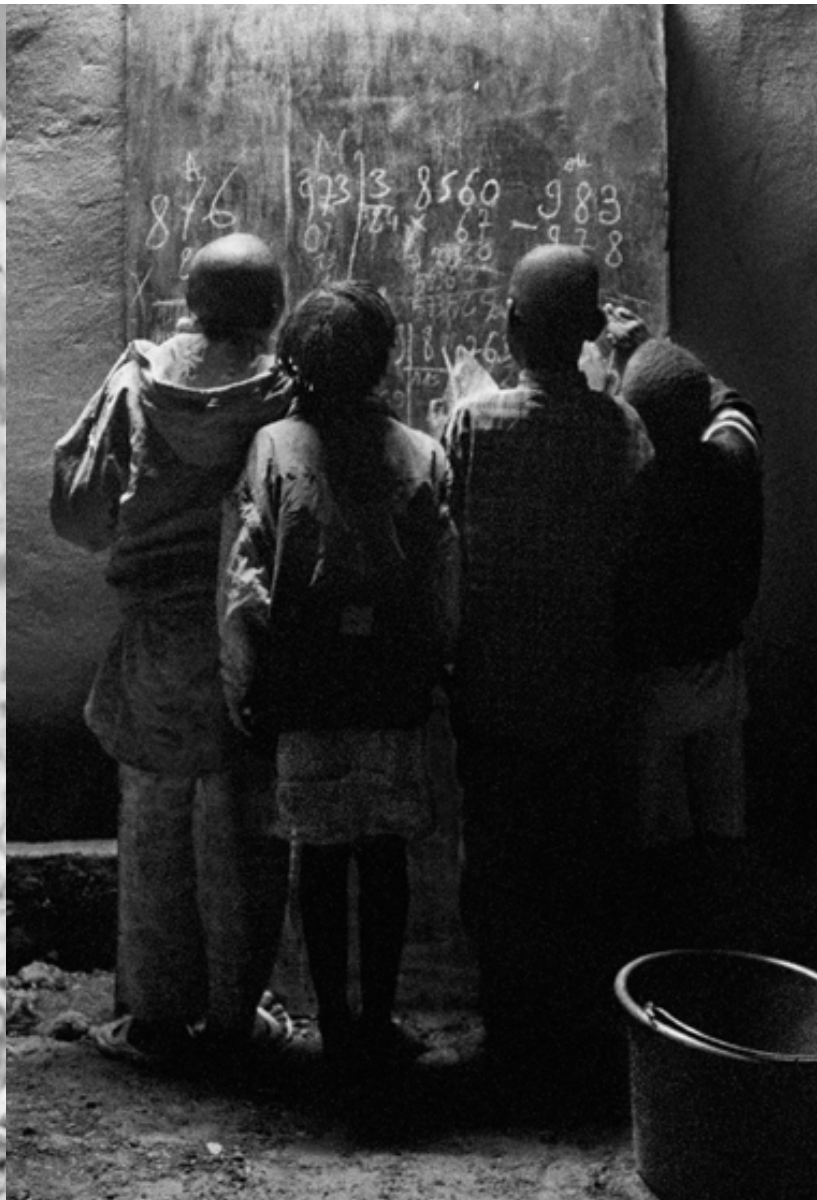


FROM FARMS & FIELDS TO CLASSROOMS



A Report of the International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture

28th-30th July 2012, Washington D.C.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BASE	Backward Society Education
BBA	Bachpan Bachao Andolan
BCA	Barangay Children's Association
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CLC	Child Labour Committee
CONTAG	Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura
CTERA	Confederación de Trabajadores de la Educación de la República Argentina
CWG	Community Watch Group
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ECLT	Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco-growing
FLOC	Farm Labor Organizing Committee
GAWU	General Agricultural Workers' Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMACL	Global March Against Child Labour
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
ILAB	Bureau of International Labor Affairs
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILO-IPEC	International Labour Organization-International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
IUF	International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations
KPAWU	Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union
LCV	Local Vigilance Committee
MERCOSUR	Mercado Común del Sur
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCFT	Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
SNAP	Support of the National Action Plan
TOTAWUM	Tobacco Tenants and Allied Workers' Union of Malawi
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN MDG	United Nations Millennium Development Goals
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USA	United States of America
USDOL	United States Department of Labor

A black and white photograph of a young boy standing in a dense forest. The boy is looking upwards with a focused expression. He is holding a long, thin wooden staff horizontally across his body with both hands. He is wearing a short-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background is filled with thick foliage, including many leaves and branches, creating a textured and somewhat chaotic pattern. The lighting is natural, filtering through the trees.

INTRODUCTION



Background

Humankind may have progressed by various leaps and bounds and one may boast of the achievements and advances of the 21st century, yet we remain backward in our most prime behaviour as human beings, i.e., in how we treat our children. Statistics show that globally around 215 million children aged between 5-17 years from poor and vulnerable backgrounds work in harsh and unhealthy conditions to produce and provide a range of goods and services that we use. Agriculture represents a sector wherein majority of these child labourers, i.e., around 60 per cent or 129 million girls and boys can be found (International Labour Organization, (ILO) 2010). Children have been recorded in the production of various agricultural goods such as cocoa, cotton, rubber, shrimps, sugarcane, tea and tobacco to just list a few. But, despite the pervasiveness of child labour in agriculture and the large numbers, agriculture is a sector wherein limited progress has been made for the elimination of child labour and programmes remain under-developed and/or under-resourced.

A number of reasons have made action for elimination of child labour in agriculture difficult and challenging, including:

- the large number of boys and girls involved;
- large and disparate populations in rural areas;
- rural culture and traditions wherein children start work from an early age;
- the extremely hazardous nature of work in this sector;
- lack of regulation in agriculture in many countries and/or the lack of government capacity to monitor and enforce existing legislation and regulation;
- lack of strong, well-organised and well-resourced agricultural trade unions given the characteristics of workforce and the significant challenge in organising in rural areas;
- the challenge in identifying child labour in agriculture given the widespread, rural and hidden nature of the problem;
- denial of education often due to limited or non-existent access to schools and/or the poor quality of education in rural areas, sometimes due to the challenge in recruiting teachers, especially women, to work in these areas and reducing teacher staff turnover;
- the lack of public infrastructure in rural areas, not only in education, but also health, social protection, transport, water, electricity, and others;
- the effects of widespread and endemic poverty; and
- ingrained attitudes and perceptions about the roles of children in rural areas.

International conference on child labour in agriculture

Recognising that firstly, agricultural child labour is a multi-faceted problem, among others a manifestation of the poor state of rural areas in terms of poverty, inadequate public infrastructure, etc. and the marginalisation of farmers, workers and their families in the agricultural supply chain due to weak and fragmented farmer's organisations, trade unions, etc.; and secondly the need to address the issue of agricultural child labour on a priority basis for the timely attainment of the targets laid out in the Roadmap 2016 for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Global March Against Child Labour (GMACL) organised a multi-stakeholder International

Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in Washington D.C., United States of America (USA) from 28th-30th July, 2012. Towards catalysing meaningful and constructive action for protection of children from exploitation and elimination of child labour in agriculture, the International Conference aimed at achieving the twin objectives of:

- High level advocacy for elimination of child labour in agriculture; and
- Empowerment, knowledge sharing, engagement and networking of civil society organisations to accelerate actions at grassroots and national levels.

The International Conference was attended by around 160 representatives from governments, international labour and development organisations, trade unions, employers' organisations, corporations, multi-stakeholders initiatives, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and others from around 40 countries. At the start of the International Conference, participants were explained the procedure for preparation of the outcome document – an advocacy tool for elimination of child labour in agriculture. Participants were encouraged to give concrete and concise suggestions for tackling agricultural child labour around the following twelve key messages¹ which indicate a way forward:

- Message 1:** Mainstream trafficking, forced and bonded labour and slavery across actions to eliminate child labour in agriculture
- Message 2:** Transforming hazardous child labour into decent youth employment
- Message 3:** Make workplaces safe and healthy for all and increase workplace cooperation
- Message 4:** Ensure labour right and standards for all agricultural/rural workers
- Message 5:** Dialogue and cooperate with farmers' organisations and their national, regional and international bodies to eliminate child labour, especially in contract farming supply chains
- Message 6:** Dialogue and cooperate with agricultural cooperatives and their national, regional and international bodies to eliminate child labour, especially in supply chains
- Message 7:** Dialogue and cooperate with agricultural trade unions and federations to eliminate child labour, especially in supply chains
- Message 8:** Increase NGOs' role in creating and implementing hazardous work lists
- Message 9:** Right to adequate food means ending child labour
- Message 10:** Overcome the urban/rural and gender education gap
- Message 11:** Multinational enterprises should ensure that their agricultural product supply chains are child labour free
- Message 12:** Promote rural strategies and programmes aimed at improving rural livelihoods, and mainstreaming of child labour concerns into agricultural policy and programme making

The two-and-half days of discussions and deliberations at the International Conference encompassed a range of topics such as the challenges in the elimination of child labour, education, right to food, finding solutions, sharing experiences and good practices, etc. (*See Annexure 1 for the Programme of the International Conference*). The discussions and deliberations of the International Conference are presented in this Report in a synthesised and sequential manner.

1. The twelve key messages were highlighted in the Working Paper on Child Labour in Agriculture - the background paper of the International Conference that was circulated in advance to all participants.



Understanding different perspective to child labour in agriculture: the problem and progress

From the lens of agriculture's role in the economy

Les Kettledas, Deputy Director-General, Labour Policy and International Relations, Ministry of Labour, Republic of South Africa



For many economies, besides the contribution to the gross domestic product, agriculture significantly contributes to employment creation and food security making it a critical element for rural development strategy and poverty reduction.

Three out of every four people in developing countries are rural, i.e., 2.1 billion persons living below a US\$ 2 per day poverty threshold in absolute poverty, which translates into one third of humanity. Most depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods, so agriculture and poverty are closely linked.

The increasing casualisation of employment in the agricultural sector in the recent years is raising concerns for farming communities and their children. It has the potential to leave a large number of children who are dependent on agricultural employment whether rendered by their parents or themselves particularly vulnerable. Policies that address agricultural child labour must respond to this changing reality.

A fundamental tenet of a strategy to fight child labour in the agricultural sector must remain how the sector is located within the country's broader decent work agenda. To this end, the domestication of the core conventions of the ILO and its application to employers and employees in the agricultural sector is a critical element. Further, the establishment of a minimum wage specific for the sector that is premised on the ability of the employer to pay that wage as well as its ability to contribute to the alleviation of poverty is central in the onslaught against child labour. Child labour in agricultural and rural setting should be tackled with a multi-pronged approach, including addressing the overall agricultural policies.

Evident link between child labour and education

Fred van Leewen, General Secretary, Education International



Child labour and education are synonymous to a pair of communicating vessels. An increased access to education by more and more children decreases the number of child labourers and vice-versa, clearly highlighting the unquestionable and evident link between child labour and education.

Lack of access to education can keep people in poverty and only deepen the existing levels of inequalities and vulnerabilities, forcing and/or keeping children in employment to make ends meet. Also, on the other hand, education represents the most powerful weapon to tackle child labour - serving both as a preventive as well

as a curative measure. Presence of schools and access to quality education can prevent child labour and trafficking of children for labour exploitation, while bridge schools and provision of formal and non-formal education post the withdrawal and rescue of children from work can rehabilitate them.

Acknowledging the importance of education, the international community through the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UN MDG) committed to the attainment of universal primary education by 2015. Though some progress has been made, wide gaps still remain and with less than three years left for the deadline, around 67 million children are currently out of school. With the lingering and the continuing effects of the financial and economic crisis of 2008, there has been a reduction in the Official Development Assistance (ODA) for education. This is not a positive sign and the international community should take immediate steps to raise sustainable and adequate sources of funding for education. A study in 2011 by Education International Research Institute – *Global Corporate Taxation and Resources for Quality Public Services* showed that global corporations evade taxes to the tune US\$ 10-15 trillion by way of manipulation. If these amounts are collected and ploughed back into society, they could be used towards the provision of quality public services like education and health, etc. This clearly highlights that resources for investment in education for the future of our children and young people are very much present and that it is possible to wipe out child labour - all that needs to be garnered is political will. The immediate task that confronts all stakeholders is to move children from work to national/public education systems. *Children should learn, not earn. School is a good place for children to work.*

Missing small farmers' representations

Geronimo Venegas, President, IUF Agricultural Trade Group



One of the major challenges for addressing child labour in agriculture is the poor representations of small farmers, the main employers of child labour in the entire debate and action against child labour. An evidence of this is that for the International Union of Food and Agriculture Workers (IUF) which is a global trade union federation for agricultural and food workers consisting of 370 affiliated trade unions in 120 countries, majority of the affiliates do not represent small farmers. This has direct consequences for progress on child labour elimination as it limits the ability of trade unions and others to directly intervene with small farmers and effect action.

In conjunction with tackling agricultural child labour, trade unions are also faced with the issue of overcoming decent work deficits for agricultural workers. The widespread child labour owing to the endemic poverty in rural areas undermines the ability of trade unions to negotiate living wages in agriculture. Also, agricultural workers are often denied access to the basic rights covered in the ILO's core conventions (or "fundamental human rights conventions") – in particular the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining. The scenario of weak labour rights of agricultural workers has well been recorded by ILO's report in 2008 for the International Labour Conference Committee on *Promotion of Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction*, which states, "Globally, rural workers still form the largest workforce. While improvements have been made in the protection of agricultural workers in some countries, in many others, they are not covered by labour legislation and other regulations protecting workers. Furthermore, where laws do exist, lack of resources and political will to enforce the provisions as well as isolation, poor literacy, poverty and lack of organization, often prevent workers from fully asserting their rights. The labour protection gap for these workers remains huge."

Hazardous nature of agriculture

Constance Thomas, Director, International Labour Organization-International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC)



Much of children's work in agriculture is hazardous. It jeopardises their health, and their future personal and economic development. Whether it is in the global supply chain or it is for local consumption, the work is considered dangerous because of the immediate risk of injury and illness to the children and the long term physiological risks from unsafe practices, including pesticide use, unguarded machinery, and carrying of heavy loads.

Two-thirds of all child labourers are unpaid family workers, many in small-scale farming. Children producing for family and local consumption represent a vast majority of child labourers in agriculture, and though working with their families, this does not mean that the children are protected from hazards at work or that their schooling is not jeopardised.

Statistics show that developing countries use 25 per cent of the world's pesticides, but suffer 99 per cent of pesticide-related fatalities. A US study found that 15-17 year olds were 28 times more likely than adults to suffer acute pesticide poisoning and the number of poisoning cases is certainly under-reported everywhere. Pesticide exposure, as too with green tobacco sickness, affects children's organs and neuro- behavioural development, including their ability to learn. The impact of this on the cycle of poverty is clear - damage to reproductive health can leave a direct intergenerational legacy, and a child whose health is damaged before 18 will have a lifetime of impaired productivity.

It is important to recognise that globally some progress has been made for the elimination of child labour. Between 2004 and 2008, there was a 31 per cent decline in the overall involvement of children in the age group of 5 - 14 years in hazardous work, most of them girls. But the overall rate of progress has slowed down significantly and there has been a 20 per cent increase in the numbers of older children in hazardous work, two-thirds of them boys. For making significant progress in the elimination of child labour, especially in agriculture, all stakeholders need to make concerted efforts. Responsibility for eliminating child labour lies primarily with governments, public services and those that employ children. All actors need to play their roles and make best use of their mandates. A sectoral approach can help by enabling enterprises and trade unions to engage on the basis of their workplace mandates - to provide decent work and to represent their members.

If 129 million child labourers are to be removed from agriculture, a systemic shift towards social justice in rural economies, enhanced productivity in crop quality and yields, safer agricultural practices, sustainable food security and better access to decent work are required. This translates into ensuring decent incomes and adequate public services including education and social protection for working families and their children in the villages and on the farms. Inputs that enable adults to have safe, better and more productive work in agriculture and young people to have decent job opportunities are indeed key to removing family reliance on child labour.

Moving away from awareness raising and action to total abolition of child labour

Senator Tom Harkin, United States Senate



The civil society together with other stakeholders has shifted the boundaries of the debate on child labour. In the span of about two decades, anti-child labour activists have moved the world from a point of denial of the scourge of child labour to creating awareness for its acceptance to taking action. With over 215 million child labourers and 60 per cent of them engaged in the hazardous agricultural sector, further progress needs to be made to shift towards the total abolition of child labour. There are four key priorities for taking global action for total abolition.

Firstly, access to quality and free education needs to be expanded. School fees and related costs effectively close the school doors for millions of poor children. Further, in many places, especially in rural areas, there simply are no schools. Wealthy nations need to spend less on their militaries and more on education in developing nations.

Secondly, there is a need to forge stronger partnerships amongst governments, NGOs, trade unions, farmer organisations, corporations, multi-stakeholder initiatives and others. The ILO could work together with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to ensure that loans granted to nations are linked to government pledges to increase access to schools and to maintain social safety nets for the poor. Greater cooperation between the ILO and other UN agencies could be fostered to develop joint strategies for improving the condition of education and fighting poverty.

Thirdly, compilation and sharing of experiences and best practices on tackling child labour for up-scaling and replication is essential. A case in point is the successful *Bolsa Familia* initiative in Brazil wherein poor families have been given monthly stipend by the government in return for a commitment for keeping children in school.

Fourthly, there is a need to amplify the voice of tripartism, i.e., more robust and proactive engagement by businesses and trade unions. If businesses ensure that their supply chains are transparent and become accountable to the workers and consumers, this will lead them being child labour free. Further, businesses also need to contribute in building schools and infrastructure in rural areas and ensure payment of living wages to farmers and agricultural workers. This could in turn be used as a positive-marketing tool by the business entities. Trade unions on their part need to strongly advocate against the worst forms of child labour. Towards addressing agricultural child labour, trade unions can play a vital role in ensuring that farmers and farm workers are empowered to protect their own rights and that they are imparted skills and given opportunities to make meaningful choices for their families bringing them out of poverty.

Abolition of child labour is possible

Kailash Satyarthi, Global March Against Child Labour



The Global Conference on Child Labour of 2010 saw a collective commitment from the different stakeholders for the eradication of the worst forms of child labour by 2016. The next Global Conference will be held in Brazil in 2013 to review the progress made towards the target of 2016. Under this backdrop, the International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture serving as a staging point between the two Global Conferences is timely to take stock of and to boost efforts and action for eliminating child labour and its worst forms.

The Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016 - the

outcome document of the 2010 Global Conference acknowledges the highest incidence of child labour in agriculture, i.e., 60 per cent. This translates into 129 million children working in the agricultural sector, with 77 million of them engaged in hazardous work and activities. Apart from the large numbers, this category of child labourers is invisible and hard-to-reach due to the traditional mindset towards agricultural work, remoteness of locations, limited access to education, inadequate rural development and inappropriate legal and social protection measures.

Despite these difficulties, there is an urgency to address this problem due to several reasons. Firstly, the reckless use of chemicals, intoxicated water, machines and electricity has made agriculture work much more hazardous and risky, particularly for children. Secondly, the emerging trends like multi-nationalisation and fast transformation of traditional agriculture into agro-industry has resulted in marginalisation and disempowerment of farming community - they have no control over the economics of their produce and no role in decision making. Thirdly, even in subsistence agriculture, the farm produce including that produced by family child labourers still filters into the supply chains and the markets. Fourthly, the local and multinational corporations find it convenient to hide behind the excuse of supply chain. This is not acceptable and they have to respect the laws of land as well as international standards without fail. Fifthly, education has always been a key to social and gender justice, empowerment and prosperity but it has become inevitable for existence in the present age of knowledge economy.

An abolition of child labour is possible and within our reach. The decline in the number of child labourers from 250 million to 215 million, and of out-of-school children from 130 million to 70 million over a decade is a testament of this. To abolish child labour, five key things are required. The first and foremost is to strengthen the worldwide moment against child labour. In comparison to various important issues such as HIV/AIDS, health, environment, education, etc. the child labour portfolio is very tiny despite remarkable work done by many actors in the world. Secondly, bold initiatives are needed and not business-as-usual approach in admitting and assessing the problem in all countries. This can be done by identifying gaps, by amending or making laws and increasing national budgets and official development assistance substantially. Thirdly, leadership is needed. The politicians, labour ministers, unions, employers' organisations, NGOs and others have to exhibit leadership. Fourthly, it is imperative to build genuine partnerships to overcome the challenges of eliminating agricultural child labour. It is essential to inculcate and strengthen a culture, behaviour and practice of working together. Finally, we need to act with a true sense of urgency to bring freedom, smiles and opportunities to the 215 million children.

ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE - CHALLENGES & CONTEXT



This Section presents a summary of a plenary session held at the start of the International Conference on “Eliminating Child Labour in Agriculture – Challenges & Context”. Some major challenges in the fight against child labour in agriculture, viz. gaps in legal protection, lack of labour rights, inadequate representation of small farmers, and child labour in US agriculture were discussed.

Gaps in the legal protection against child trafficking and slavery in agriculture

Bhuwan Ribhu, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, India



Across the globe, children are being trafficked for forced labour in plantations, farms and fields in large numbers. Trafficked child labourers have been recorded in global supply chains of cocoa, tobacco, sugarcane, cottonseed, banana, rice, tomato, etc. Children often have to work like slaves in sub-human conditions facing violence and physical restraint in the farms and fields. An international legal and policy framework does exist to protect children from such exploitation and abuse, however the downside is that several lacunae exist in the legal frameworks, policies and measures of countries to adequately prevent and address child labour. These

lacunae exist in the following forms:

- **Inadequate domestication of international legal and policy framework:** It has been seen that the international instruments such as the ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age of Employment, ILO Convention 182 on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (and the associated Palermo Protocol on Trafficking) have not been ratified by all countries, and especially countries where the situation is deplorable with millions of children engaged in exploitative agricultural work. Often, despite ratifications, national legal instruments are not put in place to safeguard the interests of children. An example of this is India, a country with around 70 per cent of child labourers working in agriculture which though has ratified the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking but does not have a corresponding national law in place for the same.
- **Inadequate national laws:** The national laws are not always adequate to protect children from labour exploitation. In India, the primary legislation on child labour, i.e., the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 continues to permit the employment of children in various informal sectors including in agriculture. Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) and Global March have undertaken a focused campaign for abolition of child labour in India.
- **Inadequate policies:** Policies dealing with important issues such as prevention of child labour and trafficking, rehabilitation and reintegration of former child labourers into mainstream society are either inadequate or non-existent.
- **Disconnect in legal frameworks and policies and the resulting lack of accountability:** There is lack of coherence in the existing legal framework and policies on trafficking, forced labour and child labour both at the international and national levels. While the ILO, UNICEF and UNODC are working for the protection of children as per their own respective mandates, at the grassroots level the different government agencies and ministries are addressing the issue as per their protocols. This creates insufficient convergence to tackle child labour and trafficking and results in lack of fixation of accountability.
- **Enforcement issues:** Apart from inadequacy in laws, there is also the issue of laws not being enforced in both

letter and spirit. For example, though Nepal has ratified all the important international instruments on child labour and has also made the necessary changes in the domestic laws, there is no law enforcement. Over the years, there have been no prosecutions or convictions on matters of child labour.

- *Limited public awareness and acceptability of child labour:* National efforts to put in place laws and policies for child labour have been able to change perceptions in the countryside about employing children for work. Till date there is limited awareness in rural areas on child labour and exploitation, and also a cultural acceptance of child labour as the only way out economic deprivation for poor households.

In the absence of legal deterrents, crimes like child labour and child trafficking for forced labour thrive unabated. The States as custodians and guarantors of the rights of all their citizens, including their children need to address the various gaps in their child labour laws and policies. Further, while ensuring that laws and policies are child-centric and child-friendly, at the outset States need to enforce all national and international laws, conventions and treaties related to child labour and child rights.

Lack of labour rights in agriculture

Rafael Sandramu, Tobacco Tenants and Allied Workers' Unions of Malawi, Malawi



The prevalence of child labour in agriculture undermines decent work for all workers as it perpetuates a cycle in which household income for both self-employed farmers and waged agricultural workers is insufficient to meet their economic needs and those of their families and households. The agricultural sector in general vis-à-vis other economic sectors has decent work deficits which typically include lack of freedom of association and collective bargaining, low wages, poor occupational safety and health standards, long hours of work, etc.

The case of Malawi is an example of lack of labour rights in agriculture. In Malawi, the interventions to eliminate child labour have not been translated into improvements of labour rights, especially in the case of tobacco industry – a major cash crop that employs a large proportion of child labourers. Despite registration of about 25,140 workers by Tobacco Tenants and Allied Workers' Union of Malawi (TOTAWUM) and several policy advocacy initiatives by the union, there still have not been any collective bargaining agreements between any major employers or companies in the tobacco industry in particular, and the agriculture sector in general.

Several attempts have been made to sensitise workers to join the union, but this has only been met with threats from farm owners and tobacco companies to be dismissed from work upon unionising. Also in case of tobacco tenant farmers in Malawi – the major employer of children, their labour rights have not been respected by farm owners and tobacco companies. Since 1995, the Tobacco Tenancy Labour Bill which contains provisions to provide protection against poverty wages and harsh working conditions for tenant farmers has not been passed.

Small farmers – not in debate

Across the globe, majority of the children are working in small-scaled, often family-owned farms, making small farmers an important actor and stakeholder to engage with in the fight against children. However, small farmers are often missing in the various debates and platforms for eliminating child labour. For instance, as mentioned

earlier many of the trade unions in the agriculture sector do not represent the small farmer. This aspect was also reflected in the International Conference, wherein despite efforts by the organisers of the Conference, small farmers and farmers in general had only two representations in the form of a cooperative of farmers, i.e., Coopérative Agricole Kavokiva du Haut Sassandra and union of farmers/agricultural producers, i.e. Unión Nacional de Cañeros A.C. (National Union of Sugarcane Producers). Representatives from these organisations presented the efforts being made towards tackling child labour in their respective areas which reasserted the importance role of engaging with farmers, especially small farmers for child labour elimination.

Coopérative Agricole Kavokiva du Haut Sassandra

Mariame Toure Yaya, Coopérative Agricole Kavokiva du Haut Sassandra, Cote d'Ivoire



Kavokiva is a Cote d'Ivoire based cooperative of around 5817 farmer members, majority of them being small farmers, working towards improving the social and economic position of its members by supporting the production and marketing of cocoa and coffee using the principles of fair trade. As a cooperative of farmer members, Kavokiva is taking several steps to address the engagement of children in the agricultural sector. Kavokiva creates awareness amongst its members on the employment of children on the farms. It also has a Child Labour Charter in place which members are required to abide by prior to receiving their fairtrade

certification. This helps to ensure that farmers produce cocoa and coffee that are child labour free. Kavokiva has set various local committees for the implementation of the Charter by the members.

Other activities of the cooperative include provision of financial support for education (for fees, school furniture, etc.), enhancing household incomes to support education and learning of children, use of local committees on child labour to educate members, etc.

Unión Nacional de Cañeros A.C. (National Union of Sugarcane Producers)

José Américo Saviñón Sánchez, Unión Nacional de Cañeros A.C. Mexico



The *Unión Nacional de Cañeros A.C.* in Mexico is working on a multi-pronged and a rights-based approach fostering health, education and recreation for elimination of child labour in the sugar growing sector. While the *Unión Nacional* strongly advocates for substituting child labour with decent work for adults, it also focuses on improving the coordination mechanisms between various stakeholders in the fight against child labour. It periodically develops information and knowledge tools to sensitise the workers and other stakeholders.

Creation of a congenial environment for direct interventions

For prevention of child labour, protection and safe removal of girls, children and adolescents from hazardous

occupations, the *Unión Nacional* strongly advocates for appropriate work conditions; improving the information base that is already available and making it more reliable so that the data could help towards effective policy advocacy; and enhancing the skills and capacities of various public and private partners that are important in the fight against child labour. By the way of pilot projects (like the ongoing one in Veracruz) the *Unión Nacional* demonstrates sustainable manners in which child labour can be eliminated from the farms with a special emphasis on policy advocacy for bringing about sustained development.

Involvement of the actors of Sugarcane Value Chain

The *Unión Nacional* closely liaises with various food and beverage brands (like Coca Cola, Pepsi Co.) so that a discussion about improving the working conditions in their supply chains in a sustained manner could be brought about. It closely works with associations of sugarcane planters for inclusive dialogue. In an endeavour to include elimination of child labour in the corporate social responsibility objectives of large buyers the *Unión Nacional* engages in regular dialogue with the decision makers.

Child labour in US agriculture

Norma Flores Lopez, Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs & Zama Coursen Neff, Human Rights Watch

Hundreds of thousands of children are employed as farmworkers in the United States (US). The situation of these children is far worse than that of children working in other sectors in the US owing to the loopholes in the US federal law regulating child labour in agriculture. The state of affairs of child farmworkers in US agriculture that have been documented in “Fields of Peril: Child Labor in US Agriculture” – a study by the Human Rights Watch is summarised below:



- **Age of employment:** Child farmworkers have been typically found to start work from the age of 11-12 years in case of full-time work, and as early as 7 years in case of part-time work. Under the current US law, there is no minimum age for children working on small farms with parent's permission and also it is legal for children to work on any farm from the age of 12 years.
- **Hours of work:** Children engaged full-time on farms work for around 10 hours daily with few rest intervals, especially during the peak of harvests. Sadly, the US law does not limit the number of hours that children can work in agriculture outside of school hours.
- **Wage exploitation:** Children in agricultural work are earning far less than the legal minimum wage, especially when paid on a piece rate basis. Also, frequent wage exploitation of their parents helped push some children into the fields and into work.
- **Effect on health:** Agricultural work puts children's health and lives at risk. Farmwork is the most dangerous occupation for children in terms of fatalities. This is evidenced by the fact that 75 per cent of the children below 16 years who died at work in 2010 had worked in crops. In spite of this, the US law allows children undertake hazardous jobs in agriculture at the age of 16 – jobs, like driving a forklift or using a chainsaw that would be absolutely illegal in any other sector until age 18. During farmwork, exposure to pesticides poses severe risks to the health of child labourers whose bodies are still developing. Regulations of the US Environmental Protection Agency that govern the use and application of pesticides make no special consideration for children. For instance, the rules on how much time workers must stay out of the fields after spraying of pesticides are based on the model of a 154 pound male, with no adaption for children. It has also been noted that isolated fields make children, especially girls prone to sexual harassment and violence.

- **Education:** Work and migration hurt children's education. Farmworker children have been seen to drop out of school at four times the national average. Migrant children who generally follow the harvest together with family often leave school before classes end and return weeks or even months after school has already started, leaving them behind from the outset and scrambling to catch up with other children.
- **Law and enforcement:** As mentioned earlier, these risks to child farmworkers' health and education stem from gaps in US law that regulates child labour, i.e., the Fair Labor Standards Act that leaves child farmworkers with far lesser protection. Yet, even weak protections for child farmworkers are rarely enforced. The US Department of Labor (USDOL) which enforces the child labour law carried out even fewer agriculture inspections in 2010 than it did in 2009. Correspondingly, it found even fewer child labour violations - only 31 in 2010. Weak laws and weak enforcement for addressing agricultural child labour also places the United States in violation of its international legal obligations under ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour, which it ratified in 1999.

While the US has been a leader outside of its own borders in funding child labour elimination, it has not been able to address child labour in its domestic agriculture. With utmost priority US needs to close the loopholes in its labour law and ensure greater enforcement of the law.

Conclusion

The last two decades have witnessed a convergence between child labour and child rights. This is a positive development which has led to viewing the economic exploitation of children as a violation of their rights to be protected and educated among other things. But one needs to move from rhetoric to accountability and also more vigorously address the various challenges to child labour elimination. In nutshell, there is a need to:

- Domestic international treaties on child labour and child rights and convert them into national laws, and where national laws exist there is need harmonise them with the international instruments like the ILO Conventions, the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), etc
- Harmonise child labour with other child protection mechanisms, such as anti-trafficking
- Convergence in terms of policies and implementation through coordination and programmes by various department and agencies
- Social protection and decent work for agricultural farmworkers, and protection for migrant families including quality education for children
- Improve capacity for formulation of laws and their enforcement
- Build and promote voices of farmers (and small farmers), communities, children and youths
- Ensure adequate budgetary allocations to child rights and child labour portfolio as well as ensure that 9 per cent of national GDPs is allocated for education budgets
- Map performance of governments vis-à-vis their commitments

FINDING SOLUTIONS



This Section presents a summary of three parallel workshops conducted towards finding solutions on certain themes in the context of child labour in agriculture, viz., i) Mainstream child labour concerns in agricultural policy, ii) Addressing child labour in neglected sub-sectors, and iii) Identifying networks and organisations to work with on elimination of child labour in agriculture. The workshops entailed moderated discussions amongst the participants to understand and collate different perspectives, experiences from the ground, etc.

Mainstream child labour concerns in agricultural policy

Importance of mainstreaming child labour issues into agricultural & rural development policies

It has normally been seen that agricultural and rural development policies do not integrate child labour concerns, thus making them child labour blind. It is important to mainstream child labour issues into various sectoral policies at national and regional levels and also into global instruments. Agricultural and rural development policies play a significant influence in determining the use and reliance of child labour, both at the national and global levels. The reason is that these policies make choices in the promotion of specific technologies and practices resulting in the type of hazards present in agricultural work, the demand for different types of labour and therefore of child labour, sustainability of different sub-sectors, productivity, access to markets, types of contracts prevalent in agricultural sector for remunerating the workers for their labour and farmers for the agricultural produce sold in domestic and international markets. Integrating child labour concerns into sectoral policies at national and regional levels and into global instruments would provide a major opportunity for scaling-up the impact of child labour elimination efforts and projects as it would be helpful in gaining insight about the actual situation in specific sectors and thus influence various aspects such as the level of usage of pesticides, the codes of conducts formulated, etc.

Possible solutions: entry points to integrate child labour into agricultural & rural development policies

- Involve all stakeholders and specifically trade unions, employers' associations and governments in the formulation of agricultural and rural development policies
- While drawing the Nation Action Plans for the elimination of child labour, involve the Ministry of Education without which child labour is too often seen as an employment issue than a developmental, agricultural and rural issue. National Action Plans for child labour elimination based on participatory approach can be a significant tool in mainstreaming child labour concerns in agriculture and rural development policies.
- Liaising with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Representation from farmers/agricultural producers' organisations can be pivotal while drafting the agricultural and rural development policies
- Improved productivity and competitiveness perspective can also be used to promote inclusion of child labour concerns into agricultural issues. For instance, agricultural goods produced without child labour could command a premium that in the long run could pave way for an enhanced market share.

Possible solutions: role of different civil society organisations

- Involve and include all stakeholders – trade unions, employers' organisations, governments and civil society in all initiatives for elimination of child labour in agriculture
- Formation of child protection committees at local levels to monitor the implementation of policies related to child labour in agriculture
- In collaboration with unions/farmers' organisations dialogue with governments in formulating policies that are child-friendly and inclusive of child labour concerns, also supporting governments in the implementation of policies framed.

Addressing child labour in neglected sub-sectors

One major challenge in the elimination of child labour in agriculture is the issue of addressing child labour in the different sub-sectors of agriculture, especially in the neglected sub-sectors of agriculture – sectors where little or no attention has been paid has been for child labour action. The different sub-sectors and their products which have been neglected over the years are given below:

- **Crop products:** rice, maize, millet (cereals); various vegetables; peanuts (oilseeds); cassava and potatoes (roots and tubers); lentils, peas, beans (pulses)
- **Animal products:** sheep, goat, poultry, cattle (live animals)
- **Forestry products:** raw wood (wood products); rubber (non-wood products)
- **Fishing products:** nearly whole sub-sector is neglected, for example – shrimp, tilapia, shellfish, Nile perch, lobsters, mussels, lobsters, reef fish, etc

Common characteristics of neglected sub-sectors and implications

Out of the four above-mentioned sub-sectors, livestock and fisheries represent two major sub-sectors/areas within the agriculture sector wherein in totality less attention has been paid in addressing the worst forms of child labour. The neglected sub-sectors share some common characteristics which result in taking steps for child labour elimination difficult. As the products of these sub-sectors are locally produced the actors for public-private partnership are often missing, thus making it hard to attribute accountabilities for use of child labour, decent work deficits, etc. Further, as such sub-sectors mainly cater to the local markets and/or family consumption requirements, the consumers - an effective pressure group is practically absent which is often a driving factor for elimination of child labour. With the value chains of products spanning in the informal sector of the economy, pre-arranged sales contracts and labour contracts are nearly absent leading to low degree of organisation. Small-scale producers are not organised into trade unions, therefore it becomes very difficult to effectively reach out to them in order to have impactful child labour prevention and reduction policies, programmes and actions. Majority of the farms in these sub-sectors are small-scale and/or family farms using unpaid and family child workers. As labour laws usually do not apply in small scale and family farms, legal interventions are often not possible.

Reasons for being neglected

Livestock and fisheries being essentially non-export oriented sub-sectors receive less attention in terms of policy and implementation. Further, there is a serious data and knowledge gap in respect of the number of children working in the different sub-sectors and the details of the tasks and activities carried out by them. In the absence of data for the sub-sectors like livestock and fisheries, it becomes an arduous task to advocate with the governments for policy interventions. Labour inspection mechanisms and other formal sector enforcement machinery are not applied to family farms and subsistence agriculture, making it extremely difficult to monitor violations related to child rights and protection. Limited degree of organisation of farmers and workers and a near virtual absence of trade union movement in these sub-sectors also make combating child labour very difficult.

Possible solutions

- Collection of disaggregated data and knowledge (at national and global level) on child labour in the various agricultural sub-sectors to guide policy and action
- Define/re-define laws for the informal sectors and ensure their enforcement
- Promote multi-stakeholder initiatives, local surveillance teams, etc. for monitoring the working conditions, detecting labour violations and those related to child rights
- Stimulate local organisations in the neglected sub-sectors, i.e., trade unions and farmer/producer

- organisations, etc. to make them active participants of agriculture and child labour policies at national level
- Community sensitisation in neglected sub-sectors for apprising people about hazardous forms of child labour

Identifying networks and organisations to work with on elimination of child labour in agriculture

Difficulty in clear identification of networks and organisations

Given the large number of networks and organisations working towards the elimination of child labour in general and in agriculture in particular, a clear identification of all types of organisations working on the issue is cumbersome. There are several networks, alliances and coalitions working at different levels of interventions and operations, viz. international, national, regional, local or hyper-local level. Additionally, there are international development agencies such as the ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank and also a range of NGOs and multi-stakeholder initiatives. Besides these civil society actors, governments, ministries and their departments are also important players in the fight against child labour. Coupled with the multiplicity of the types of organisations dealing with child labour, there is also multiplicity of the ways in which these organisations address child labour. For instance, some organisations are working on sectoral levels and focus on child labour issues in specific agricultural products such as the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) and the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco-growing (ECLT) Foundation. As opposed to this, other organisations address child labour based on different approaches and perspectives, i.e., education, health, poverty and gender-bias to name a few.

Drawbacks for addressing child labour

Despite the large number and types of organisations working on child labour there are some major drawbacks that need to be tackled. Firstly, though working towards a common objective, most organisations operate in isolation to other organisations, even those working in similar sectors and/or geographies. While focusing on individualised small efforts by organisations makes evaluation and monitoring of all efforts for child labour elimination challenging, it also results in lack of sharing of good practices for replication and scaling up. Secondly, most initiatives carried out by organisations suffer from sustainability issues. Subsequent to the end of the grant/funding cycle, often the process of creation of skills, knowledge and impact on the ground by the initiatives and projects gets adversely affected. Thirdly, there is lack of involvement of media groups centered on child rights and child labour eradication which can play a significant role in sensitisation and creating awareness as well as inadequate involvement of teacher alliances, children, youth, farmers and their organisations to eliminate child labour in agriculture. Fourthly, role of multinational organisations is far too limited to their own operations and sectors, and does not contribute to the networks and alliances and the various child labour initiatives in a substantive manner.

Possible solutions

- Promote coordination and linkages between different organisations and with multinational organisations/corporate for greater knowledge and experience sharing
- Encourage participation of media groups, teacher alliances and children, youth, farmers and farmers' organisations in the different initiatives – for awareness raising, access to education and linkage with decent working conditions, respectively
- Ensure sustained political will and commitment for addressing the lack of sustainability of various initiatives

GOOD PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES FROM REGIONS AND SECTORS/CROPS



This Section presents a summary of the presentations of a small number of good practices for the elimination of child labour in agriculture from different regions, giving examples of efforts in tackling child labour in different crops/sectors.

General Agricultural Workers' Union

Andrews A. Tagoe, Ghana

In Ghana, the General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) with support from the ILO, has had a major impact on eliminating the worst forms of child labour. Acting both independently, and using 'social dialogue to collaborate with employers and government, the union fights child labour in three key sectors - fisheries, palm oil production, and cocoa farming.



Some *good practices* that GAWU has used in its work are:

- *Integrated and innovative strategies* – For eliminating the worst forms of child labour in cocoa farms in Ghana and to create child labour free communities, the trade union is using an integrated strategy which includes organising cocoa farmers, encouraging the establishment of local associations, engaging in dialogue with local chiefs, supporting school and initiating vocational training programmes. GAWU is encouraging families to pursue innovative additional livelihood options for income enhancement generation such as producing soaps, growing snails, etc.
- *Collective agreements* – In case of child labour in fisheries, the union has entered into collective agreements that include clauses for the prohibition of the employment of children and ensures that such agreements are adhered to. This has proved effective in reducing the number of children working in fisheries sector.
- *Using social dialogue and code of conduct* - Using social dialogue and working in partnership with Ghana's employer association, GAWU has encouraged unions and employers to develop a code of conduct for growers and workers to eradicate child labour in palm oil production.

Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura

Tania Dornellas dos Santos, Brazil

Brazil based Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura (CONTAG) – the National Confederation of Workers in Agriculture is the largest union of rural workers today with around 27 federations representing about 4000 rural unions and 20 million workers of the field, forests and rivers and oceans.



Strategies and good practices

CONTAG is engaged for sensitising rural trade unions, leaders and advisors about the consequences of child labour and then mobilises them to confront this situation. The trade union has adopted various strategies

for achieving their objectives. Firstly, changing the focus to address child labour and extending the debate to cover the full ambit of protection of rights of the child. Secondly, child labour is included in the agenda while discussing, debating and addressing topics such as education, health, culture, and leisure by the way of campaigns, seminars, workshops, and media. It is noteworthy that a working group within CONTAG has been created which includes leaders and advisors to help in the process. Thirdly, identification of main challenges confronting the states and strategising to reassure that the children living in rural areas are able to enjoy their rights as citizens. Fourthly, CONTAG considers it worthwhile to link the discussion of child labour and its natural progression concerning the rural youth. Fifthly, it promotes rural education as a strategy well pitched against child labour. Sixthly, contextualisation of the debate about the consequences of child labour for the implementation of the Alternative Project of Solidarity and Sustainable Development is also an integral part of CONTAG's strategy. Sustainability and replicability of good practices and experiential learning has been ingrained in the cultural charter of CONTAG.

CONTAG is also actively engaged in influencing the public policy development affecting the situation of children in rural areas, because these children are more susceptible to fall prey to child labour. Towards this goal, it participates in forums for the debate and policy development for children, participates in public hearings, write articles, and participate in researches on childhood.

Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco-growing

Sonia Velasquez, Switzerland



The ECLT Foundation works towards the elimination of child labour in tobacco growing by preventing and withdrawing of working children between 5-14 years and protecting those working children who are between 15-17 years. ECLT adopt a multi-stakeholder and tri-partite approach wherein IUFC, International Tobacco Growers' Association, the ILO and major tobacco company are its member and at the implementation level there are tri-partite steering committees to advise the projects and assist local implementing partners to reach out to local governments and others.

Some *good practices* that ECLT uses in its work are:

- *Village Child Labour Committees (CLCs)* - As a first step, every ECLT-funded project establishes CLCs consisting of members of the local tobacco-growing community. Such CLCs support in raising awareness about the dangers of child labour, withdrawing children from work and providing vigilance so that children do not drift back into labour.
- *Family Support Scholarships* - The ECLT project in the Tabora area of Tanzania supports a conditional credit scheme wherein US\$ 180 per enrolled family, combining educational expenses and a micro loan is provided to mothers in tobacco growing areas on the condition of enrolling 2 children in school and covering their school expenses.
- *Holiday Camps in Harvest Season* - The ECLT project in the Nookat area of Osh, Kyrgyzstan, enlists children of tobacco growing families in summer camps during harvest season to prevent the presence of children in the fields. In such an activity children are made aware that child labour in tobacco fields is harmful for their development and prohibited by law. This information is later passed on by these children to other children who live in the same streets and villages and to those who attend the same schools. While the holiday camps provide a unique opportunity of socialisation amongst children, it also provides additional facilities for child development.

ABK3 Leap: Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy and Protection to Reduce Child Labour in Sugarcane

Daphne G. Culanag, Philippines

ABK3 LEAP aims to reduce child labour in sugarcane areas in the Philippines by implementing a multi-sectoral approach through- i) direct educational and livelihoods services; ii) strengthening capacity of local and national institutions; iii) policy advocacy, awareness raising, leveraging government and private sector partner commitment; and iv) research to provide reliable data on child labour in sugarcane.

Some *good practices* that ABK3 LEAP uses in its work are:

- **Child participation** – ABK3 LEAP encourages different levels of child participation in the local and national organisations to represent the issue of child labour, which contribute to the establishment of systems for child protection and development of programs for the sustainable reduction of child labour.
- **Community Watch Groups (CWG)** – CWG is a social structure organised at the community level to monitor the status of children in terms of work, education performance and well-being. They also play an important role in the advocacy and carrying out significant activities of the project in the province. Groups trained to be CWGs include the Barangay Children's Associations (BCA), Parents Associations and Parent-Teachers-Community Associations, People's Organisations in the Community, and School Teachers. The major functions that CWGs carry out are-
 - Monitor child labourers, i.e., those in school for school participation and performance, those who are out-of-school for participation at work, and members of Barangay Children's Associations for participation in local governance;
 - Maintain monitoring records of working and in-school children in the community;
 - Propose activities/interventions to help children get out of child labour and/or remain in school;
 - Share monitoring data with Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children and/or the Child Labour Education Task Forces to influence policy and programs; and
 - Coordinate with other CWGs in the municipality



Farm Labor Organizing Committee

Baldemar Velásquez, USA



Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) is a trade union representing and working for the well-being of farmworkers, especially migrant farmworkers in USA. Through continuous efforts of FLOC, child labour in tomato and cucumber growing in Ohio has been eradicated. Also, the conditions of our member-farmworkers have changed dramatically over the years. Not only have wages increased, but housing and other conditions have been improved.

Good practices and principles

Child labour is not a problem in itself; rather it is an outcome of the inequities in the agricultural supply chain which have been designed to marginalise people at the lower end of the chain, i.e., the poor farmworkers, their children and families. The inequitable supply chain created by multi-national corporations enriches its executives at the expense of those who work in the fields and keeps the farmworkers and their families in poverty. FLOC's approach to address this concern has been to organise farmworkers and re-design the entire supply chain.

FLOC's approach is based on two guiding principles. Firstly, farmworkers need a voice in the decisions that affect them, i.e., allowing workers to form a union and collectively bargain with their employer is the only way to address the huge imbalance of power and provide an effective structure for self-determination. Secondly, bring all parties to the table to address industry wide problems, i.e., multi-national corporations have created a supply system that enriches its executives at the expense of those who work in the fields. These corporations have the wealth and power to change the harsh realities that many farmworkers face. FLOC seeks a structure where all those in the system work together to solve problems: corporations, growers, and farmworkers.

Based on this approach and principles, FLOC won an 8 year-long struggle in 1986 when it signed three-way contracts with Campbell Soup and its tomato and pickle grower associations in Ohio and Michigan. These contracts changed the structure of the agricultural industry, so that farmworkers could have an equal and direct voice in those conditions that affect their well-being. With increased wages of farmworkers as a result of such negotiated agreements, it has become possible to withdrawn children from working in the fields.





GOOD PRACTICES FOR TACKLING AGRICULTURAL CHILD LABOUR



This Section presents a summary of three parallel workshops conducted towards sharing good practices on certain themes in the context of eliminating child labour in agriculture, viz., i) Moving from hazardous child labour to decent youth employment, ii) Using supply chain leverage to eliminate child labour in agriculture; and iii) Trade union action to eliminate child labour in agriculture. The workshops entailed moderated discussions amongst the participants to understand and collate different perspectives, experiences from the ground, etc.

Moving from hazardous child labour to decent youth employment

Improving occupational and safety conditions and making agriculture attractive for youth

One of the main challenges in agricultural child labour is how to help employers to transform hazardous child labour into decent youth employment in agriculture. All those children/adolescents below the age of 18 who have attained the minimum legal age for admission to employment and are therefore legally authorised to work under certain conditions are called “young workers”. Between the ages of 14/15 to 17, “children” and “youth” share an overlapping age bracket. According to the ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, those within this age bracket, having attained the minimum age for employment are free to work so long as it is not a job classified as “hazardous work”. If it is hazardous work they would remain classified as child labourers and not as young workers. Further, as their employment under hazardous conditions would be in breach of child labour law, they would have to be removed to a place of safety.

However, if employers can sufficiently improve workplace safety and health conditions to guarantee children in the 14/15 to 17 year age bracket, “decent conditions of work”, including proper training for them on safety and health at work, then there is no reason why these children should not remain at work, productively employed and earning wages. By sufficiently improving workplace safety and health conditions, the child ceases to be a “child labourers” and becomes classified as a “young workers”. Besides, improving the occupational safety and health (OSH) conditions in agriculture for these young workers, promoting youth employment in agriculture also entails making it an attractive vocation for youth.

Suggested good practices

- Making agriculture safe for children above minimum age of employment by-
 - Assessment of health and safety risk assessments at farms and fields for young workers
 - Establishing labour inspector mechanism to check and regularly monitor OSH conditions on farms and fields
- Mainstreaming young workers and youth into decent work on adulthood by-
 - Making agriculture and rural livelihoods attractive to youth through skills/vocational training, knowledge enhancement and technology upgradation as well as through policies and programmes that improve rural facilities and infrastructure
 - Training in safe and healthy procedures for young workers and youth working in agriculture sector as per labour standards
- Enhancing role of smallholder farmers (who are the major employers of children) in improving OSH conditions by-
 - Educating and training farmers in improving and maintaining OSH conditions on farms and fields
 - Access to subsidised loans and finance schemes for enhancing health and safety levels on the farms and fields

Using supply chain leverage to eliminate child labour in agriculture

Inadequate leverage of farmers and workers in supply chains

Farmers as producers of agricultural crops/goods, especially the small farmers have little leverage in the supply chains particularly with respect to the prices. In many places, as in Africa, farmers are price-takers as the crops/products grown are homogenous, giving them no control over their businesses. There is also the concern with regard to subsidies given to farmers in developed countries that needs to be addressed. These subsidies enable local farmers to mass produce and as a result, farmers in developing nations, especially the small farmers are unable to compete. The situation of such farmers is further compounded by the fact that most farmers are not part of any associations/unions. Workers in the agricultural sector also have almost no leverage in negotiating their wage rates, this is especially so in the case of family-based farms where there are no contracts and often no payment of wages. The commodity traders are also important actors in the supply chain as they can support in identifying if the goods sourced are made with child labour and ensuring that such goods are not funneled into the supply chain.

Suggested good practices and solutions

- Creating an enabling environment for farmers, especially small-scale farmers, to enhance farmers' position for negotiation and leverage in the supply chains for eliminating child labour
- Setting up institutions such as price boards/bodies at national levels for fixing the minimum and fair prices of various agricultural crops and having representation from all concerned stakeholders including farmers and their organisation in such in boards/bodies
- Enhancing the role of trade unions, farmers' organisations and cooperatives in unionising farmers and workers and in improving their bargaining power for negotiating prices and wages. This would promote the achievement of collective bargaining, freedom of association and other fundamental principles and rights at work and address the issue of child labour in agriculture in an integrated manner.
- Making use of the untapped role of commodity traders
- Encouraging businesses to approach the elimination of child labour in agriculture from the perspective of the importance of thriving rural communities for sustainable business

Trade union action to eliminate child labour in agriculture

Role, challenges and constraints of trade unions

Trade unions have undeniably an essential role to play in the fight against child labour, including agricultural labour. Their primary function includes organising workers for payment of minimum wages to adult workers and promoting decent work conditions. Trade unions also have a role to play in the elimination of child labour. They can also pressurise and make the governments accountable for the ratification of ILO Conventions No. 138 and No. 182 and their enforcement including that of national child labour laws. With the access to local communities serving as an advantage, trade unions are able to effectively create awareness on the issue of child labour and various government schemes, programmes and legislation related to child labour and decent work agenda. They reach out not only to families, teachers, farmers, workers and their organisations, but also to governments, corporations and media. Further at the international level, global unions engage in advocacy and lobbying efforts with the government for the ratification of ILO Conventions, promoting awareness amongst a much wider audience, and supporting local trade unions to overcome financial constraints by supporting in resource mobilisation.

Trade unions face several challenges and constraints during the course of their work, particularly, in case of tackling agricultural child labour. Often agricultural sector has not been included in national hazardous work lists. This coupled with the fact that much of the work in the agriculture takes place in the informal sector putting them outside the ambit of regulation under laws and the prevailing culture that encourages farm work by children from an early age - pose challenges for trade unions.

Suggested good practices for trade unions

- Ensure greater linkages of child labour with education through campaigns and awareness and also supporting the mainstreaming of out-of-school children into schools
- Ensure that collective agreements negotiated with employers include clauses with regard to child labour
- Support in transforming hazardous child labour into decent youth employment by pushing employers to improve workplace safety and health conditions for children above the minimum age of employment and also making agriculture an attractive vocation for youth through skills training
- Train workers on healthy and safe practices to improve the OSH conditions at farms and fields
- Collaborate and build partnerships with other local organisations, viz., farmers' organisations, teachers' associations, cooperatives, etc.



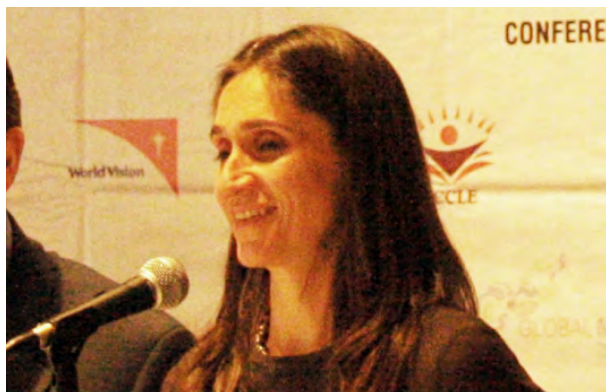
EDUCATION A KEY TOOL FOR ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR & PROTECTING CHILDREN IN AGRICULTURE AND RIGHT TO FOOD



This Section presents a brief of the discussions pertaining to the relevance of education for combating child labour.

Reflections on the role of education in ending child labour

Camila Croso, Global Campaign for Education



There are many implications of education being a human right. States being the custodian and guarantor of human rights, i.e., having the duty to respect, protect and fulfill all human rights have to recognise their role in ensuring universal access to primary and quality education to their children and take urgent steps towards the same. Another implication arising from the indivisibility and interdependency of human rights is to develop a multi-sectoral approach to guarantee all rights - political, civil, social, economic and cultural rights including the right to education.

For education to an effective tool to eliminate child labour, it is important that it is linked with the other social policies. In respect of particularly child labour in agricultural and rural settings, this linkage is vital as also is guaranteeing the right to education and various social protection measures.

Rural children generally have poor access to quality education due to lack of schools, lack of or poorly trained teachers and paid teachers, irrelevant curricula, poor attendance rates, lower standards of educational performance and achievements.

Along with addressing the access to education in the country-side, it is imperative to focus on strengthening of quality and public education systems. This includes ensuring relevancy and adaptability of the basic education provided. Further, education in the country-side must include early childhood education given its importance. Young people, children, teachers, parents and civil society in general should be involved in the debates and subjects on education for all, public policy of education.

Mainstreaming out-of-school children into public education

Robert Prouty, Global Partnership on Education



Despite dramatic improvements over the last decade, progress towards achieving universal primary education has been slowing down over the last couple of years. 61 million primary school-aged children are still out of school and many more have dropped out of the education system. Every child that is out of school is being exploited or is likely to be exploited for labour.

Further, even though the inter-connectedness of child labour elimination with education is well established, wide gaps remain in inclusion of child labour in national education policies and plans. Child labourers and other

out-of-school children require additional expenses that are not always budgeted for in national education plans

and programs. Further, there is also the concern of burgeoning parallel system of private schooling. Efforts at both national and global levels have to be made to mainstream all children into the public education systems, and also to include child labour and out-of-school children concerns into education plans, policies and programmes. This needs to be addressed with utmost urgency.

Early childhood care and education (ECCE) which is very important for the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of children while they are still in their formative years is another area where much work remains to be done. Many countries till date have not included ECCE in their education plans and policies. The Global Partnership for Education with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank is funding a US\$ 20 million project to support planning for early childhood development.

Role of education in changing attitudes and importance of teachers

Abdelazziz Mountassir, Le Syndicat national des enseignants (SNE) Morocco and Education International



While the importance of global instruments like the ILO Conventions, the Palermo Protocol, etc. in combating child labour cannot be underestimated, education too has an unsurpassed and essential role, especially by way of affecting behaviours and attitudes. This is especially important, because the causes and prevalence of child labour besides having social and economic dimensions also entail cultural dimensions. This is more applicable in case of agricultural and rural settings, where for children to be engaged in farm work is so bound-up in the culture and tradition. Thus, education can support in transforming attitudes and behaviours of families and

society in general.

There has traditionally been a resistance across different cultures and regions of the world to the idea that “helping out” on farms, particularly on family farms, can qualify as “child labour”. Agriculture is a way of life in which children work to learn their future trade. This “family farm” element in agriculture, that is so bound-up with culture and tradition, makes it difficult to acknowledge that children can be systematically exploited in such a setting and makes it difficult to reach for child labour action.

Teachers and their unions are important players in the fight against child labour. Teachers' unions, such as those which are members of Education International have continuously been working to defend the right to universal quality education of all children and their interventions encompass not only child labour but programmes and projects on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, corruption, etc. Further, given their linkages with children and education; and children and parents, families, society; teachers, trade unions and teachers' unions can also contribute in transforming behaviours of parents, their children and adults and society in general. Training and supporting teachers and their unions for an understanding of the political, cultural, economic and social implications of child labour will facilitate them in being effective agents of change.

Child labour is a complex issue, and with globalisation which has created demands for newer and more flexible form of labour, including child labour – it has become a rather more complicated concern. This calls for coordinated and harmonious action by NGOs, trade unions, teachers' unions and other civil society actors.

Experience of teachers' union in fight against child labour

Carolina Marta Abrales, Confederación de Trabajadores de la Educación de la República Argentina (CTERA)



Education is a universal human and social right, which is important for sustainable human development. Education is the main tool to build fairer societies with more developed and productive citizens enjoying greater opportunities. Education is the fundamental responsibility of the governments, and hence it can only be made available to all children if the government has the political will and adequate resources for the same. As a teachers' union that supports education of workers and other members of social organisations, CTERA is committed to the prevention and eradication of child labour in all its forms with a special emphasis on child

labour in agriculture.

CTERA is committed towards sensitisation of communities about the issue of child labour, its causes and consequences. It has been actively working towards dismantling the school of thought that it is culturally correct for the children to work. It supports decent work for adults and economic rehabilitation of families as a sustained step towards elimination of child labour in the long run. CTERA has been instrumental in spreading awareness about benefits of education. It has been in constant touch with the schools for keeping a watch on children that are likely to dropout so that they along with their families could be sensitised about the benefits of education. CTERA has been lobbying with the governmental agencies for upholding national and international commitments towards child rights and calls upon them to provide free, quality and compulsory education for children. An important facet that CTERA has been working upon is to pressurise governments to spend on early childhood care. CTERA calls upon the governments to raise the age of prohibition of child labour to 18 years and take appropriate measures to substitute the income generated by children with equivalent scholarship grants for advancing the fight against child labour. Lastly, it is actively involved in implementing the regional plan for eradication and elimination of child labour in the MERCOSUR region which encompasses Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The regional plan contains guidelines for developing a policy outlining the commitment made by states to prevent and eradicate child labour.

Eliminating child labour to promote right to food and food security

U Roberto (Robin) Romano



The right to adequate food is said to be realised when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). However, right to food and food justice is often till date seen from the view of consumers, i.e., access to healthy food in a fair and democratic way. The right to food of the producers and growers of food is often undermined and hence violated. Over half a billion people who are hungry today are those who are part of the food system - small

farmholders, waged agricultural workers including agricultural child labourers working on farms in formal and informal sector, and their families. Ensuring the right to food will entail overcoming this prevailing dichotomy wherein the billions of hands that feed the rest of the world are themselves not assured of adequate food at all times.

In the context of child labour in agriculture, ensuring the right to food will have several implications. Firstly, it implies protecting children from exploitation in agricultural and rural settings. On one hand this entails ensuring that children below the minimum legal age of employment are withdrawn/removed from work on farms and fields. And on the other hand, for children legally allowed to work, it encompasses improving the health and safety conditions of farms and fields. However, a major challenge towards protecting child labourers in agriculture is to address the current child labour policy and approach of USA. The US supports and funds several interventions and projects on child labour across the globe. To address the problem of child labour and child trafficking in cocoa farms in West Africa, the US has mandated the Harkin-Engel protocol to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in cocoa growing within the next decade. However, back home, United States follows a different approach with regard to its domestic agricultural child labourers. Hundreds of thousands of children in America work in the fields, with lesser protection than that being received by children working in other sectors or for that matter being received by their peers working on cocoa fields in Cote d'Ivoire. For instance, the minimum legal age that a child can begin work in Cote d'Ivoire is 14 years while in the United States, it is 12 and sometimes even younger. While the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs lists 130 goods from 71 countries that should be banned under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, many American children doing the same work and under the same conditions for 17 of those listed goods have been found. This deplorable situation of child labourers in agriculture in the US arises from the loopholes in its federal law, i.e., the Fair Labor Standards Act, which in order to promote and protect its agricultural sector allows children to work on fields from a very early age in harmful conditions. Sadly, a proposal for a set of safety regulations that aimed at minimising harm to children hired to work in the fields were withdrawn in April 2012 by the US Department of Labor.

Secondly, it also implies addressing the lack of labour rights in agriculture. Agricultural workers are poorly organised vis-à-vis workers of other sectors. Unionising agricultural workers would help them in negotiating with employers for better conditions of work including higher wages, payment of overtime, and provision of other facilities. With enhanced income, families would be able to feed themselves well and not be compelled to send their children to work. Lastly, the issue of marginalisation of small farmers is also vital from the view of right to food and its linkages with child labour, given that small farmers are one of the highest users of child labour, especially family child labour.

There is a need to reform the skewed agricultural policies not only to ensure global food security and environmental protection but also to ensure the welfare of the agricultural population - farmers, workers and their families. For right to food of all to be fulfilled and for food justice to be meaningful and flourish, a broad and robust movement is needed - a movement that includes everyone and not just child labour advocates, so that the re-defined agricultural policy is the one that is sustainable, healthy and humane.





EXPERIENCES FROM REGIONS IN TACKLING CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE FROM FARMS & FIELDS TO CLASSROOMS

28-30 JULY 2012, WASHINGTON D.C., USA

CONFERENCE SUPPORTED BY:



This Section synthesises some of the experiences from different regions in addressing agricultural child labour.

Central America

Victoria Cruz, ILO-IPEC, Mexico

- It has been observed that there isn't enough exchange of information and shared learning among various stakeholders involved in the struggle against child labour. Such sharing is an important tool for collective action for eradication that has also been emphasised in Goal 8 of the UN Millennium Development Goals, viz., develop a global partnership for development.
- In the absence of social security and hunger at home, it has been seen that families are more prone to send their children to work. Working in agriculture sector does not require much expertise therefore it is often the most sought after sector where parents do not mind sending their children to work. Decent working conditions including the payment of fair wages are frequently denied to the workers making them more likely to send their children to work. Children of migrant parents engaged in agriculture and indigenous groups are all the more vulnerable to child trafficking and child labour. Such children and their families face exclusion from social security schemes and public welfare policies.
- It has been often observed that inaccessibility to schools coupled up with poor quality of educational services that are offered also comes in the way of eradication of child labour. Specific state run programmes for mainstreaming the excluded children into formal education are required urgently.



Anglophone Africa

Sybil Nandi Msezane, Sithabile Child and Youth Care Centre, South Africa

- In South Africa on the footsteps of apartheid, children of marginalised farmers face a peculiar problem of not being documented in the census carried out by the government. These children remain socially excluded and become prone to exploitation. Girls working at the farms are frequently abused physically and sexually.
- South Africa has ratified conventions related to minimum age of employment and worst forms of child labour. Further, even though there are legal mechanisms in place in South Africa, the enforcement of these laws remain a serious challenge, especially due to the inadequate number of labour inspectors responsible for law enforcement. It also takes considerable time for legislations to be enacted. Child trafficking bill for instance has been under discussion at the ministerial level for over ten years now. Interdepartmental coordination within the government also poses serious obstacles in formulating effective policies to counter child labour. There is



strong political will to make laws for countering child labour, but limited capacity of the implementing staff casts an impediment.

- There is also lack of quality research in South Africa to diagnose the problem of child labour and formulating effective policies to help child labourers and their families.

South Asia

Dilli Chaudhary, Backward Society Education (BASE), Nepal

- In Nepal more than 86 per cent of all child labourers work in the agriculture sector. On an average the children working in agriculture in Nepal drop out of school in grade 3 and get inadvertently drifted into the vicious circle of poverty, illiteracy and child labour.
- Land distribution system in Nepal has played a pivotal role in contributing to the prevalence of child labour and bonded labour. Land-holding rights are inefficient and are bent towards landlords with large land-holdings. The rich and influential landlords employ bonded child labour for tilling, sowing, reaping, harvesting and a range of other activities. Thus, the State should ensure effective mechanisms by linking land rights to a pledge for not using child labour and bonded labour.
- Nepal has ratified ILO Conventions 138 and 182 but the national laws related to child labour corresponding to these conventions are not enforced in letter and spirit by the state agencies. In this respect, there is a need for the ILO to follow up on the progress of commitments made by Nepal with respect to these two conventions for elimination of child labour. Further, it has also been observed that the time bound programmes run by the ILO in Nepal are essentially programme oriented leaving less scope for contribution to social development. This coupled up with lack of coordination between international donors and agencies has impeded the pace of development. Thus, Nepal as a nation needs sustained monitoring by the UN agencies and it also needs technical and financial support.



Central America

Rosa Maria Nieto Mejia, Asociación Compartir Honduras

- Asociación Compartir is currently running a project “Alto al trabajo infantil, mejor la escuela” (i.e., “Stop child labour and promote schooling”). All the children under the purview of this project (in the age group 7-14) support their family's income through various activities. The children spend 4-6 hours working. In between they spend about 2 hours for academic sessions. The children beneficiaries under this project belong to grade 1 and 5.
- The principal reasons for child labour to thrive are inaccessibility of education; poverty; and the



overall traditional beliefs that by working at an early age values can be instilled in a child that can enhance their employability in future. The general objective of this project is prevention and eradication of child labour in agriculture, through educational opportunities for the integrated development of the children. The specific objectives are sensitisation of key stakeholders in agriculture sector like civil society, government, employers' organisations, professional organisations and other related professionals. Yet another objective is to advocate for a flexible educational system guaranteeing easy access to children during the academic year. It is also envisaged to mobilise parents' opinion to prioritise education over child labour. Strengthening the networks of the municipality community in order to achieve sustainability is an important objective of the project at hand. For successfully implementing the project it is important to build political will of various stakeholders like government, corporate and civil society that have been identified as influential and who can assist in the implementation of a participatory plan for investment in education. Community participation is important to integrate children in the education system. Permanent strategies that link up to local, national and international organizations promoting policies related to education are being pursued.

- The project has been endorsed by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour. A network of organisations has been identified for strengthening the movement and fortifying the actions related to the project. Coordination and technical support between the governmental bodies towards implementation of actions is also fostered for accelerated action. Community awareness programmes and campaigns led by key actors on the issue of working children are held at frequent intervals. Community organisations and NGOs in the rural area are constantly working towards accelerating the results. Another key area of project implementation is training the teachers about self-esteem and the role of the guardians/tutors with the working child. Educational and sensitisation material for 8 participating schools is regularly provided for strengthening the mentoring process.
- Some of the expected outcomes of the project are increased student retention and lowering the incidences of inaccessibility of children to quality education programs; strengthening the capacity of indigenous people on the issue of education with direct linkage to educational policies and programs; building and promoting in a participatory way the safety measures that must be adopted to protect the workers and children; generation of employment and decent work for the adults for increasing their livelihoods; and accurately capturing the data related to child labour so that it could be offered to state authorities for effective policymaking.
- Asociacion Compartir is assisting National Institute of Statistics at Honduras for conducting surveys which in turn would yield insightful statistics for impact assessment of the project. Additionally, the organisation is also imparting regular training sessions to key actors about the national laws corresponding to Conventions No. 169, No. 138 and No. 182 of the ILO and also about the UNCRC.

Francophone Africa

Honoré Boua Bi Semien, IPEC, Côte d'Ivoire

- The fight against child labour in agriculture is complex. The wide spectrum of socio-economic issues in the agriculture sector makes policy and program implementation difficult in various countries. However, a systematic approach, based on knowledge of stakeholders and taking into consideration the values involved is an appropriate approach for making substantive headway.



- In Africa various activities have been carried out towards elimination of child labour in agriculture across the countries. Awareness and empowerment of communities to differentiate between permissible and the non-negotiable and non-acceptable child labour including the awareness against the misuse of children in the agriculture sector has been an important part of the agenda. Hundreds of local vigilance committees (LCVs), community committees for the protection of children have been formed in various countries, providing impetus to the fight against child labour in agriculture to yield conclusive results. In some African countries these committees have even been formally recognised by the local administration.
- Special emphasis is being provided for enhancing the knowledge of stakeholders about the phenomenon of child labour (including conducting quantitative and qualitative studies on child labour) for strengthening the national commitment against the work of children, particularly in the agriculture sector. More often than not it has been observed that supporting a campaign or a plea by statistics, testimonies and images collected on the ground, impart more credit to the action and facilitates a better understanding and commitment of political authorities and catalysts of the changes like trade unions, employers' organisations, NGOs, etc. The ILO-IPEC has thus supported the realisation of national studies on child labour in the countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Benin, Burkina), thus capturing accurate data related to child labour. In Côte d'Ivoire, the household survey 2008 allowed to obtain statistics related to child labour on a national scale which further strengthened the sense of national ownership for the fight against child labour. This has also establishment a culture of periodic studies on various facets of child labour. These studies must be integrated into a broader policy framework aimed towards the development of the country.
- In West Africa, ILO-IPEC has advocated for ratification of Conventions 138, 182; adoption of National Action Plan in the fight against the worst forms of child labour (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Togo, Burkina Faso, Benin); strengthening the institutional framework for the fight against child labour (like it happened in Côte d'Ivoire). IPEC actively advocates for developing the list of hazardous occupations and adoption of laws against worst forms of child labour. This activism has led many countries like Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire making Central Directorates for the fight against child labour. Thousands of children that have been withdrawn from work have been supported with education.
- Knowledge about occupational health and safety at fields is disseminated to adults. IPEC has been instrumental in the creation of a platform for trade unions to foster the decent work agenda and activism against child labour in Côte d'Ivoire. The challenges that have been faced thus far are funding for the trade union platform; slow paced strengthening of the community approach by the local vigilance committees; lack of envisaging an improvement in the income of farmers has not been as envisaged and in adequate coordination amongst different actors for a unified fight against child labour in agriculture.

Anglophone Africa

Henritta Namava, Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union (KPAWU), Kenya

- According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) report of 1998/1999, there are 1.9 million children aged between 5-17 years involved in child labour in Kenya. Agriculture and other related activities have majority of child labourers, i.e., approximately 56 per cent while domestic labour and related services have 17.9 per cent. The CBS report also revealed that 19.2 per cent of the children in the 5-17 years age bracket work full time, 43 per cent work half



time and 43.3 per cent are seasonal workers. The report also reveals that child labourers are underpaid with an average monthly income of KSh.1, 828 (US\$ 24), while adults earn an average of KSh.4, 818 (US\$ 62) with obvious gender disparities in favour of males. The Kenyan government introduced free primary education in 2003 which has seen more than 1.3 million children going to school. This was expected to dramatically reduce the number of child labourers in Kenya.

- The Kenya Plantations and Agricultural Workers Union (KPAWU) is an affiliate of the national trade union centre of Kenya - the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU (K)). The main objective of the KPAWU is to protect and safeguard workers' fundamental rights and interests both at the work place and in society. KPAWU organises workers in the fishing, tea plantations, coffee plantation, sisal plantations, horticulture and mixed farming sub-sectors. KPAWU has 25 branches nationally in all the eight counties in Kenya.

KPAWU's achievements in the fight against child labour and its worst forms in the agricultural sector

- Currently, KPAWU works towards incorporating clauses in collective agreements that inhibit employers from hiring children in their firms. It also ensures that the shop floor union officials monitor the implementation of these collective agreements. This has worked as a preventive measure for direct engagement of children in the labour force.
- During organisation and recruitment meetings, the industrial relations department of KPAWU takes the initiative to sensitise and encourage workers to send their children to school and not to employ children in their household as long term measure to alleviate the social vices and also as a menace to workers themselves since, child employment undermines and weakens the trade unions negotiating power since children are ready to accept minimal pay for the same job.
- It has endeavoured to mainstream child labour topics in their training curriculum through their educational and gender departments. Topics on OSH and children above the minimum age of employment (i.e., 17-18 years) have also been mainstreamed in the training curriculums to promote the technical knowhow and capacity building of workers between the age of 17-18 years and the general workforce in OSH matters in the agricultural sector.
- KPAWU has also taken initiative for tackling the issue of helpers in the tea sub-sector. Helpers are labourers who are not employed by respective companies but assist the employed workers to perform the daily tasks and increase the output. This makes children vulnerable as some workers use children as helpers. KPAWU has condemned this practice and sensitised workers to enable them to recognise that this practice weakens the union's bargaining power and furthermore leads to social exploitation of children and adults by inhibiting decent employment.
- In the *Support of the National Action Plan (SNAP)* programme that KPAWU has recently started (from 1st June 2012) with the ILO-IPEC to create child labour free zones in Kenya, a new dimension has been incorporated to build networks with other collaborating partners like the media and others to ensure that all the loopholes that encourage child labour and its worst forms are sealed.
- KPAWU has adopted the COTU (K) child labour policy to serve as a guide in the fight against child labour and its worst forms.





CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

This Section presents the conclusions and the final remarks made at the International Conference.



Conclusions

The two-and-half day International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture entailing thematic plenary sessions, experience and good practices sharing sessions, participatory workshops, and expert comments from prominent activists and organisations led to an immense understanding of the issue at policy, national and grassroots levels. The interactive structure of the International Conference facilitated and encouraged knowledge sharing amongst unions, farmers organisations, cooperatives, NGOs, teachers' organisations, international organisations, and other stakeholders attending the event.

The discussions and deliberations at the International Conference as well as the specific suggestions on tackling child labour in agriculture solicited from the participants for preparation of the outcome document – all culminated in the drafting and adoption of the Framework of Action. The Framework of Action – the outcome document of the International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture was unanimously approved by all the participants. The Framework entails the collective commitments of all the stakeholders for action towards tackling child labour in agriculture. The Framework also supports in the build-up and preparation of the next Global Child Labour Conference which is to be held in Brasilia, Brazil in 2013. An open invitation for the 2013 Global Conference was received from the Government of Brazil that was presented by a representative from CONTAG, Brazil.

The text of the Framework of Action adopted at the International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE

“FROM FARMS & FIELDS TO CLASSROOMS”

28-30 JULY 2012, WASHINGTON D.C., USA

Framework of Action

This International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture (28-30 July 2012, Washington D.C., U.S.A.):

- organised by the Global March Against Child Labour;
- and attended by 156 participants from governments, intergovernmental agencies, trade unions, teacher organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), agriculture producers organisations (hereafter referred to as APOs), cooperatives, multi-stakeholder initiatives and corporations from over 39 countries.

RECOGNISES THAT a strong and sustained worldwide movement against child labour is essential to attain the elimination of child labour and in particular of the worst forms of child labour by 2016 (as required by The Hague Roadmap adopted in 2010), in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the relevant ILO Conventions.

FURTHER RECOGNISES that all children have to be protected from all forms of violence and abuse. Children are the subject of rights and any action that is oriented to eliminate child labour in agriculture should include their voices, opinions and promote their participation.

NOTES THAT:

- 60 per cent of all child labour takes place in agriculture i.e. over 129 million girls and boys aged between 5 and 17 years working in agriculture many of them in hazardous work;
- child labour in agriculture occurs in both developed and developing countries, and is related to rural poverty and the precarious situation of families in rural communities;
- agriculture remains a sector in which limited progress has been made to address child labour and where programmes are under-developed, especially in respect of hazardous child labour, forced and bonded labour, child trafficking, small-scale agriculture, neglected sub-sectors and local value chains;
- children in rural areas can undertake multiple types of work in the rural economy.

ALSO RECOGNISES THAT agriculture is a sector with significant decent work deficits in particular:

- agricultural workers, both self-employed and hired, are often denied their core rights to belong to and be represented by a trade union;
- labour legislation sometimes excludes or has lower requirements for agricultural workers;
- agriculture is one of the three most dangerous sectors to work in and the sector with the highest rate of fatal accidents;

- many millions of workers are migrant, seasonal or temporary workers in extremely precarious situations and as such are frequently victims of forced labour;
- there is a need to develop and implement integrated policies that address the root causes of child labour in agriculture.

WELCOMES the contributions towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture from:

- trade unions both through direct actions against child labour and through the promotion of decent work for adults and youth and sustainable livelihoods;
- NGOs by combating child labour including its worst forms in agriculture, creating awareness, community mobilisation and promotion of all children's rights;
- governments through speedy ratification of the ILO's child labour conventions, policies and promotion of various child protection programmes;
- intergovernmental organisations in advancing labour rights and child rights, creation of knowledge and its management and strengthening social dialogue;
- multi-stakeholder initiatives by promoting trade union, civil society and business collaboration;
- employer organisations and businesses in creating awareness on the issue of child labour in agriculture.

NOTES the importance of harnessing the untapped potential of APOs and cooperatives to combat child labour in agriculture.

FURTHER RECOGNISES that the following are integral to ensuring the elimination of child labour:

- a conducive legislative environment and policy framework;
- protection of child rights;
- universal free quality basic public education;
- decent employment and decent wages and work for adult workers;
- food security, the right to food and sustainable rural livelihoods;
- the rights of workers to organise and to bargain collectively in free, independent trade unions;
- the rights of farmers to form their own independent organisations;
- gender equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination;
- good safety and health laws and their enforcement;
- adequately resourced and funded labour inspection.

Conference participants therefore COMMIT to renewed action to end child labour, particularly in agriculture, and CALL UPON the following stakeholders to commit to key actions;

The Global March Against Child Labour

To strengthen the worldwide movement against child labour, this Conference CALLS ON the Global March through its trade union representatives and civil society partners and members to commit to:

- strengthening its partners' and members' capacities to tackle child labour in agriculture in their communities/countries/regions in particular, and all forms of child labour in general and promoting coordination and cooperation of all parties engaged in combating child labour in agriculture, including with national social partners' organisations;
- complementing the existing work with trade unions by working more closely with the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF) and Education International (EI) on elimination of child labour and improved rural education;
- identifying and initiating dialogue with APOs and cooperatives in selected countries to tackle child labour on smallholder farms;
- engaging with campaigns and organisations advocating for the right to food to include child labour

elimination as a key indicator of the right to food;

- initiating media and social media contacts to support campaigns and advocacy and to become actively engaged in publicising both advances and obstacles in tackling child labour in agriculture;
- advocating with government and inter-governmental organisations for greater investment in education, especially universal free quality basic public education in rural communities, with special focus on girls;
- work more closely with the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (<http://www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-child/international-partnership>);
- actively pursue the implementation of this Framework of Action.

Trade unions

Trade unions act as a first line of defence against child labour and abusive labour practices in their businesses, workplaces and communities. They represent a critical force in the fight to end exploitation of children by ensuring that adults earn decent wages and that allow them to send their children to school, and that adult and young workers have decent conditions of work.

This Conference therefore CALLS UPON trade unions, in particular the IUF and its affiliates to:

- increase activities to ensure that multi-national enterprises (MNEs) in IUF sectors commit to and work on elimination of child labour in their supply chains including, where appropriate, commitments to elimination of child labour in collective bargaining agreements and international framework agreements;
- negotiate for better childcare provision both public and in the workplace;
- work for improved occupational safety and health (OSH) for all in agriculture, including through campaigns for the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 184 on safety and health in agriculture. For children above the minimum legal age of employment in their country, this would help to transform hazardous child labour into decent youth employment;
- negotiate to expand the remit of legally required joint worker-employer OSH committees to cover the contract farmers in company supply chains, including for the systematic training of farmers on OSH and in particular on how to conduct risk assessments;
- support the use of innovative OSH outreach programmes e.g. roving safety representatives, to address child labour in rural communities;
- advocate for properly resourced, effective labour inspection in agriculture;
- participate in monitoring the incidence of child labour in agriculture including through collective agreements and engagement in the development and implementation of community based child labour monitoring systems;
- fulfil their mandate in tripartite mechanisms which oversee the implementation of national policy;
- combat precarious work, outsourcing and piece-rate payments.

Companies and multinational enterprises

Companies (local and national) and multinational enterprises have the prime responsibility to control rigorously their agricultural workplaces and supply chains to ensure that child labour is not used.

This conference CALLS on companies and MNEs to:

- commit to eliminating child labour in their agricultural workplaces and supply chains and to ensure that their business practices meet that purpose;
- respect freedom of association and the effective right to collective bargaining;
- fulfil their legal obligations to have safe and healthy workplaces which would transform hazardous child labour into decent youth employment;
- where there are legally required joint worker-employer workplace safety and health committees,

plantation/farming companies should fulfil their due diligence obligations in their agricultural supply chains by expanding the role of their workplace health and safety committees to help the companies' contract farmers and their workers to stop using child labour;

- for children above the minimum age for employment, help transform hazardous child labour into decent youth employment;
- support the systematic training of farmers, and personnel in APOs and cooperatives in the enterprises' supply chains, on basic occupational safety and health risk assessment techniques.

Non-government organisations (NGOs)

Ranging from global networks with pan-regional presence to national/local NGOs, NGOs with their wide networks and/or grassroots reach are rightly placed to tackle the problem of child labour at both the policy and ground level.

This Conference therefore CALLS upon NGOs to:

- increase their contributions in creating, updating and implementing national hazardous work lists in regards to agriculture, in collaboration with trade unions and employers' organisations;
- advocate for realising the right of all children to universal free quality basic public education, as well as related and underlying rights, including birth registration;
- participate in monitoring the incidence of child labour in agriculture, particularly the hardest-to-reach categories such as girls, indigenous, migrant, trafficked and forced child labourers, and assist in their withdrawal, rehabilitation and education;
- advocate for systematic training of farmers and personnel in APOs and cooperatives, on basic occupational safety and health risk assessment techniques;
- advocate more systematic involvement of agricultural extension officers and their networks in the elimination of child labour;
- promote partnerships with the trade unions, employers, agricultural producers and cooperatives, as well as with businesses at all levels of the supply chains
- advocate for solutions to family poverty by working with families and rural communities.

Agricultural Producers Organisations (APOs)

By working to promote farmers' welfare through farmer friendly practices and policies, APOs have a key role to play in making agriculture a sustainable and child labour free occupation for farmers, especially smallholders.

RECOGNISING the lack of systematic involvement of APOs to date in combating child labour, conference participants:

COMMIT to strengthening their dialogue and cooperation with APOs to help them combat child labour in agriculture and stimulate the outreach, and development of APOs where they are non-existent;

CALL on Global March to promote systematic dialogue and cooperate with APOs and their national, regional and international bodies to eliminate child labour in agriculture.

Cooperatives

With activities being guided by membership-driven, cooperative and not-for-profit values, agricultural cooperatives serve as natural allies in the global movement against child labour. Cooperatives and the cooperative movement have an important, but as yet unharnessed, role to play in the elimination of child labour worldwide.

This Conference therefore CALLS on the cooperative movement to promote systematic dialogue and cooperate with agricultural cooperatives and their national, regional and international bodies to eliminate child labour in agriculture, and encourage democratic cooperativism as an important vehicle to achieve this.

Intergovernmental organisations, agencies and programmes

With a vast global reach and resources, intergovernmental organisations and agencies can significantly contribute to the action against child labour in agriculture by providing technical expertise on development matters, conducting research, and mobilising financial resources among other things.

This conference URGES intergovernmental organisations, agencies and programmes to:

- focus their efforts, and strengthen their cooperation, to combat child labour in agriculture, also by including it as an objective for any relevant support or lending;
- provide and harmonise technical and financial assistance to support efforts to end child labour in agriculture;
- improve research, data collection, documentation and knowledge management on child labour in agriculture in collaboration with governments, research institutions, trade unions, employers and civil society;
- promote inter-sectoral and inter-agency dialogue and cooperation to converge policies and programmes for elimination of child labour, promotion of education for all, the right to food and food security and overall poverty reduction.

Governments

Governments have an obligation to guarantee human rights, including fundamental rights at work, and therefore have primary responsibility in eliminating child labour by applying and enforcing national legislation, including agricultural and rural development policies. Governments should mainstream child labour elimination as an explicit objective in all relevant policies, ensure adequate technical and financial support and resources in their implementation, and enlist support from donor countries and development agencies, including by promoting South-South cooperation.

This Conference URGES governments to strengthen their efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture by:

- guaranteeing access to universal free quality basic public education for all children, on the basis of effective birth registration, focusing in particular on the hardest-to-reach, including the children of migrants and seasonal workers;
- increasing efforts to overcome the gender and urban/rural gap in education;
- fully involving trade unions, employers' organisations, and NGOs in their activities to eliminate child labour in agriculture, particular in the national hazardous work lists;
- strengthening national legislation on child labour in agriculture as well as its application and enforcement;
- promoting the introduction of a national Social Protection Floor, especially for rural and farmer families, as a comprehensive social policy approach promoting integrated strategies for providing access to social services and income security for all;
- ensure effective labour inspection in agriculture, with special focus on child labour elimination, and ratify ILO Convention 129;
- providing financial assistance to combat child labour proportionate to the size and location of the problem of child labour in agriculture;
- collaborate with the social partners and other relevant stakeholders in removing the barriers which rural women face;
- addressing the structural causes of child labour in agriculture, by promoting sustainable agriculture and child labour sensitive agricultural and rural development policies and instruments.

The Global March Against Child Labour CALLS ON all parties referred to in this document to take full account of its content in their preparations for the Global Child Labour Conference to be held in Brazil in 2013.

Closing remarks

This was followed by the closing session and the remarks from the international delegates and the representatives from the US government.

Reflections from Latin America for follow-up strategies

Virginia Murillo Herrera, Global March Regional Coordinator for Central America



Based on an analysis of the various debates that took place, certain reflections were presented that could provide valuable inputs in the follow-up strategies of the International Conference.

Human rights based approach

While in the fight against child labour in the agriculture sector several stakeholders are involved coupled up with a whole gamut of factors like labour relations, productivity and trade, prime focus must be placed on people. People have human rights and that they should be the centre of the action and not a mean to achieve

other actions. The human rights of the persons who are under age, i.e., of children form a part of a normative framework of international protection and guarantee that is conferred by the virtue of Convention on the Rights of the Child which majority of the countries have signed and ratified and forms the basis of national regulations. Additionally there are other complementary international standards as are the various conventions of the ILO and other policy frameworks that the States have been signing and implementing.

The actions of the governments and other actors like NGOs, local groups, etc that are aimed at the fight against child labour in the agriculture sector cannot lose sight of a strong conviction of participating in the processes of bringing about a change and transformation towards improving the lives of child labourers and their families. Therefore, it is necessary to listen to these stakeholders-whose very lives are being affected, lend them a voice, consider their opinions and proposed demands and involve them actively in the different processes and stages of the actions that are undertaken.

Working adolescents

The minimum age of admission to employment and guaranteeing the labour rights are the battles that ILO and other actors have been fighting for protecting the children and adolescents from all forms of economic and labour rights' exploitation. However, same is not the case when it comes to decent work for adults and working adolescents. It is necessary to remember that the condition of a person in his/ her teens and developing professional capabilities requires special attention and protection and should be evaluated in the same light as the employment rights of adults. That means contemplating differentiated hours of work, types of work allowed and working conditions not hindering their development. And in particular efforts should not only be made for the sake of enabling adolescents to complete their schooling so that they do not fall into the cycle of poverty and are deprived of better opportunities for their educational and vocational development and subsequent employability.

Similarly, attention must be paid towards the urgent need of working for adolescent workers dropping out at secondary levels. The conflict between the ages of compulsory education with that for admission to employment can lead to a possible abandonment of adolescent education. While this is not to discourage the work of

adolescents, one must be cautious enough to contribute towards the culmination of their academic cycle so that they do not get drifted in the cycle of poverty and cannot enjoy decent working conditions as adults. On the other hand is the challenge of working for the compulsory nature of the universal education which is not limited to the age of 15 or the third cycle, but should be up to the closing of the cycle, thus providing the adolescent girls an opportunity to earn a high school diploma.

Implications of the human rights approach, roles, obligations and responsibilities

States cannot shirk their obligations and responsibilities in guaranteeing human rights to all children and adolescents living in the country. Their actions must contribute directly to achieving the human rights. In that sense the States must be clear that the guarantee of human rights involves four major legal obligations: the obligation to RESPECT, PROMOTE, PROTECT and to FULFIL.

- a) The obligation to Respect: It means creating the conditions and necessary reforms in the institutions for their compliance with the normative framework and that they be must be provided with resources for achieving their objectives. It means to assume an approach of recognition of human rights as something important and central. It also means to recognise that people have human rights that should be respected by the State and all the actors, like social citizenship is acknowledged since birth.
- b) The obligation of Promoting and Protecting: It requires that the State provides conditions and capabilities to the families so that they can fully dispose their central role in the upbringing of their children. It also means promoting awareness of human rights that pertain to the people, creating a national system of multi-sectoral, inter-agency, local, regional and national level policies, programs articulated and integrated to nurture and protect the development of children and adolescents taking into consideration the condition of a person in developing his/ her abilities especially when under the legal age of employment.
- c) The obligation to fulfill: This can be subdivided into obligation to facilitate, promote and ensure. The obligation to facilitate requires that States Parties take positive measures to assist individuals and communities to exercise their rights. The obligation to fulfill requires that the State Parties adopt the necessary measures for fully exercising human rights. This obligation includes, inter alia, the need for recognition of the rights as national political and legal subject matter.

However just having the rules in place is not enough if they do not transform the contexts, societies, institutions, and the budgets in order to be able provide impetus to cultural changes and deep rooted patterns promoting violent and abusive practices. In that sense public policies are a step to transform and improve the contexts for ensuring human rights as these policies are funded for such implementation and development. However, many public policies and programmes for the protection of child rights and combating child labour do not reach the rural areas. They discriminate against the so-called "excluded groups". Further, it is also not enough to have a policy for the human rights of children and adolescents if it is not combined with an economic policy that promotes decent work and fights poverty with a rural developmental approach.

Children and adolescents in the rural world

While all human rights are for all children and adolescents these are usually not the same when put into action. This aspect must be taken care of while developing any action plan for children and adolescents. The family experiences and socialisation, considering the differences in labour oriented activities must be viewed before formulating an approach and methodology. In the rural world, families and their children are engaged in different forms of livelihood strategies and even within same family children may perform different forms of child labour. For that reason one cannot work in a compartmentalised manner without integrating all the realities in which families live.

Non Governmental Organisations and the fight against child labour

Lastly, the role of NGOs in the elimination of child labour needs to be reaffirmed. NGOs unlike other actors work under very adverse situations with unorganised groups and especially with populations reeling under extreme vulnerability. NGOs work in the informal sector where the incidences of worst form of child labour and economic and exploitation of the workforce are endemic. In addition, they help to mobilise the opinions of different actors, operating at the policy advocacy level. Many a time, NGOs perform tasks that the States themselves do not want to do.

There is a need to continuously promote the inclusion of NGOs in the fight against child labour and establish a dialogue and openness to ensure an efficient and harmonious articulation and coordination with the tripartite structure that includes NGOs as a necessary and key component in all the actions that are aimed at elimination of child labour.

USDOL's global efforts for elimination of child labour

Eric Biel, Associate Deputy Undersecretary, US Department of Labor



The US Department of Labor's Bureau of International Affairs (ILAB) is undertaking various efforts for the elimination of child labour which primarily include research and direct interventions/technical assistance.

Under research, ILAB's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT) annually produces a report on the *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor* which is mandated under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. As per the list for 2011, agricultural sector has the largest number of child labourers as out of the 119 goods listed

in 'produced by child labour category', 56 are agricultural goods made with child labour. To improve data and share knowledge on the issue of child labour, especially in agriculture, the OCFT publishes annually the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* (defined under ILO Convention No. 182), a report mandated by the Trade and Development Act of 2000. The report gives information on the nature of the problem of child labour, various government efforts and gaps in these efforts, the status of resources mobilised and commitments made by 144 nation states. ILAB also funds various researches through the International Labour Organization's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor to broaden the knowledge base for all stakeholders. This includes supporting national surveys that helps governments to capture the prevalence and patterns of child labour in countries and directly supporting the ILO in gathering its global estimates on the number of children engaged in all forms of work.

In terms of direct interventions, the ILAB has various grant programmes that fund field projects on child labour in agriculture. Such programmes have helps to identify sustainable projects and good practices for replication as well as to understand the grassroots dynamics of various stakeholders, viz., business, civil society, government, etc. In addition to such programmes, the ILAB supports funding to the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture to better integrate child labour into different international organisation's policy and programmatic functions. ILAB also supports innovative public-private partnerships for tackling child labour such as the work in the cocoa sector in West Africa.

Recognise labour rights and provide equal opportunity to all children

Barbara Shailor, Special Representative, US Department of State



The rights of all working people have long been recognised as in the ILO's conventions as core and basic human rights. But, given the current state of the global economy, it is an economic imperative to address with utmost urgency the fulfillment of all labour rights in practice such as guaranteeing freedom of association and collective bargaining, overcoming discrimination, and eliminating the worst forms of child labour. The economic meltdown has pushed more workers around the world into the informal economy, where many are labouring in factories and fields with little protection and many of them are victims of forced labour, trafficking

or other forms of modern day slavery. In such a scenario, as proven by various researches respecting workers' rights can lead to positive, long-term economic outcomes, including higher levels of foreign direct investment. Raising wages will enhance the buying power of workers which would benefit businesses. Further, bringing workers, especially women, into the formal economy can result in ripple effects - inequality will decline while mobility will increase, taxes will be paid, countries and communities will get stronger and will better be able to meet the rising expectations of their people.

Every child irrespective of her or his socio-economic background has unlimited potential to make a valuable contribution to society upon adulthood, no matter what vocation she or he chooses. In case of child labourers, what is lacking is not their inherent potential and talent, but the opportunity to nurture this potential through a safe and healthy childhood and a good quality education. Eliminating child labour will imply providing all children with this equal opportunity.

Child labour is a symptom of the inequities in the global supply chains of agricultural products and foods

Baldemar Velasquez, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, USA



Child labour is not a problem in itself, rather it the symptom of the inequities that are created in the supply chains of agricultural products and foods by corporations to marginalise the players at the bottom-end of the chain – workers including migrant workers and small family farmers. Workers are often exploited and offered little protection. As for small farmers, they too have little bargaining power to negotiate the prices of their produce. As a result of this marginalisation, families have little choice but to send their children to farms and fields to work in order to eat and survive.

In case of child labour in US agriculture, the inequities that create child labour are complemented by national labour laws and policies. It is well known that there are loopholes in the Fair Labor Standards Act which allows children to work on farms and fields. An instance where the Act circumvents child labour law is in the case of

cucumber growing wherein the Act treats all workers as independent contractors or as self-employed. As a result of this, all children working in cucumber growing are interpreted as working on their own family farms which in turn is allowed as per the Act. These children don't receive welfare and social security benefits from the employer-farmers due to their status of independent contractors. Further, agricultural child labour has also occurred due to the unintended consequences of the US farm bill passed in 2002 that increased the subsidies to farmers. While these subsidies were essential for the survival of small family farmers, they displaced several farmers in Mexico on account of the NAFTA negotiations. As a result of this, many Mexican farmers have migrated to the United States with their families and children to work in farms and fields. Thus, combating child labour has to entail the major task of addressing the implications of various agriculture policies on farmers, workers and child labourers at the local, regional and global level, while also paving the way to put in place child-friendly policies. Lastly, it also has to entail addressing the inequities in the global supply chains with the collective involvement of all stakeholders, i.e., corporations, manufacturers, retailers, governments, farmers and workers.

Sí, se puede ! Yes, we can: We can make child labour history

Kailash Satyarthi, Global March Against Child Labour



The International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture has led to immense and fruitful learning amongst and from the different stakeholders – trade unions, grassroot NGOs, teachers' organisations, international organisations, multi-stakeholders initiatives, and others on the issue of agricultural child labour. The collective commitments for tackling child labour in general, and in agriculture specifically, upheld by all the stakeholders and participants at the International Conference which are enshrined in the Framework of Action are commendable. They will support in carrying the work of the International

Conference forward with the participants using the Framework of Action for advocating with governments, inter-governmental organisations, etc., to stir child labour elimination efforts and actions at national and local levels. Upholding the collective commitments of the Framework and implementing the actions arising therefrom will serve as preparations for the Global Child Labour Conference to be held in Brazil in 2013.

Several success stories and good practices in tackling child labour that have been shared at the International Conference by the participants from Africa, Asia and Latin America indicate that it is possible to completely eliminate child labour and make it an issue of the past. It is possible to have supply chains where there is zero presence and engagement of child labourers. To ensure that all the goods and products that we consume are child labour free is achievable and doable. For all this, we to build a strong worldwide movement against child labour. The last few years have witnessed what can be said to be a “child labour fatigue” with reduced attention and consideration for this issue. A re-energised global movement with a vibrant civil society at grassroot levels is imperative to make progress on the issue. Also, this calls for support from governments both in political and financial terms. More funds and resources need to be mobilised towards the child labour portfolio which is very small vis-à-vis HIV/AIDS, education, etc.

Annexure 1

Programme

International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture

Saturday, 28 July 2012

09.00 am – 10.30 am

Official opening and welcome

Chair: Tim Ryan, Solidarity Center, and Global March

Welcome Remarks by Tim Ryan

Introduction of the Chief Guest by Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson,
Global March Against Child Labour

Opening Address by

Les Kettledas, Deputy Director-General, Labour Policy and International
Relations, Ministry of Labour, Republic of South Africa

Fred van Leeuwen, General Secretary, Education International

Geronimo Venegas, President IUF Agricultural Trade Group

Constance Thomas; Director, ILO-IPEC

Chief Guest, Senator Tom Harkin, United State Senate

Kailash Satyarthi, Global March Against Child Labour

10.30 am – 10.50 am

Coffee break

10.50 am – 11.20 am

Chair: Tim Ryan

**Presentation of Global March working paper for the conference, key areas and
messages** - Peter Hurst

Presentation of the methodology for achieving outcomes from the Conference –
Sue Longley, IUF

Discussion

11.20 am – 13.00 am

**Panel & Plenary discussion - Eliminating child labour in agriculture – the
challenges & the context**

Chair: Assefa Bequele

Gaps in the legal protection against child trafficking and slavery in agriculture:
Bhuwan Ribhu, Bachpan Bachao Andolan

Lack of labour rights in agriculture: Rafael Sandramu, TOTAWUM

Small farmers - not in debate: participant from farmers organisation: Mariame
Yaya, Coopérative Agricole Kavokiva du Haut Sassandra (Cote d'Ivoire) and José
Américo Saviñón Sánchez, (Sugar producers, Mexico)

Child labour in US agriculture: Norma Flores Lopez, Association of Farmworker
Opportunity Programs & Zama Coursen Neff, Human Rights Watch

13.00 pm – 14.30 pm

Lunch

14.30 pm – 15.45 pm

Parallel Workshops – finding solutions

Mainstream child labour concerns in agricultural policy

Facilitator: Paola Termine, International Partnership for Cooperation on Child
Labour in Agriculture

Addressing child labour in neglected sub-sectors

Facilitator: Bernd Seiffert, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

**Identifying networks and organisations to work with on elimination of child
labour in agriculture**

Facilitator: Virginia Murillo Hererra, DNI Costa Rica; and Global March

15.45 pm – 16.00 pm

Coffee break

16.00 pm – 17.30 pm

Chair of session – Ana Vasquez, CESIP; and Global March

Workshop report backs and plenary discussions

Chair's summary of the day

Discussion

Sunday, 29 July 2012

09.00 am – 10.30 am

Chair – Simon Steyne, ILO-IPEC

What works – good practices and experiences from regions and sectors/crops

Presenters:

Andrews A Tagoe, GAWU, Ghana

Tania Dornellas dos Santos, CONTAG, Brazil

Sonia Velazquez, ECLT Foundation, Switzerland

Daphne G. Culanag, A2BK/WorldVision, Philippines

Baldemar Valasquez, FLOC USA

Discussion

10.30 am – 11.00 am

Coffee break

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Parallel Workshops – good practices

Moving from hazardous child labour to decent youth employment

Facilitator: Vicki Walker, Winrock International and Bright Appiah, Child Rights International, Ghana

Using supply chain leverage to eliminate child labour in agriculture

Facilitator: Tim Ryan, Solidarity Center and Benjamin Smith, ILO-IPEC

Trade union action to eliminate child labour in agriculture

Facilitator: Paulomee Mistry, GALU, India and Peter Bakvis, ITUC-Global Office Washington DC

12.30 pm – 14.00 pm

Lunch

14.00 pm – 14.45 pm

Chair – Haddid Said, Union Generale de Travailleurs Algeriens (UGTA)

Presentation of the workshop reports and discussion

14.45 pm – 15.45 pm

Chair – Camila Croso, Global Campaign for Education

Education a key tool for elimination of child labour

Robert Prouty, Global Partnership on Education

Abdelazziz Mountassir, SNE Maroc; and Education International

Carolina Marta Abrales, CTERA

Protecting children in agriculture and Right to Food

Eliminating child labour to promote right to food and food security:

U Roberto (Robin) Romano, photographer-journalist

15.45 pm – 16.00 pm

Coffee break

16.00 pm – 17.30 pm

Chair – Cleophas Mally, WAO Afrique; and Global March

Participants' experiences in tackling child labour in agriculture

Victoria Cruz, IPEC Mexico Central America

Sybil Nandi Msezane, Sithabile Child and Youth Care Centre, Anglophone Africa

Dilli Chaudhary, BASE Nepal, South Asia

Rosa María Nieto Mejía, Asociación Compartir con los niños y niñas de Honduras, Central America

Honoré Boua Bi, IPEC Cote d'Ivoire, Francophone Africa

Monday, 30 July 2012

09.00 am – 09.20 am

Summary of the discussions – Frans Roselaers, Global March

09.20 am – 11.00 am

Presentation of the outcome document on collective commitments to end child

labour in agriculture – Sue Longley, IUF and chair of conference drafting committee

Discussion on the outcome document – Moderated by Frans Roselaers

11.00 am – 11.30 am

Coffee break

11.30 am – 12.30 pm

Chair – Kailash Satyarthi, Global March

Official closing

Virginia Murillo Herrera, Global March Regional Coordinator for Central America

Eric Biel, Associate Deputy Undersecretary, US Department of Labor

Barbara Shailor, Special Representative, US State Department

Baldemar Velasquez, FLOC

Vote of Thanks by Kailash Satyarthi

12.30 pm – 13.30 pm

Lunch

Annexure 2

List of participants

Abby Mills

American Federation of Teachers, USA

Abdelazziz Mountassir

Syndicat Nationale de l'Enseignement, Morocco

Abha Duggal

Global March Against Child Labour, India

Adama Coulibaly

Ministry of Employment, Cote d'Ivoire

Adeline Lambert

International Labor Rights Forum, USA

Adrienne DerVartanian

Farmworker Justice, USA

Alan Spaulding

Social Accountability International, USA

Alice Huguette Koiho-Kipré

Afrique secours et Assistance, Cote d'Ivoire

Alisha Hassan

World Cocoa Foundation

Ana Victoria Vásquez

Centro de Estudios Sociales y Publicaciones, Peru

Andrews Addoquaye Tagoe

General Agricultural Workers' Union, Ghana

Anja Westberg

Swedish Municipal Workers Union, Sweden

Anthony Turyahebwa

National Organisation of Trade Unions, Uganda

Antoine Ebel

Interpreter, USA

Assefa Bequele

African Child Policy Forum, Ethiopia

Bahati Nzunda

PROSPER ECLT Project, Tanzania

Baldemar Velasquez

Farm Labor Organizing Committee, USA

Barbara Shailor

US Department of State, USA

Benjamin Smith

ILO-IPEC, Switzerland

Bernd Seiffert

Food and Agriculture Organization, Italy

Bertha Vargas Guevara

Instituto para el Desarrollo de la Mujer y la Infancia, Panama

Bhuwan Ribhu

Bachpan Bachao Andolan, India

Biko Nagara

Goodweave, USA

Bjorn Claeson

International Labor Rights Forum, USA

Brian Campbell

International Labor Rights Forum, USA

Bright Appiah

Child Rights International, Ghana

Camilla Croso

Global Campaign for Education, Brazil

Carolina Marta Abrales

Confederación e Trabajadores de la Educación de la República Argentina, Argentina

Caroline Schmidt

Global Partnership for Education, USA

Chari Vors

Interpreter, USA

Christopher Wakiraza

Kids in Need, Uganda

Claudia Ximena Calero Cifuentes

Asocana, Colombia

Cleophas Mally

WAO-Afrique, Togo

Constance Thomas

ILO-IPEC, Switzerland

Daphne G. Culanag

WorldVision-A2BK, Philippines

David Hircock
Estee Lauder, USA

Diane Mull
International Initiative to End Child Labor, USA

Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary
Backward Society Education, Nepal

Dorianne Beyer, Esq.
Labor & Monitoring Consultants, USA

Douglas Pike
American Society of Journalists and Authors, USA

Edwin B. Cisco
Firestone Agricultural Workers Union of Liberia, Liberia

Eileen Muirragui
US Department of Labor, USA

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Green America, USA

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Evangelina Alvarez
Farmworker Justice, USA

Flavio Goulart
Japan Tobacco International, USA

Frans Roselaers
Global March Against Child Labour, Netherlands

Fred van Leeuwen
Education International, Netherlands

George Mwika Kayange
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Malawi

Geronimo Venegas
Union Argentina de Trabajadores Rurales y Estibadores,
Argentina

Haddid Said
Union générale des travailleurs Algériens, Algeria

Helen Toth
International Center on Child Labor and Education, USA

Henrietta Namava Nakhulo
Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union, Kenya

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ILO-IPEC, Cote d'Ivoire

Imelda C. Ochavillo
WorldVision, Philippines

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ECLT Foundation, Switzerland

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Jose Americo Savinon Sanchez
Unión Nacional de Cañeros A.C. Mexico

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Julie Porter
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Kailash Satyarthi
Global March Against Child Labour, India

Karima Mkika
Association AL KARAM, Morocco

Katherine A. Hagen
Hagen Resources International, Switzerland

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WorldVision, USA

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Media Voices for Children, USA

Leo Hosh
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Argentina

Luiz Machado
ILO, Brazil

Magdalena Tisnes
Union Argentina de Trabajadores Rurales y Estibadores,
Argentina

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Marcia Eugenio
US Department of Labor, USA

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d'Ivoire

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Coalition for Excellence in Digital Storytelling, USA

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Cotton Campaign, USA

Matthew Stephens
WorldVision, USA

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Mexico

Miriam Inez Gomes Gonzalez
Fundación Mundo Mejor, Columbia

Mitsuko Horiuchi
Bunkyo Gakuin University, Japan

Muriel Guigue
International Cocoa Initiative, Switzerland

Nazir Ahmed Ghazi
Grass-root Organization for Human Development, Pakistan

Nina Smith
Goodweave, USA

Noortje Denkers
International Labour Organization, Costa Rica

Norma Flores Lopez
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, USA

Octavio Carbajal Bermudez
Confederación Nacional de Obreros y Campesinos, Mexico

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International Trade Union Confederation, USA

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Global March (Consultant), Switzerland

Priya Panth
Global March Against Child Labour, India

Priyanka Ribhu
Global March Against Child Labour, India

Purva Gupta
Global March Against Child Labour, India

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Embassy of Brazil, Washington D.C., USA

Raphael B. Sandramu
Tobacco Tenants and Allied Workers' Unions of Malawi,
Malawi

Reid Maki
Child Labor Coalition, USA

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Farmworker Justice, USA

Robert Prouty
Global Partnership for Education, USA

Robin Romano
Photo-journalist, USA

Roger Nkambu Mavinga
ILO-IPEC, Democratic Republic of Congo

Rohit Sharma
Global March Against Child Labour, India

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Asociación Compartir con los niños y niñas de Honduras,
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