquaculture have been concretely impacted by FAO policy support. Child labour issues were integrated into several policies, programmes and plans such as the Zanzibar Livestock Policy, the Tanzania Mainland Fisheries Sector Development Programme, and the Aquaculture Development Strategy.
- ▶ In Mali, the elaboration of a national roadmap to prevent and eliminate child labour in agriculture in the framework of the PANETEM was instrumental for the implementation of the national action plan. The subsequent revisions and fine-tuning of the roadmap were key to guide and tailor actions at the national level. This process led to the design of a dedicated technical project to launch the implementation of some of the plan's recommendations that had been on hold for several years.
- ▶ In Uganda, thanks to the support of the ICA programme, the Government developed a National Strategy for Youth in Agriculture, directly contributing to the National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAPYE) approved not long before that.
- ▶ The **sub-regional exchanges of experiences** led to political commitment and fed into the development of national frameworks to prevent child labour. This demonstrate how global, inter-regional or sub-national exchanges can impulse change at different levels.

Strategy 4: Promotion of advocacy and partnerships

Background

Partnerships and international development cooperation remain critical to eliminate all forms of child labour. Beyond the commitment of governments, **FAO cannot act alone** and fosters close collaboration with a range of national and international organizations to address child labour issues in different contexts. Collaboration is important for building synergies, avoidance of competition and duplication, efficient utilization of resources and consensus-building.

Over the past ten years, key partnerships were developed at national levels, with public and private entities dealing with agriculture as well as with labour, education and health services through the lenses of public-private partnerships (PPPs). As such, in addition to the natural collaborations with ministries of agriculture, FAO has initiated partnerships with national stakeholders, including governmental institutions, employers' and workers' organizations, research organizations, cooperatives, farmers' unions, producers' organizations. These country-level activities have also fostered collaboration with international and regional organizations such as several United Nations Agencies (ILO in particular (see box 6)), the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme among others.

More specifically, since 2007, FAO has been a member of the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA) (see box 6) and supports the Alliance 8.7, a global partnership to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and all forms of child labour following SDG Target 8.7, and launched **in 2016** as a vehicle to promote active collaboration and leverage expertise across a wide range of like-minded stakeholders. The box 5 provide an outline of how IPCCLA started piloting activities in the region, which in turn stimulated all the other activities compiled in this report.

Box 5 – Tackling child labour through partnerships at the global level: piloting collaboration in the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture in Africa

IPCCLA was launched in 2007 to foster the participation of agricultural organizations in global efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture. The partnership was established by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF). The partnership aims to increase collaboration and cooperation among agricultural stakeholders and other key stakeholders (e.g. labour and education).

In 2010, the members of IPCCLA agreed on joint work and collaboration in selected countries, including **Mali and Malawi**, to support the national action plans on child labour.

FAO, ILO and IUF organized a joint mission to Malawi in December 2010, which included knowledge-sharing activities and planning workshops with key stakeholders. The planning session resulted in a draft workplan of activities to be undertaken by national stakeholders to better address child labour in agriculture in the framework of the National Action Plan on child labour (discover more in Capacity development and awareness-raising). Some of the actions identified included capacity development of the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture and other agricultural stakeholders, the establishment of child labour focal points, involvement of agricultural stakeholders in child labour committees, better integration of the issue of child labour in agriculture in policy and development plans and programmes, data gathering, including in fisheries and livestock, and awareness raising.

FAO and **ILO** also organized a joint mission to Mali in January 2011 to foster knowledge sharing between labour and agricultural stakeholders in order to reduce child labour in agriculture, identify priority areas for action with national partners, assess the situation in terms of knowledge, capacity, institutions and programmes, and identify entry points for IPCCLA to support national policies, programmes and activities already underway (discover more in *Knowledge generation*).

Throughout the years, IPCCLA has gained increasing recognition thanks to its steady engagement in major child labour policy dialogues, including the Global Conferences on Child Labour. Advocacy and awareness-raising efforts have contributed to a better understanding of this issue and on the need for agricultural and labour professionals to join forces, knowledge and expertise towards the elimination of child labour. The capacity-building activities carried out by IPCCLA at the country level have also proven to be essential to support key actors in the agricultural sector to address child labour issues in national policies and programmes, extension services and monitoring activities.

Partnerships at global and country level

Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in Malawi

In Malawi, the main partners have been the National Smallholder's Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFAM), the Farmers' Union of Malawi (FUM), the Ministries of Agriculture and Food security (MoA&FS) and Youth Development and Sports (MoYD&S). NASFAM in particular was a key partner in the development and dissemination of extension and communication materials on child labour in agriculture together with the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Agricultural Extension Services (Discover more in Capacity development and awareness-raising).

Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in the United Republic of Tanzania

In the United Republic of Tanzania, awareness on child labour in agriculture was raised in 33 civil society organizations in mainland Tanzania through the general assembly of Participatory Environmental Land Use Management (PELUM), a network organization working with smallholder farmers and livestock keepers and promoting sustainable agriculture in the country. On youth employment promotion, FAO collaborated with the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC), and in Zanzibar with the Cooperative Union of Zanzibar (CUZA). In both mainland and Zanzibar FAO worked with the central and local government, focusing on regional authorities.

Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in Mali

In Mali, the partnership with ILO, the close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, and with the National Unit Against Child Labour (CNLTE), in particular through the Education and Extension Department of the Ministry, have all been instrumental for the success of FAO's activities in the country since 2011, through the review of the national roadmap in 2015 and 2017 and the most recent development of capacity development training tools in 2020. To this day, they remain a constant driving force for child labour related activities in the country.

Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in the Niger

In the Niger, the National Chambers of Agriculture Network (RECA) was a key partner engaged in the dissemination of awareness-raising tools on pesticides and hazardous child labour, with the development of small-scale farmers-specific

communication materials on good agricultural practices and fact sheets pertaining to children and irrigation, livestock or crop harvesting which resulted in the publication of A guide to child labour in agriculture (Guide sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture) (RECA, 2016).

Promotion of advocacy and partnerships in Uganda

In Uganda, FAO in collaboration with state and non-state actors has worked with the media to develop public campaigns through radio, television and social media to raise awareness on child labour, especially during public events. In addition, FAO has created synergies with several projects to mainstream and document efforts on child labour prevention as an integral part of promoting decent rural employment in agriculture. Thanks to their continuous collaboration, FAO and MAAIF are now members of the National Steering Committee on Elimination of Child Labour (NSCC) comprising representatives from key government ministries, departments and agencies, employers, employees, non-government organisations, the private sector and selected UN agencies under the overall coordination of the MGLSD.



Box 6 – The collaboration between FAO and ILO for the elimination of child labour in Africa

As demonstrated throughout this compendium, the collaboration with ILO has been essential at the global and country levels (notably through IPCCLA).

This collaboration facilitated and improved policy dialogue between agriculture and labour stakeholders, leveraged pre-existing mechanisms created under ILO projects to start implementing activities at the national level, and fostered partnerships with ILO's constituents such as ministries of labour.

FAO and ILO staff jointly carried out missions and training activities, developed resources materials and tools to avoid duplication of efforts and create synergies. Additionally, FAO provided valuable support to ILO's work such as facilitating contacts with grassroots partners at the regional level.

Notably, FAO-ILO collaboration in the framework of the FMM-funded activities catalyzed the development of the unique and comprehensive set of **FAO-ILO** certified *e-learning* courses: End Child Labour in Agriculture.*

In Malawi, Mali and the Niger, the designs of new ILO projects have relied on FAO's presence, structures, and contacts at country level and have involved FAO in their preparatory missions. Similarly, FAO has relied on ILO when developing interventions to ensure the crucial collaboration with labour stakeholders. The work in Mali testifies to this success. FAO built on ILO's previous work in the country, including sharing a national coordinator and office space that further facilitated knowledge-sharing, understanding of each other's work programmes and overall collaboration.

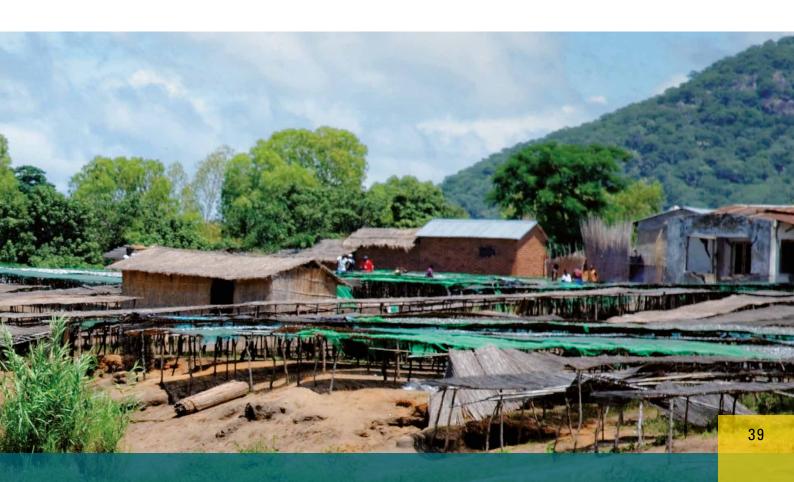
This successful partnership also helped to support continuity of work on child labour in agriculture in the different countries and avoid gaps between projects. This continuity is particularly important for the sustainability of interventions that aim at preventing child labour, as behavioural, individual and institutional change is a process that takes time.

* FAO elearning Academy "child labour". In: FAO. Rome, FAO. https://elearning.fao.org/local/search/?src=eyJ0ZXN0byl6ImNoaWxklGxhYm91cilsInNlcmllcyl6lilsInJlbGVhc-2VkYXRlIjoiliwibGluZ3VhljoiZW4iLCJpc25ldyl6lilsImNlcnQi0iliLCJtb2JpbGUi0ilifQ%3D%3D



Positive outcomes and achievements

- ▶ The mobilization of state and non-state actors ensured national ownership of the fight against child labour. This has resulted in increased social dialogue for the inclusion of child labour in policies and programmes, the development of national plans of action on the elimination of child labour, and the elaboration of hazardous lists.
- ▶ The collaboration and dialogue that resulted from the partnerships facilitated resource mobilization (human and financial). Additional financial resources were mobilized both from development partners and through mainstreaming of child labour prevention in ongoing programmes.
- ▶ Partnerships have resulted in more inclusive processes by bringing in those actors who were previously left out of the dialogues on child labour prevention, i.e. small-scale farmers, producers' organizations and the youth. This has ensured that interventions are appropriate and respect local and national contexts
- ▶ The partnerships at the international level have resulted in the participation of agricultural stakeholders in the elaboration of global roadmaps and inclusion of child labour in agriculture in major international conferences (such as global conferences on child labour) and events organized at African and sub-regional (Regional Economic Communities (RECs)) levels.





Part 2 Entry points for ending child labour in Africa

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.

FAO's areas of work to address child labour in agriculture are as follows:

- promote the adoption of safe practices in agriculture;
- foster sustainable labour-saving technologies and practices;
- include agriculture, food and nutrition in school curricula in rural areas;
- empowering and building the skills of youth aged 15-17;
- enhance economic capacity and building resilience of livelihoods through social protection;
- address child labour in crop production, capture fisheries and aquaculture, livestock and forestry;
- promote socially sustainable agricultural value chains;
- reduce risks and vulnerabilities in the context of protracted crisis, food chain crisis and natural hazards; and
- ▶ reduce risks and vulnerabilities in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.

This part presents a few examples of country-level activities focusing on specific entry points: the promotion of safe agricultural practices and labour-saving techniques and the facilitation of school-to-work transition as a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment.

Promoting safe agricultural practices and labour-saving techniques

Background

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 higher risks. Agricultural work often involves the use of hazardous tools or equipment, and toxic substances such as pesticides, to which children labourers can be exposed in addition to extreme weather conditions, rough seas, biological hazards, long and irregular working hours as well as the carrying of heavy loads. Depending on the nature of agricultural production, children and adults face similar hazards, but the risk those hazards present is greater for children.

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.

Practices at country level

The Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) Programme in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal) coordinated by FAO has been implemented through the Farmer field schools (FFS) approach. The use of FFS as a community-driven training approach has been strategic in building the capacity of farmers in IPPM and in changing agricultural practices. This approach was initially developed to improve farming skills and raise smallholder farmers' awareness of alternatives to toxic chemicals through integrated pest management (IPM).

In Mali, the IPPM programme, with FAO, developed three modules for FSS facilitators and extension agents that integrated child labour concerns in the IPPM component of FFS and junior farmer field and life Schools (JFFLS) training

programme (discover more on the JFFLS in facilitating school-to-work transition in agriculture). The content focused specifically on occupational health and safety, children's exposure to pesticides, and risks related to children's involvement in ox-driven ploughing. These modules were field-tested in training workshops implemented by the ministries of labour and agriculture. A specific component on reducing child labour in ploughing by increasing the efficiency of ploughing was included. Extension workers and producers were trained on effective use of oxen, without using children as guides (see Box 7).

Box 7 – Reducing the dependency on child labour through the promotion of safer production techniques

The use of tools and technology can reduce labour bottlenecks and the use of child labour at peak labour requirements.

Draught animals provide the potential for reducing labour needs in land preparation, harvesting and transport. The practice in Mali required a herdsman (usually a child) to stand in front of the plough oxen to guide them during this operation by pulling the ring rope attached to the nose of the oxen. This practice was found to cause injury to the children and compelled them to work all day alongside the adults. Training workshops for agricultural cooperatives and producer groups were organized in the cotton-growing areas in Koutiala. Officers were trained to train farmers on how to train young oxen to work without the guidance of children. The use of older oxen was also encouraged. With the change in this practice and the promotion of the "one man one hitch" ("un homme un attelage") practice, the use of children can be removed.

Another labour-saving technique related to rice production was the introduction of prototypes of motorized seeders and reapers. The seeder was developed locally as a local and affordable innovation. Farmers were linked to financial institutions to acquire the machines and were trained on their use. Following the adoption of the seeder by some producers, the need to promote and spread its use has been considered essential. The reaper was also found to be a practical solution to prevent child labour.

Source: FAO. 2012c. Reducing hazardous child labour in agriculture: working with farmers in Mali. In: *FAO*. Rome, FAO. Cited 12 December 2021. www.fao.org/rural-employment/resources/detail/en/c/318075

In addition, regarding labour-saving technologies, FAO together with the African Union Commission developed a Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA) that was published in 2019 (FAO, 2019). The framework presents ten interrelated principles to guide Sustainable Agricultural mechanization in Africa (SAmA). It presents the technical issues to be considered under SAmA and the options to be analyzed at the country and sub-regional levels. The analysis in the framework calls for a specific approach, involving learning from other parts of the world where significant transformation of the agricultural mechanization sector has already occurred within a three-to-four decade time frame. The final objective is to support the development of policies and programmes to realize Africa's aspirations of Zero Hunger by 2025. The principles in the document can support the reduction of the dependency on child labour in the region.

Positive outcomes and achievements

▶ The knowledge and awareness of farmers and government officials on how to reduce child labour through safe practices and labour-saving technology have been increased.



Facilitating school-to-work transition in agriculture: a nexus between child labour prevention and youth employment

Background

Engaging with and supporting youth to seize decent employment opportunities in agriculture is crucial for youth and for the sustainability of agrifood systems.

In line with **ILO convention 138**, most countries have set the minimum age for legal full employment at 15. The Convention includes a flexibility clause which allows countries with less developed economies and education infrastructure to temporarily opt for a lower minimum age for employment (but in any case not less than 14 years). The minimum age of employment should be in line with the age of completion of basic education. As such, children aged 14/15–17 can legally work except in the worst forms of child labour (WFCL).

Youth in developing countries face enormous challenges in accessing decent work, including in agriculture. Existing youth-related programmes and interventions largely focus on boys and girls who are over 18 years old, and the 14/15–17 age group is often excluded from government policy and programme design. As such, they oftentimes experience challenges in preparing for and accessing decent employment and deserve special attention since this stage in life is crucial to determine youth transition from school-to-work and the likelihood of transitioning out of poverty.

FAO promotes rural decent employment by empowering and building the skills of youth, recognizing that youth is a diverse group and that those aged 14/15-17 need special attention to prevent them from doing hazardous work and to facilitate their access to skills development activities.

Practices at country level

Protecting children through the junior farmer field and life schools approach

In all five countries addressed in this document, FAO implemented junior farmer field and life schools (JFFLS). JFFLS follow a "living classroom" approach in which students learn agricultural topics coupled with business and life skills, including child labour. Through a simple methodology, the JFFLS are teaching vulnerable children and young people about farming, entrepreneurial skills, OSH, the risks related to the use of pesticides and how to take care of themselves. This approach is embedded in FAO work and can reach many young people in FAO's country level operations.

Since its inception, the prevention of child labour has always been an implicit element of the JFFLS approach, through its emphasis on child protection as a guiding principle as well as through its aim to promote decent work in agriculture for youth (FAO, 2014b). Furthermore, through the linkages to formal schooling, the focus on achieving food security and providing better decision–making skills for participants, JFFLS can reduce vulnerability to exploitation, including child labour. However, raising awareness on the harmful effects of child labour and stimulating the debate about the topic among children and their communities were not part of the initial JFFLS approach. In 2008 and 2009, FAO revised the approach and introduced a child labour prevention training module in JFFLS activities (FAO, 2010). The module is intended to be used within the JFFLS programme in various countries and, with a set of practical exercises, sensitize the JFFLS participants, their parents or guardians and their community on child labour and its harmful effects on children.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, 71 cooperative members, as well as federation and union executives were trained on the JFFLS approach in 2011 and 2012 (FAO, 2012d). By 2015, child labour modules were institutionalized in the JFFLS curriculum, to address the root causes of child labour (rural poverty, limited relevant education and training, difficult school-to-work transition, and hazardous work) and identify strategies to mitigate these ills (income-generating activities natural resource management, agro-business and life skills, support to rural work prospects, and promotion of safer agricultural practices).

In Uganda, the JFFLS increased enrolment, performance and attendance in primary schools. 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 who belonged to community JFFLS were also attracted back to school **in 2008**. Improved attendance has resulted in better performance by vulnerable children. JFFLS created a positive ripple effect as children who were trained in JFFLS became role models and shared the knowledge and skills acquired with other family members and the wider community.

Supporting the transition from child labour to school and decent youth employment through the integrated country approach in Uganda

In addition, since 2016, FAO has been implementing the **integrated country approach (ICA)** in Uganda to support the transition from child labour to school and decent youth employment through a two-pronged approach:

The first component focuses on ensuring that the legislative framework is inclusive of rural youth's access to decent work. Different challenges were identified such as the existence of gaps in the legal environment (discover more in Knowledge generation), and limited access to policy dialogue and governance, education and skills development opportunities, financial services and markets. FAO provided policy support and organized capacity building and awareness-raising activities to promote a more enabling environment in which young people are well equipped to seize decent rural employment opportunities. Activities included raising awareness on existing legal barriers and the need to remove them, promoting coherent governance and youth participation in policy dialogue, inclusive measures to incorporate the 14–17 age group in government and non-government led programmes and initiatives on skills development and employment, and improving access to financial services for youth to start agribusinesses.

The second component focuses on promoting safe working conditions for children of legal working age through (1) assessing OSH risks in the agriculture sector, and (2) developing a visual guide aiming at protecting children and young workers from OSH risks in agriculture (discover more in *Knowledge generation*). The guide was tested in Kampala schools to promote child-to-child awareness-raising and will be used to build the capacity of OSH officials and young people.

Box 8 – The promotion of decent rural employment and the prevention of child labour in agriculture through the integrated country approach (ICA)

Since 2011, FAO implements its Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agrifood system. The programme leverages a set of FAO's core functions, namely: policy and strategy advice, technical support and capacity development, knowledge generation, partnerships, as well as advocacy and communication. In-depth scoping exercises are conducted in the inception phase of the programme to better tailor the interventions to country demands and capacity development needs.

The entire approach is geared towards sustainable policy change and places emphasis on strengthening the capacities of national institutions responsible for agriculture and labour to promote decent rural employment, including through private-public partnerships and youth-inclusive multi-stakeholder mechanisms. Gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability are mainstreamed as cross-cutting issues.

At the county level, the programme assists national stakeholders in developing more youth-inclusive and employment-centred agrifood-system development policies, strategies and programmes. Strong emphasis is placed on job creation and entrepreneurship development, but also on the quality of jobs in the sector. Further, rural youth networks and organizations are empowered to participate in policy dialogue and promote decent work. At the global and regional level, the approach contributes to developing and sharing knowledge, lessons learnt and good practices, as well as to influence regional and global initiatives on agricultural development.

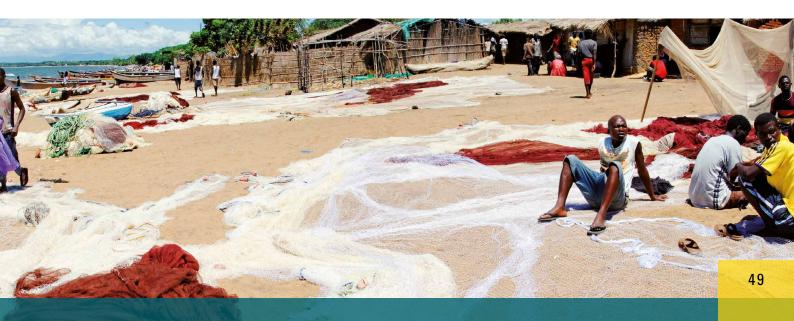
After a first phase in Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania between 2011 and 2014 and a second phase in Guatemala, Senegal and Uganda between 2015 and 2018, the ICA programme is currently operating its third phase in Guatemala, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda since 2019.

Source: FAO, 2020c; FAO, 2022d



Positive outcomes and achievements

- ▶ The study on legal barriers in Uganda helped to raise awareness on the legal status of working children and created enabling conditions for the 14–17 age cohort's access to decent work. Activities to support youth empowerment are ongoing, and include knowledge sharing on agriculture and on legal rights, access to financial literacy and other life skills, and collaboration with labour inspectors on safety at work.
- Stakeholders lobbied for the inclusion of 14-17-year-olds in the National Strategy on Youth Employment (discover more in Policy advice), in order for this age group to benefit from youth-focused programmes.
- ▶ Youth champions were identified to promote decent rural employment and the elimination of child labour. They were trained in productive employment, decent work, and strategic planning and received equipment and other materials as rewards. They learned how to undertake feasibility studies and design business plans, and most benefited from funds, which they used to boost their enterprises. This created more employment opportunities for fellow youth.
- ▶ Including IPPM in JFFLS training has ignited young people's enthusiasm for innovation in agriculture. Trained young farmers are more likely to use natural pesticides and to practice climate-smart agriculture, making them future leaders of an economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture.
- ▶ A visual guide for extension officers and labour inspectors was developed after an OSH assessment in agriculture supported by FAO, MAAIF and MGLSD and is being finalized. The guide will be made available for extension staff across the country as well as other stakeholders and will be replicated and disseminated in other countries.





Conclusion

As demonstrated throughout this compendium, FAO has fostered an array of work and practices on child labour prevention at the country level in Africa over the last decade.

FAO has leveraged its technical knowledge of agriculture and privileged relationships with agricultural stakeholders to support governments in addressing child labour in agriculture. The approach focused on enhancing knowledge, building the capacity of and involving agricultural stakeholders who previously had limited knowledge on child labour and were not or rarely involved in child labour-related projects and programmes. Indeed, ministries in charge of labour are commonly leading the work against child labour, and ministries of agriculture are rarely part of the conversation. FAO's work facilitated the engagement of ministries of agriculture and dialogue with labour counterparts, leading to joint awareness-raising and capacity development activities, and in some cases the development or revision of national action plans and policies. In addition, other key agricultural stakeholders such as private sector actors, producer's organizations, trade unions, NGOs and other civil society organizations were also involved in the projects and have often championed FAO's work in their respective areas. Finally, these experiences were an opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between FAO and ILO at the country level and to build the capacities of FAO country offices.

These pioneering activities have made the relevant stakeholders both recipients and transformative agents in the work for the elimination of child labour in agriculture. In particular, the projects focused on supporting smallholder farmers, who account for the vast majority of food producers and rural poor in sub-Saharan Africa. This intentional targeting was made possible through the collaboration with the relevant national public and private actors and through the direct involvement of smallholder producers' organizations. Activities and products were designed and adapted to reach these groups even in the most remote areas. Despite the many related challenges, FAO recognizes that no progress will be made if dedicated

attention is not given to poor households and small-scale producers that have a functional and economic dependency on child labour. Equally, good governance, and strong, inclusive and gender-responsive institutions and policies need to be in place to address all forms of child labour in agricultural sub-sectors, in a comprehensive manner.

Since 2010, the FMM flexible funding mechanism has played an essential role in allowing FAO to pilot activities and demonstrate approaches to prevent child labour in agriculture at the country level. Though limited in scale, the FMM-supported activities had a catalytic effect and have created a strong momentum for mainstreaming child labour in other FAO-supported programmes. A clear example of such impact was notably the inclusion of child labour considerations in the organization's strategic framework for the period 2010–2021. The topic of child labour prevention was notably integrated into the FAO strategic objective 3 Reducing Rural Poverty and its specific outputs and related indicators on policy support and capacity development to strengthen the application of International Labour Standards in rural areas to enhance the quality and safety of jobs, especially as regards child labour and forced labour. The FMM has also been a powerful mechanism for galvanizing partnerships and building synergies at the global and country level.

However, the lack of continuous and sufficient funding limited the number and scale of interventions and the duration of the projects (18 months) within which the different activities took place. This made planning challenging and, in some cases, disrupted the activities, not allowing FAO to maintain staff at the local level on a continuous basis. Eliminating child labour in agriculture in Africa is an enormous task that requires longer-term and strategic funding, integrated and cross-sectoral approaches, and effective collaboration among different stakeholders. In addition, the increased political instability, high levels of inequality, climate shocks, forced migration and conflicts that the region has been experiencing over the last years have represented additional major challenges for the continuity of the activities. Notably, the violence, terrorism and instability in Mali, the Niger and Uganda have been to some extent gruelling for the project team, partners and most crucially for the beneficiaries. Despite these challenges, FAO's ambition is to continue supporting governments across the continent, building on the experiences and lessons learned over the last decade, replicating, and adapting what has proven successful, in collaboration with ILO and other partners and through IPCCLA.

Although country-specific activities have been implemented, FAO recognizes that specific and short-term projects will not be enough to make a significant progress towards SDG target 8.7. Hence, the Organization aims to increase its support for the formulation and implementation of multi-year child labour prevention activities in agriculture programmes. FAO will also continue to provide technical

guidance in-house and to partners' organizations, including international financial institutions, to integrate child labour and decent work considerations in large-scale and investment programmes related to agrifood systems. In addition, FAO will pursue its commitment to promote and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue, building the capacity of agricultural stakeholders to engage in an effective manner, and sharing information on child labour prevention within existing global multi-sector and multi-actor platforms.

FAO hopes that this report will provide useful insights for the Fifth Global Conference on Child Labour and other global initiatives such as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, and will inspire stakeholders engaged in agrifood systems in Africa to replicate what works and join forces towards achieving SDG Target 8.7.

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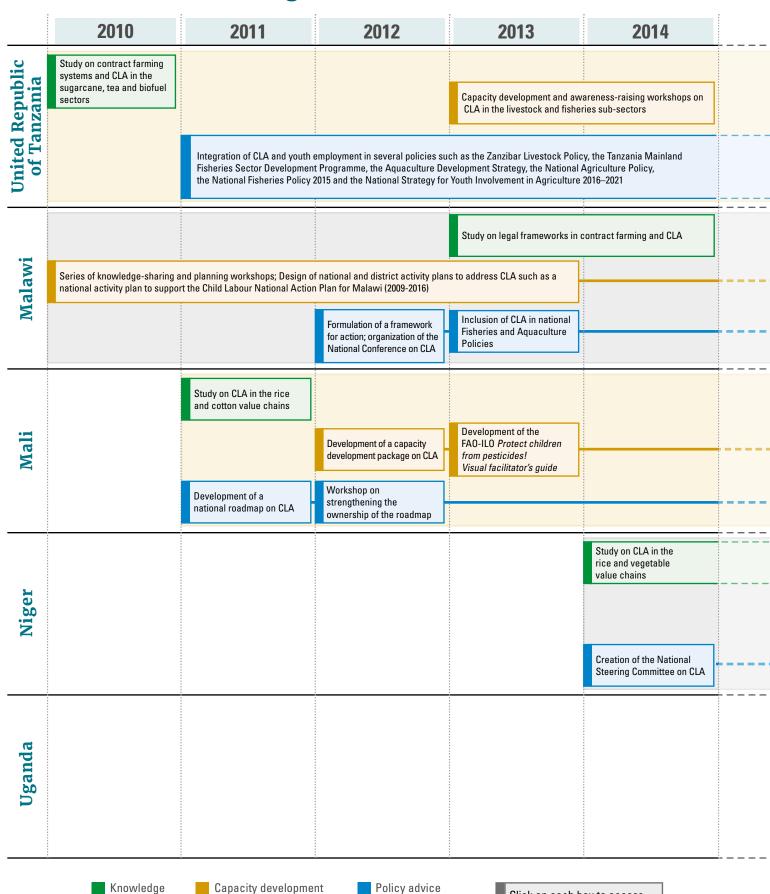
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Annex 1

Timeline of FAO-supported practices and products on child labour in agriculture (CLA)



Click on each box to access

more details in the document.

generation

and awareness raising

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Last year of "integration of CLA					
and youth employment in several policies []"					
Communication					
campaign in rural areas with NASFAM and the MoAIWD					
	Inclusion of CLA in the National Contract				
	Farming Strategy				
					Production and validation of a training document on
					CLA by the CNLTE
First revision of the roadmap		Second revision of the roadmap		Technical cooperation pro implementation of the roa child labour in agriculture	dmap for the elimination
Study on CLA in the	Production of a reference	situation, a repository of know	: : ledge, a stakeholder mapping,		
rice and vegetable value chains	a communication strategy,		esources, an identification of k		
Development of modules and courses	Awareness-raising and ca	pacity-building activities t of a guide on child labour			
on CLA for national stakeholders	in agriculture				
Creation of the National Consultative Framework	Technical cooperation pro institutional framework to in four regions	ject on the strengthening and prevent and reduce CLA; Dev	d implementation of the releva relopment of regional consulta	nt policy, legal and ation frameworks on CLA	
	Study on legal enablers of			Development of <i>The visua</i>	
		decent rural employment for youth; Workshop on hazardous labour	Assessment on OSH risk	young workers from occup in agriculture; Study on CL	
	Capacity-development workshop on CLA and the promotion of youth	Capacity-development workshop on CLA and			
	employment	OSH CLA and			_
Mapping exercise to determine specific entry points on youth employment; Support for the development of the National Strategy for Youth in Agriculture				Contribution to the third Nat 2020/21 – 2024/25 and the Uç II for Elimination of Child lab	ganda National Action Plan
	•		•	•	•
Knowle		development	Policy advice		



A compendium of practices from Malawi, Mali, the Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda

Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality (ESP) Division Economic and Social Development Stream

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