

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Child, Youth and Survivor
Consultations for the 6th
Global Conference on the
Elimination of Child Labour



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To our leaders, your support has helped children like me to return to school, gain skills and find hope. Please do not stop investing more in ending child labour, invest in education, invest in young people and address poverty. We understand the knowledge given to us. We appreciate it.

- Child Labour Survivor from Uganda

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Emanuel's words echo the major concerns raised through the consultations for the upcoming conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. It sets the tone for the collective messages shared by children, youth, and survivors across regions.



1. Background and Purpose

On World Children's Day on 20th November 2025, two global online consultations were held with children, youth leaders, survivors of child labour, and civil society organisations as part of the preparations for the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour (Morocco, 2026). These consultations created a critical space where children and survivors could speak directly about their lived realities, the challenges they continue to face, and the changes they believe are necessary to end child labour in their communities and beyond.

Participants joined from Indonesia, Uganda, Bangladesh, Chile, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, representing diverse sectors such as agriculture, domestic work, fishing, and construction.

Additionally, this outcome document also includes the voices and call to action from SAIEVAC & SACG - Consultation for 6th Conference on child labour. These children represent diverse social groups from various countries across Asia and the Asia Pacific, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. with the common objective of ending child labour through decisive action.



2. Key Outcomes and Thematic Insights from the Sessions



Poverty and the Absence of Social Protection as the Root of Child Labour

Across all regions, children and survivors consistently identified poverty as the single most powerful driver of child labour. Families struggling to meet basic needs often rely on children's income to survive. This need is aggravated in the absence of reliable social protection systems. Participants therefore stressed that without strong, well-funded social protection systems for vulnerable families, efforts to eliminate child labour will remain fragile and incomplete.



Education as the Most Effective Pathway Out of Child Labour

Education emerged as the most consistent and urgent priority. Survivors who had successfully exited child labour repeatedly reflected that access to education, through free schooling, scholarships, or flexible learning opportunities was the turning point in their lives. **The participants clearly demonstrated that universal access to free, quality, safe, and inclusive education is not only a right, but also the strongest long-term safeguard against child labour.**



The Need for Meaningful, Not Tokenistic, Child and Survivor Participation

Young participants stressed that **they are frequently invited to consultations but rarely see their inputs reflected in actual policies or programmes.** The speakers highlighted a strong demand for safe, inclusive, and sustained spaces for child- and survivor-led engagement at local, national, and **global levels.** They called for mechanisms that allow children not only to speak, but also to shape decisions and hold duty bearers accountable.



Collaboration among key stakeholders

The participants in the Asia and Pacific region highlighted the need for collaboration between the local and international actors. Governments need to work together in collaboration with the civil societies to implement and learn from their best practices. Additionally, donors and international organizations need to prioritize child labour in their advocacy efforts.



Persistence of Hazardous and Exploitative Labour Across Sectors

Children and survivors described working in agriculture, domestic work, fishing and construction under dangerous and abusive conditions. These testimonies underscored the severe gaps that still exist in labour inspection systems, enforcement mechanisms, and child protection services. Participants consistently called for stronger monitoring, accountability, and survivor-sensitive protection responses. Survivors from the Asia and Pacific region emphasised on the need to formulate and implement stronger laws against child labour and exploitation in accordance with the ILO conventions. This includes training local authorities to identify and respond to child labour cases and ensuring justice system is child friendly and easily accessible.



The Importance of Community Awareness

In many communities represented in the sessions, child labour was described as a normalised practice, particularly in rural and agricultural settings. The survivors highlighted the importance of **sustained community-level awareness efforts, parental education on child rights, and the engagement of traditional, religious, and local leaders in shifting harmful norms and practices.**



Livelihood Security for Families as a Foundation for Sustainable Change

Families require access to decent work, skills training, fair markets, and basic infrastructure to reduce their dependence on children's labour, especially women-headed households and families affected by migration. It was evident that livelihood support must be seen as an integral part of child labour elimination strategies, alongside education and social protection.



Survivor Rehabilitation, Skills Training, and Long-Term Support

Survivor reintegration into society is only possible through psychosocial support, access to education, vocational and skills training, mentorship, and peer support. These services help restore confidence, dignity, and future aspirations. Participants stressed that **without long-term follow-up and support, survivors remain at high risk of re-trafficking and re-entry into exploitative labour. Survivors also expressed a strong desire to contribute as peer educators, mentors, and advocates for other children.**

3. Collective Messages and Expectations from the Morocco 2026 Conference

Children and survivors called for concrete commitments that translate into real change in their daily lives. They stressed the need for **universal access to free and quality education, strong social protection systems that prevent families from depending on children's income, meaningful participation of children and survivors in policymaking, and effective enforcement of child labour laws.** They also called for sustained investment in family livelihoods, survivor rehabilitation, and community-wide awareness to address the social and economic roots of child labour.

Participants expressed a clear expectation that the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour must move beyond declarations and instead deliver time-bound, adequately funded, and accountable actions. They urged governments, international agencies, and civil society to work together in close partnership with children and survivors to ensure lasting impact.

Children and survivors reiterated that they do not seek sympathy, but systems that work. They called for dignity, safety, education, and real opportunities to shape their own futures and live their childhoods freely. They urged world leaders to listen to their experiences, invest in their potential, and act with urgency so that future generations of children are not forced to endure the same hardships.

Key Demands

- 1 Free and quality education for every child.
- 2 Strong social protection for children and their families.
- 3 Real participation of children and survivors in decision-making processes.
- 4 Stricter enforcement and better implementation of anti- child labour laws.
- 5 Better livelihood and decent work for families.
- 6 Long-term, sustainable support for child labour survivors.

5. Conclusion

The child, youth, and survivor consultations reaffirmed that the elimination of child labour is both an urgent moral imperative and an achievable goal. The sessions demonstrated that children and survivors possess deep insight into the causes of child labour and the solutions required to address it sustainably. Their collective experiences make clear that education, poverty reduction, social protection, enforcement of laws, and meaningful participation must form the core pillars of all future action.

The Morocco 2026 Conference represents a critical opportunity to transform these shared experiences and demands into measurable global commitments. The success of the Conference will ultimately be judged by whether the promises made result in tangible improvements in the lives of the world's most vulnerable children.