**Call for action: ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders**

**Collection of contributions received**

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# Topic note

**2021 is the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in light of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.7 that seeks to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025.**

**152 million boys and girls are still trapped in child labour worldwide, and 71% or 108 million of them are working in agriculture.**[[1]](#footnote-1)**The impact of the** current COVID-19 pandemic on agri-food systems is exacerbating rural poverty and leading to an increase in child poverty, school dropout and food insecurity.[[2]](#footnote-2) [[3]](#footnote-3) Children are being increasingly involved in working activities to compensate labour gaps and income losses in food and agricultural production.[[4]](#footnote-4) This situation is likely to reverse progress and undermine efforts to eradicate rural poverty (SDG 1), achieve zero hunger (SDG 2), and eliminate child labour (SDG 8.7).

**T**he Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, pledges to intensify efforts for ending child labour in agriculture: ‘*'This year, we will step-up our efforts to strengthen the capacities of a wide range of agricultural actors to include child labour prevention and youth employment in their work*''[[5]](#footnote-5).

In 2020, **FAO released the** [FAO Framework to Eliminate Child Labour in Agriculture](http://www.fao.org/3/ca9502en/ca9502en.pdf)[[6]](#footnote-6) to support and upscale action of agricultural stakeholders[[7]](#footnote-7) in the elimination of child labour in agriculture. **Moreover, FAO launched an online consultation** on the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition: “[How can agricultural policies and strategies help to end child labour in agriculture](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/addressing-child-labour-agriculture)?”[[8]](#footnote-8). Practitioners from 41 countries shared 90 contributions, highlighting diverse issues of child labour in agriculture, and lessons learned and good practices from agricultural stakeholders. The consultation showed the importance of taking a multisectoral approach to eliminate child labour in agriculture through school feeding programmes, adequate resource management, women’s empowerment, cash transfers and digitalization, among others. Building on these findings and FAO’s Framework, this Call for Action is another step towards FAO’s contribution to the International Year.

**This Call for Action aims to capture and recognise the commitment, responsibility, and efforts of agricultural stakeholders in addressing child labour in agriculture, and to build momentum towards more concerted action at local, national and global level.** It will give agricultural stakeholders the opportunity to indicate **what actions** they or their organizations could take to increase action towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture and what **recommendations** they would provide to agricultural and other stakeholders. **The Call intends to give voice to a wide range of agricultural stakeholders and to highlight especially the situation and dynamics at the very local level in rural communities.**

**The ideas for action received will feed into the FAO regional consultations for the International Year to be held in September, and the FAO high-level Global Event on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture on 2-3 November 2021. They will also inform the design of specific child labour large-scale programmes, projects** and investments a**t country-level focusing on the different sub-sectors of agriculture and food systems at large.**

**The most impactful, innovative and relevant contributions to this Call for Action, and those submitted for the consultation held in 2020, will be showcased at the Global Event and participants will be invited to present them.**

**Please use the submission form to share your contribution. You can upload the completed form below or send it to** [fsn-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fsn-moderator@fao.org)**.**

**Submissions are welcome in all six UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese). The call is open until 14 June 2021.**

**Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.**

**Bernd Seiffert**

Decent Rural Employment Officer, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equity Division, FAO

# Contributions received

## Ahmad Mahdavi, University of Tehran/ and Sustainable agriculture and environment, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

On April 22 we had an online discussion about child labour in agricultural hazardous work particularly using children for pesticide spraying, etc. This is a very important issue, considering the high sensitivity of children to toxic pesticide we all need to work to stop it. Unfortunately, this is a very globally wide issue and hopefully that FAO and WHO take stronger actions to stop it.

**Children and pesticide exposure:**

Using children in pesticide work is happening in Rice paddies, Apple and citrus orchards and many other crops children may get involved directly or indirectly exposed to dangerous pesticides.

However, this problem is a developing country’s issue and perhaps you cannot find children in EU or North America doing ag.

In developing countries that is my experience the most important is enforcing laws and regulations. Awareness to small farmers in particular for mothers, in schools in rural areas, reading the label, Licensing and Certifications. Pesticide Related organizations are most responsible but also we expect more work and help from FAO/ WHO.

As we are observing growing numbers of NGOs, community workers, women groups now in developing countries so these groups should be more sensitized and informed about the issue, surely UN agencies should be prepared to give more opportunities to these groups particularly after the COVID time.

Please note that in many MENA countries NGO, community work, etc. is more difficult and sometimes dangerous.

According to my past research: Children have less developed detoxifying enzymes ….particularly the main enzymes Cytochrom-P450s and this make them more sensitive to toxic exposures

Ahmad Mahdavi, professor emeritus at University of Tehran,

Ph.D., entomologist/ ecotoxicologist/ ICT for agriculture and environment,

CMS preventing poisoning group, RAMSAR, WWN, SWS,

University of Tehran/ and Sustainable agriculture and environment.

## Olawale Olaniyan, West African Livestock Innovation Centre, Gambia

Dear Moderator,

In line with the Call for action on ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders, I will like to submit this important contribution toward the topic.

With my best regards

Olawale

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Olawale F. Olaniyan/male/University of The Gambia** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Child labour in animal farming: Insights from the developing African countries** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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|  |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **Africa/Gambia/Greater Banjul** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Livestock** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **Child labour is still entrenched in the agricultural production sector of most developing African countries. Notably, the activities along the animal husbandry chain starting from production to consumption are of major concerns. More specifically, the issue of child labour can be easily observed in the following areas:**   1. **Animal rearing/herding: Due to family farming pattern of ownership and inheritance of especially large animals such as cattle, children (mostly young boys in their teen ages) are vulnerable to being saddled with the responsibility of herding animals that belong to their father or family. These children who are supposed to be in the school are usually found in the pastoral field tending the animals. For few children in this category, they may partially attend local Arabic school in their early ages but the level of attainment is usually not enough to secure their future. Besides, some of them would have been so much engrossed in cattle herding at early age and continue the work until they are able to hand it over to their own children. This pattern makes the issue to be generational.** 2. **Processing and marketing of animal products: The activities indicated here are carried out by young girls below age 18. The girls are exposed to such activities at early ages while accompanying their mothers or elder sisters to the herds where milk will be collected from animals. Such children can be seen at home processing animal products or found along the main roadsides selling raw or processed animal products.**   **To combat hunger and malnutrition, these children have to sometimes work in the morning (gathering and processing food items) and evening (selling or processing) to meet their personal as well as family needs.**  **Sympathetically, some of these children are given out in marriage at early age either to their underage male (younger than 18 years) close relatives or to an adult (a male older than 18 years) as the second, third or fourth wife.**   1. **Climate change and environmental degradation: Agriculture in Africa being mostly rain dependent is very vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change. While the effects could be felt by every member of an agrarian community, young children because of their low adaptation capability and limited assets are particularly more vulnerable. One obvious issue in this regard is child labour in the form rural to urban migration which usually predispose these groups of people to work in the sectors which may be hazardous to their health and development in the long run. Some of these children are also found working in informal sectors of the economy where child labour is more prominent.** |
| **COVID-19 directly impacted the agri-food system in The Gambia through observable increase in the number of children involved in especially hawking and marketing of food items. At the peak period of COVID-19 in this country, schools and other institutions were on lock down but essential shops and retail outlets were allowed to operate conditionally. Particularly due to closure of schools, the children were compulsorily made to stay at home but unfortunately, that decision was a predisposing factor for child labour in some parts of the country. The children were notably covered in the media not observing the COVID-19 prevention rules while engaging in commercial activities in the urban and peri-urban areas.** |
| **Implemented activities in the country with regard to child labour (though some were not specific for agriculture) included:**   * Ratification of most key international conventions concerning child labor such as: * International Labour Organization Chapter 138, Minimum Age * International Labour Organization Chapter 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor * Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.   Source: DOL (2018). Findings on the worst forms of child labor. Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Department of Labor, United States. pp. 8.   * Enactment of policies or laws to regulate child labour. These include: * National Child Protection Strategy (2016–2020) * The Gambia and Senegal Trafficking Memorandum of Understanding. * Establishment of agencies to enforce child labour law such as: * National Coordination Committee on Child Labor * Community Child Protection Committees * Village Development Committees * Gambia Police Force Child Welfare Unit. * Contribution to relevant Agency’s activities. For instance, the International Labor Organization’s analysis of statistics from Integrated Household Survey on Consumption, Expenditure and Poverty Level Assessment, 2015–2016 |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **Efforts that need to be taken seriously toward elimination of child labour in agriculture include:**   1. **Research – Proven evidences concerning child labour in agriculture is very low in this country. Research activities need to be supported so as to generate data and information that cab guide decision making on this very important issue.** 2. **Enactment of specific policy to tackle child labour in agriculture. To my knowledge, there is presently no law or policy that specifically address this issue. Meanwhile, design and implementation of such a policy need to be based on adequate data which is presently not adequate.** 3. **Harmonization of existing regulatory institutions – The government need to increase efforts in ensuring that various agencies/institutions earlier indicated are work together to achieve the overall objective of eliminating child labour.** 4. **Awareness creation. Some of the people get involved in child labour for agricultural production are sometimes not aware of the implications of their efforts or activities. The government and other stakeholders need to increase sensitization and awareness creation.** 5. **In enforcing the existing laws and policies, the government especially, need to increase efforts in punishing people involved in child labour to serve as deterrent to others.** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| Some of the presently identified challenges include:   * Breaking the customary beliefs of the people involved in child labour. * Limited application of existing laws that prevent child labour. * Inadequate funding and infrastructure for data collection on child labour in this sector. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| 1. **Increased sensitization on the issue.** 2. **Sharing of good practices and lessons learnt among the stakeholders.** 3. **Increased effort to combat rural poverty, which is one of the key drivers of child labour in agriculture.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| * **Increased collaborations among these groups of stakeholders** * **Promotion of activities which have crosscutting effects among all the sectors where child labour is observed.** * **Provision of support for proper implementation of existing regulatory laws/polices and at the same time formulate news ones that can tackle emerging issues such as COVID-19 which can increase child labour.** |

## Santosh Kumar Mishra, Population Education Resource Centre, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (Previously known as: Department of Continuing and Adult Education and Extension Work), S. N. D. T. Women's University, Mumbai (Retired: on June 30, 2020), India

I am pleased to send you my contribution (in the attached submission form) on online consultation titled “Call for action: ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders”. The attached document runs in 24 pages (MS Word). I hope that you will find my inputs (on Call for action) informative and useful from academic and research point of view.

Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra (Ph. D.)

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| **Name:** Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra (Ph.D.)  **Gender:** Male  **Institution:** Population Education Resource Centre (PERC), Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (previously known as Department of Continuing & Adult Education & Extension Work), S. N. D. T. Women’s University, 1, Nathibai Thackersey Road, Mumbai-400020, Maharashtra, India (<https://sndt.ac.in>) (Retired on June 30, 2020) |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| **Need for International Partnership in Eliminating Child Labour in Agricultural Sector** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

|  |
| --- |
| Not Applicable |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| Asia/India/Mumbai, Maharashtra State |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

|  |
| --- |
| Not Applicable |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| * + **What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?**:   At this juncture, the contributor makes a specific point that neither the contributor (in his individual capacity) nor the organization the contributor was employed with previously, were (and are presently) directly or indirectly involved in projects aimed at eliminating (or ending) child labour in the agricultural sector. The contributor was employed with Population Education Resource Centre (PERC), Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension (previously known as Department of Continuing & Adult Education & Extension Work), S. N. D. T. Women’s University (SNDTWU), Mumbai, India (from where he retired on June 30, 2020). The contributor is responding to this Call for Action based on his experiences gained by (a) reading research reports and publications of several national governments, and inter-governmental agencies; (b) involvement in previous research projects (based on both primary and secondary data); (c) interaction with delegates of national and international conferences (that he has attended over the years), & students of the S. N. D. T. Women’s University (he was previously employed at); & (c) authoring manuscripts for journals and other academic and research purposes. In response to the above questions, the contributor presents following information:   1. **Issue of child labour in agriculture**:   Despite several national legislations and international conventions, the issue of child labour is a worldwide phenomenon. Millions of children around the world carry out work that harms their well-being, safety and health, and hinders their education, development and future livelihoods. Today, the fact remains is that children all over the world are being exploited, prevented from going to school, or pushed into work that endangers their health and normal development. In many regions, child labour is found mainly in agricultural contexts, where fatalities, severe accidents and diseases are common. Nearly 60% of all child labourers work in agriculture; a staggering 98 million of them. Usually, they are working, unpaid, with their family. Agriculture is one of the most dangerous sectors to work in at any age, and even more dangerous for children. It is largely unregulated and many agricultural workers are not organized in unions or producers’ organizations, making the agriculture sector particularly vulnerable to labour abuses. Children working in agriculture may have to use heavy machinery or sharp tools, be exposed to pesticides or harmful insects, and work for long hours and in extreme weather conditions.  [Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). (2015). “InfoStories: Child Labour in Agriculture”. Geneva: Switzerland: ILO (accessed on May 01, 2021 from: <https://www.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Stories/Child-Labour/Child-Labour-In-Agriculture#conclusion)>].   1. **Causes of child labour**:   In many nations (regions of the globe), especially in rural areas, children work for their survival and to meet the family’s need for cash, food, shelter and clothing. But the factors leading to child labour may be many and intertwined. In terms prominent of causes of child labour, there are two broad categories of regions. They can be termed as: (a) push factors, and (b) pull factors. Push factors, on the one hand, are comprised of six causes (or reasons) of child labour. Namely, (1) debt, (2) education, (3) low income, (4) remoteness, (5) shocks, and (6) tradition. They are specified below:   1. Debt: Families, sometimes, may find it difficult to obtain loans, when needed. In situations where they are able to get loans, they are compelled to pay off loans by putting their children to work. In still worst situations, children may be found to be working without receiving any payments. This particular situation of non-payment arises due to several reasons. However, the contributor does not wish to further elaborate these aspects, as it is beyond the objectives of this ongoing consultation (**Call for action**: **ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders**). 2. Education: In situations where education is under-valued, many parents may skip long-term investments in schooling (or training), and books for short-term solutions to generate income. Owing to extreme poverty situations, they need minimum amount of income in order to meet day-to0day household expenses. 3. Low income: Families may, often reply on children to supplement household income in order to meet basic needs. Notably, one such basic need is: “**food security”**. 4. Remoteness: With a shortage of schools in rural areas in many parts of the world, many children may not be able to access education. This type of situation exists in several rural parts of India, the contributor of this ongoing discussion is presently located in. In this context, it is pertinent to note that where schools do exist, commuting (from place of residence to school location) may be dangerous, especially for girl students. Its reason may be several, including war groups and terrorist organization. One example of this is ongoing extremely dangerous situation in Nigeria, wherein many cases school students, especially girls abducted or kidnapped. It is important to note in this context that this limited (inadequate) on no access to schooling pushes many children into other activities, such as agricultural activities. 5. Shocks: Under this category of push factors, there may be unpredictable and unpleasant events such as *“failed harvests”*, *“natural disasters”*, *or illness or death of breadwinners”*. When families are faced with these types of shocks, without social or financial assistance, they may turn to their children to bring in income needed to meet basic requirements of the household. 6. Tradition: Prevailing traditions also work as push factors that are responsible for child labour in agriculture. What it implies is that: *“children’s participation in agricultural activities as a way of life and necessary to pass on skills and knowledge, although it is characterized by a poor awareness of hazards”*.   [Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). (2015). “InfoStories: Child Labour in Agriculture”. Geneva: Switzerland: ILO (accessed on May 04, 2021 from: <https://www.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Stories/Child-Labour/Child-Labour-In-Agriculture#what-drives-children-into-agricultural-labour>).  Pull factors, on the other hand, take into account three indicators: (1) docility, (2) housing, (3) price, (4) labour supply, (5) quotas, & (6) size. Brief description of relevant dimensions of these sixpull factors responsible for child labour agricultural activities is presented below:   1. Docility: It is one of the prominent pull factors accountable for child labour in agriculture in many regions of the globe. Some employers prefer to employ child labourers. This is because of the fact that children are considered to be more docile, and are easily managed than adults. 2. Housing: In some plantations, children may only be allowed to live with their family if they (children) also work. 3. Price: Many small farms and rural enterprises **ARE NOT VERY** productive. They, thus, **OPERATE ON LOW MARGINS**. In order to keep their costs down, some employers may prefer child labourers who are paid less than adults or, in some cases, **NOT PAID AT ALL**. 4. Labour supply: It has been found that at peak times (like transplanting & harvesting crops in agricultural fields), the supply of adult workers may be stretched. This situation results in likelihood of increase in seasonal demand for child labour in the agricultural sector. 5. Quotas: In order to meet targets, parents and guardians may be pressured to involve children in agricultural activities. This situation is more evident in regions or areas where agriculture is backbone of economy, forming major source of income for the local farmers. It is pertinent to note here that children, sometimes, are involved not only in agriculture (as child labour), but also in allied activities, such as fishing and aquaculture. 6. Size: Generally, the perception exists that children’s nimble fingers are suitable for delicate tasks. Some of such delicate tasks include flower-cutting and fixing fishing nets. As indicated above (under quota as one of the full factors of child labour), fisheries activities form part of agriculture. The term “nimble’ implies here: *“able to move quickly and lightly”*. Perception of this type, which exists in some of the world, makes child labour seem more desirable.   [Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). (2015). “InfoStories: Child Labour in Agriculture”. Geneva: Switzerland: ILO (accessed on May 1, 2021 from: <https://www.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Stories/Child-Labour/Child-Labour-In-Agriculture#what-drives-children-into-agricultural-labour>].   1. **Consequences of child labour**:   The consequences child labour are staggering. The complicated issue of child labour can result in extreme bodily and mental harm, and even death. It can lead to slavery and sexual or economic exploitation. In nearly every case, it cuts children off from schooling and health care, restricting their fundamental rights and threatening their futures. Children on the move risk being forced into work or even trafficked; subjected to *‘violence’*, *‘abuse’*, and other human rights *‘violations’*.  Children may be driven into work for various reasons. Most often, child labour occurs when families face financial challenges or uncertainty; whether due to poverty, sudden illness of a caregiver, or job loss of a primary wage earner. Child labour can lead to slavery and sexual or economic exploitation. And in nearly every case, it cuts children off from schooling and health care, restricting their fundamental rights and threatening their futures.  [Source: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (2020). “Child Labour”. UNICEF (accessed on May 05, 2021 from: <https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-labour#:~:text=The%20consequences%20are%20staggering.,rights%20and%20threatening%20their%20futures>].  Children are exposed to accidental and other injuries at work. They should thus be protected to prevent social, economic and physical harm, which persist to affect them during their lifetime. Such injuries include:   * General child injuries and abuses like cuts, burns and lacerations, fractures, tiredness and dizziness, excessive fears and nightmares. * Sexual abuse, particularly sexual exploitation of girls by adults, rape, prostitution, early and unwanted pregnancy, abortion, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS, drugs and alcoholism. * Physical abuse that involve corporal punishment, emotional maltreatment such as blaming, belittling, verbal attacks, rejection, humiliation and bad remarks. * Emotional neglect such as deprivation of family love and affection, resulting in loneliness, and hopelessness. * Physical neglect like lack of adequate provision of food, clothing, shelter and medical treatment. * Lack of schooling results in missing educational qualifications and higher skills thus perpetuating their life in poverty. * Competition of children with adult workers leads to depressing wages and salaries.   Apart from the above, lack of opportunity for higher education for older children deprives the nation of developing higher skills and technological capabilities that are required for economic development/transformation to attain higher income and better standards of living. Poverty and its related problems are some of the main causes of child labour. Children are paid lower wages than adults, not unionized, and do not demand workers’ rights. They are also thought by some to be more efficient in certain types of work, though this has not been demonstrated. Thus, these people tend to prefer child workers to adults. The other main cause of child labour is cultural values.  [Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). (2021). “Causes and Consequences of Child Labour in Ethiopia”. Geneva, Switzerland: ILO (accessed on May 05, 2021 from: <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Regionsandcountries/Africa/WCMS_101161/lang--en/index.htm>].  Further, child labour affects not only the lifelong outcomes of the working child, it also affects the working child’s siblings and other family members. More broadly, a high incidence of child labour has a cost for the economy as a whole by favouring unskilled labour over increased investment in human capital and slowing down the diffusion of technologies that require skilled workers. The expansion of international trade and enticement of foreign investments may also be affected as the export and import sectors are mainly composed of relatively skilled workers. While there are potential positives from child labour in terms of consumption support and on-the-job experience accumulation, most of the evidence reviewed highlights that working while young is costly for both the child and the child’s country.  Sustainable Development Goal target 8.7 aims to eradicate child labour in all its forms by 2025. Before this deadline, the objective is far from being achieved since in 2016, about one-in-ten children (152 million in total) aged 5 to 17 were engaged in child labour worldwide, many of them as unpaid family workers in agriculture. Nearly half of the children in child labour were in hazardous work and exposed to serious health and safety risks. Moreover, about one-third of children in child labour do not attend school at all; the others go to school, but not all the time. Children in child labour are more likely to leave school early before grade completion, and underperform in school tests.  [Thévenon, Olivier; & Edmonds, Eric (2019). Child labour: “Causes, consequences and policies to tackle it” (OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 235). Paris: France: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCED). (accessed on May 7, 2021 from: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/f6883e26-en.pdf?expires=1620386485&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=F2D5D248023E794CA6DE87C19BCE1E5C>].  Child labour, particularly in hazardous jobs, creates health problems that have repercussions on physical and/or mental health status in adult life (among which are back problems, arthritis, reduced strength and stamina). Although roughly two-thirds of labouring children are enrolled in school, a large body of evidence shows that working children are more likely to leave school early, before grade completion, and demonstrate less knowledge in tests. Countries with the highest child labour rates show lower school completion rates. By leaving school early, young people give up competences that later allow them to enter jobs with a steeper wage growth trajectory. Child labourers usually live in a family setting, and one child’s activities impact siblings. Some child labour keeps siblings from working. For example, when work is prohibited for a child, the risk of another child in the family working is increased. However, there are cases where having a sibling attending school increases the probability that a child attends school. Identifying the circumstances in which the spill-over is positive or negative remains a work in progress. Since most child labour is unskilled, its prevalence contributes to lower wages for unskilled workers. In addition, by increasing unskilled labour, it contributes to the adoption of production methods that are unfavourable to skill accumulation and to the diffusion of technological advancement which ultimately reduces the potential of economic growth. Finally, far from creating a tradeable comparative advantage, child labour can damage not only a company's image but also that of a country, its foreign investment and trade if the power of consumers adverse to child labour is strong enough to influence the demand for the goods in question.  [Thévenon, Olivier; & Edmonds, Eric (2019). Child labour: “Causes, consequences and policies to tackle it” (OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 235). Paris: France: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCED). (accessed on May 7, 2021 from: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/f6883e26-en.pdf?expires=1620386485&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=F2D5D248023E794CA6DE87C19BCE1E5C>].  Child labour is a facet of poverty and is strongly correlated with the level of development. However, variations in the proportion of children at work at a given level of economic development indicate that there is scope for influencing child labour and its most undesirable forms beyond poverty reduction. Selected key facts and figures (that depict nature and extent of child labour issues, from across the regions of the globe) are presented in the Box-1 below:   |  | | --- | | * **Box-1:** *Child Labour: Facts and Figures at a Glance*  1. Worldwide, an estimated 246 million children are engaged in child labour. 2. Some 180 million children aged 5–17 (or 73% of all child labourers) are believed to be engaged in the worst forms of child labour. 3. Of these children, 5.7 million are forced into debt bondage or other forms of slavery, 1.8 million are forced into prostitution or pornography and 600,000 are engaged in other illicit activities. 4. Children working in the home of a third party or ‘employer’ are extremely vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. ILO estimates that more girls under age 16 are in domestic service than in any other category of work or child labour.   [Source: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (2006). “Child protection Information Sheet: Child Labour”. UNICEF (accessed on May 05, 2021 from: <https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/ChildLabour.pdf>]. |   Ending child labour requires a multifaceted approach. Economic development, to the extent that it is driven by technological innovation that makes it possible to do without child labour, is a key element to combat child labour. However, it is not enough if there are not measures that prohibit bad practices and provide viable alternatives to lift people out of extreme poverty.  The active engagement of many stakeholders is necessary to combat child labour. NGOs and community-based organizations play an important role in disseminating information about the harmful effects of child labour on families and businesses, working with families and children to prevent and mitigate the effects of child labour, and in lobbying actors who can take action against child labour. International cooperation is also an important lever to encourage countries to fight more actively against child labour and to implement the increasingly indispensable cross-border policies in globalized economies  [Thévenon, Olivier; & Edmonds, Eric (2019). Child labour: “Causes, consequences and policies to tackle it” (OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 235). Paris: France: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCED). (accessed on May 7, 2021 from: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/f6883e26-en.pdf?expires=1620386485&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=F2D5D248023E794CA6DE87C19BCE1E5C>].  It is often difficult to measure the prevalence of child labour, but available estimates suggest that the number of labouring children has declined since the early 2000s. However, the progress recorded has slowed markedly in recent years, and child labour is even tending to stagnate and grow again in some parts of the world despite the SDGs' goal to eradicate child labour by 2025. This shows the need to better support countries in their efforts to combat child labour and to ensure that it is an objective shared by all countries. Chart given in Box-2 below shows nature of issue of child labour.   |  | | --- | | * **Box-2:** *Chart Depicting Vicious Circle of Child Labour*   Child Labour in India: Causes, Consequences, Laws | UPSC Essay - IAS EXPRESS  (Source: <https://i1.wp.com/www.iasexpress.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/child-labour.jpg?ssl=1>, accessed on May 5, 2021) |  1. **Direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact your work is having on child labour in agriculture**:   This questions is not applicable to me, as I, as outlined above, am not involved with actual ground level work or initiatives aimed at eliminating child labour.   * + **Has COVID-19 had an (in) direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?**:   Indeed, child labour in the agri-food system has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in India, the country I am located in. Recent years have seen significant progress in the fight against child labour. The current COVID-19 pandemic, however, can potentially reverse the positive trends observed in several countries and further aggravate the problem in regions where child labour has been more resistant to policy and programme measures. The level of global economic integration and the current crisis are likely to have a large and possibly lasting worldwide adverse socio-economic and financial impact. The pandemic is increasing economic insecurity causing disruptions in supply chains, falling commodity prices, in particular oil, and halting the manufacturing industry. The financial markets have been particularly affected, tightening liquidity conditions in many countries and creating unprecedented outflows of capital in many economies.  [Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF (2020). “Report: COVID-19 and child labour: A time of crisis, a time to act”. Geneva, Switzerland: ILO and UNICEF (accessed on May 04, 2021 from: <https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-labour#:~:text=The%20consequences%20are%20staggering.,rights%20and%20threatening%20their%20futures>].   * + **If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results**:   Answer to this question is not applicable, as either the contributor nor his organization [Population education Resource Cenre (PERC), Department of Lifelong Leaning & Extension (DLLE), S. N. D. T. Women’s University (SNDTWU), Mumbai, India, he was employed at previously] is not associated with child labour elimination initiatives. This point has already been made above. Also, as specified previously, the contributor (Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra) retired from the PERC, DLLE, SNDTWU on June 30, 2021. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| As cited previously, answer to this question is not applicable, as either the contributor nor his organization [Population education Resource Cenre (PERC), Department of Lifelong Leaning & Extension (DLLE), S. N. D. T. Women’s University (SNDTWU), Mumbai, India, he was employed at previously] is not associated with child labour elimination initiatives. However, in this section of this ongoing consultation (titled “**Call for action: ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders**”) the contributor, in his individual capacity, (a) aims to address (or increase efforts towards) the elimination of child labour in agriculture, and (b) presents below plan and recommendations in this important area of child labour.   1. Addressing the Issue of Child Labour in Agriculture:  * There is need to addressing child labour in agriculture in order to reduce poverty. Today, the fact remains is that child labour is a cross-cutting issue interplaying with strategic programmes of all stakeholders to end poverty and hunger, particularly in rural areas, where child labour is frequent. In addressing child labour in agriculture, two considerations need to be given special attention, and researched into. Description of these two issues are outlined below: * *How poverty and child labour are interconnected*: Many low-income households in rural areas find it difficult to meet their immediate basic needs and to achieve sustainable livelihoods. This condition is particularly worsened by the impacts of climate change as they merely increase the already-prominent levels of vulnerability of rural communities relying on healthy ecosystems for their subsistence. They see no way other than to engage children to supplement or substitute adult labour. In many cases, children are pulled out of school to engage in agricultural labour, or their performance at school suffers. They are less likely to find decent work when they are older, less likely to adopt new practices and technologies and innovate if they remain in agriculture, and more prone to be trapped in poverty and suffer the long-term effects of the hazardous conditions they faced as children. This has a negative impact on communities and perpetuates a vicious cycle of poverty. * *Breaking the vicious cycle*: Ending child labour in agriculture can be achieved through prevention and reduction. Preventing can mean enabling rural children to benefit from healthy development, education and training. This allows them to have increased economic potential once they become youth and adult producers or employees, and be more likely to adopt new, sustainable practices and technologies if they remain in agriculture. Skilled youth are in a better position to bargain and negotiate working conditions if waged workers, or to gain access for selling their commodities if young entrepreneurs. In turn, this will increase the productivity of the agricultural sector as well as the availability, quality and capacity of a skilled workforce leading to better incomes and enhanced food and nutrition security.   [Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2020). “FAO framework on ending child labour in agriculture”. Rome, Italy: FAO (accessed on May 7, 2021 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9502en/CA9502EN.pdf)>].  The exploratory rapid review finds that child labour in agriculture is a global issue, with the agricultural sector accounting for the majority of child labourers. Across regions and countries agriculture is usually the main sector for children’s economic activity. However, there is considerable variation in the prevalence of child labour between and within countries. Agricultural child labour is mainly unpaid work on smallholder family farms, but is also found on commercial farms and plantations as well as through forced and trafficked child labour. Child labour is involved in crop production, livestock (including herding) and forestry as well as fishing and aquaculture. There are more boys than girls in agricultural child labour, and both tend to start young, sometimes before 10 years old. Girls tend to combine agricultural and domestic duties, and their work is more invisible, while male adolescents are more likely to be in hazardous work in agriculture than their female peers. Children from poor households, ethnic minorities, migrants and families with HIV/AIDS or disabled members are particularly vulnerable to agricultural child labour. Other drivers include agricultural dependency, social norms and a lack of higher returns to basic schooling. Almost 60 per cent of girls and boys (aged 5–17 years) in hazardous work are found in agriculture. Situations of heightened harm and danger include forced and trafficked child labour for agriculture as well as conflict and emergency situations. Nevertheless age-appropriate tasks can contribute to children’s well-being and development – in particular in rural contexts with a lack of returns to formal education, labour-intensive agricultural livelihoods and social acceptance of child labour.  [Source: Knowledge, Evidence and Learning for Development (K4D) (2017). “Prevalence and impacts of child labour in agriculture”. Brighton, UK: K4D (accessed on May 7, 2021 from: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ba50ae140f0b6053af73b71/95_96_child_labour_in_agri__revised_20.10.17_.pdf>].   1. Recommendations (Suggested Actions) for Elimination of Child Labour in Agriculture:   In order to scale up initiatives aimed at preventing and eliminating child labor, in particular the worst forms in the agricultural sector, with a special focus on indigenous children, following plan of action can be suggested:   * Strengthen the legal, institutional, and policy frameworks to prevent and eliminate child labor, particularly the worst forms in the agricultural sector. * Build the capacity of social partners to implement actions to eliminate child labor in agriculture. * Increase the knowledge base to inform efforts of key actors to combat child labor in agriculture. * Implement and document pilot direct action interventions for withdrawal and prevention of children from exploitive labor in agriculture. * Provide quality and relevant education and social services to prevent or withdraw children from exploitive child labor in the agriculture sector. * Support government efforts to harmonize national laws and regulations with international labor standards. * Strengthen the capacity of labor inspectors and other relevant actors to enforce child labor and occupational safety laws. * Promote the adoption of policies and action plans to combat child labor on the state and national levels. * Increase technical capacity of workers’, employers’, and farm workers’ organizations to address child labor. * Create a knowledge and information toolkit on child labor in agriculture to promote awareness among key social, media, and government partners   [Source: Bureau of International Labour Affairs (2014). “Stop Child Labor in Agriculture:" Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor in Mexico in the Agricultural Sector, with Special Focus on Migrant Indigenous Children”. Washington, DC, USA: Bureau of International Labour Affairs (accessed on May 7, 2021 from: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/stop-child-labor-agriculture-contribution-prevention-and-elimination-child-labor>]. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| 1. **Challenges in Child Labour in Agriculture:**   Poverty is the main cause of child labour in agriculture, together with limited access to quality education, inadequate agricultural technology and access to adult labour, high hazards and risks, and traditional attitudes towards children’s participation in agricultural activities. Especially in the context of family farming, small-scale fisheries and livestock husbandry, some participation of children in non-hazardous activities can be positive as it contributes to the inter-generational transfer of skills and children’s food security. It is important to distinguish between light duties that do no harm to the child and child labour, which is work that interferes with compulsory schooling and damages health and personal development, based on hours and conditions of work, child’s age, activities performed and hazards involved.  Participation in some agricultural activities is not always child labour. Age- appropriate tasks that are of lower risk and do not interfere with a child’s schooling and leisure time can be a normal part of growing up in a rural environment. Especially in the context of family farming, small-scale fisheries and livestock husbandry, some participation of children in non-hazardous activities can be positive as it contributes to the inter-generational transfer of technical and social skills and children’s food security. Improved self-confidence, self-esteem and work skills are attributes often detected in young people engaged in some aspects of farm work. Therefore it is important to distinguish between light duties that do no harm to the child and child labour, which is work that interferes with compulsory schooling and damages health and personal development, based on hours and conditions of work, child’s age, activities performed and hazards involved.  [Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) (Year of publication not mentioned). “Child Labour in agriculture”. Geneva, Switzerland: ILO (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Agriculture/lang--en/index.htm#:~:text=Limited%20coverage%20of%20agriculture%20and,formal%20contracts%2C%20continuity%20between%20rural>].   1. **Main obstacles Faced by Agricultural Stakeholders:**   The plight of these children is inextricably linked to the challenges of promoting rural development and decent employment in the agricultural sector. Poverty in rural communities is a significant factor in pushing children into child labour. The specific situation of children labouring in agriculture is not widely known or understood. Many people think that children who work on farms or on fishing boats, for example, enjoy a healthy outdoor life compared to the many who toil in sweatshops or work as domestic servants. But this is not at all the case. Children in child labour in agriculture face some of the most dangerous and damaging threats to their health and well-being. These include driving heavy machinery, spraying toxic pesticides and carrying heavy loads, as well as amputations from machinery and proximity to dynamite fishing. They also suffer cuts from machetes, exposure to extreme heat and cold, and long hard hours of work. These are some of the obstacles that agricultural stakeholders face while addressing the issue of child labour.  In this context, it is pertinent to note that child labour in agriculture is driven by both economic and social factors and, compared with other sectors, presents some particular challenges. Agricultural stakeholders need to pay special attention to following considerations while addressing the issues connected with child labour:   1. *Limited protection for children in family farming*: One significant challenge in addressing child labour in agriculture is that many children work in family operations or alongside family members in seasonal work. National labour legislation may not cover well, or may explicitly exclude the work that children do in family enterprises. 2. *Limited labour enforcement in rural areas*: Traditional labour inspection may face difficulties reaching children in remote, rural areas and working on family farms, in forests, or herding livestock. Child labourers are often isolated on smallholdings or in fishing boats and are to this extent ‘invisible’. While other workers or workers’ associations might report instances of child labour in other sectors, this is not so likely to happen for children in agriculture, especially in family farming. 3. *Tradition and dependency on child labour*: Often child labour is seen as a traditional way of life, especially for fishing and nomadic communities, and hiring other workers is not seen as economically viable. 4. *Limited options in seasonal activities*: The seasonal nature of agriculture and the consequent peaks and troughs in the need for labour also contribute to children being used as workers. 5. *Confusion with “helping out”*: Often it is argued that children are just helping their families or that they are learning skills they’ll need on the farm as adults. International law does take this into account and allows children to lend a ‘helping hand’, but it stipulates that the child must be at least 13 years of age (12 in some developing economies), work for a limited time each week, only in non-hazardous work, and the child must go to school. For too many children, though, work in agriculture goes beyond these limits and becomes child labour.   In many cases, children are pulled out of school to engage in agricultural labour, or their performance at school suffers. When children work instead of going to school, their development and the future of their families, communities and nations is compromised. Their low level of education limits their access to information and impedes them from acquiring higherlevel skills. They are less likely to find decent work when they are older, less likely to adopt new practices and technologies if they remain in agriculture, and more likely to be trapped in poverty and suffering the long-term effects of the hazardous conditions they faced as children. Development of their communities is stymied because of this, and the agricultural sector in some countries remains stuck, threatening food security in an expanding world and contributing to the cycle of poverty.  [Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO0 (2017). “Ending child labour: The decisive role of agriculture stakeholders”. Rome, Italy: FAO (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/i8177e/i8177e.pdf>].   1. **Strategies for Overcoming and Addressing Challenges:**   Once a child has reached the legal minimum age for work, which is generally 15 years of age, she or he is allowed to work, but still not in any situation classified as ‘hazardous’. Consequently, it is important to promote safe work in agriculture and related activities for young people who have reached the minimum age. At the same time, however, older children who have worked on the farm from a very young age – sometimes five or six years of age – may just want to get away and find non-agricultural work. They may carry injuries or be worn out by the hazards of working before they should have. Many rural youth are working poor and face enormous challenges in preparing for and accessing decent work, including in agriculture. They may be compelled to migrate to urban areas, putting them at increased risk of trafficking. Re-engaging young people in agriculture requires addressing decent work deficits in rural areas and the numerous constraints that they face when trying to earn a livelihood. Youth are the future farmers, fishers, foresters and livestock raisers who will feed our world.  Child labour in agriculture is a complex problem requiring a holistic approach. We must look beyond the symptoms of the problem and address the root causes that oblige boys and girls to be engaged in premature work in agriculture. This means addressing both the reasons they are sent to work instead of school and why there is a demand for their work. In particular, it means reducing poverty in rural areas, where the majority of households work in agriculture, and eliminating dependence on child labour for production. It also means supporting young people to prepare for decent work in agriculture, making sure that education and training is relevant and accessible, and promoting safer agricultural practices.  Notably, national governments are responsible for making sure that measures to eliminate child labour, and to protect and provide for children, are fully integrated into national policies and programmes. This must happen in all portfolios, from labour, agriculture and fisheries, to rural development, education, social services, health and justice. The protection of children and their well-being should be part of all actions of government. Ministries of finance and planning also need to be part of the process. Funds must be made available to allow policies to be put into action.  [Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO0 (2017). “Ending child labour: The decisive role of agriculture stakeholders”. Rome, Italy: FAO (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/i8177e/i8177e.pdf>]. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| Ministries of agriculture can integrate the importance of preventing child labour in their policies and promote greater synergies with labour and social policies. They also have a specific role to play in putting in place the framework in which all other players can work towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. This is by addressing some of its root causes: rural poverty, family dependence on child labour, low school attendance of rural children, and the seasonality and vulnerability of family income, for example to environmental shocks and price fluctuations combined with limited social protection in agriculture. Ministries of agriculture have unparalleled reach into remote areas where rural families look to them for advice and support.  The majority of rural households in developing countries are engaged in agricultural activities. Sustainable agriculture and value chain development initiatives can be the bedrock to increase rural families’ income and food supply and can provide more work opportunities for young people and adults addressing some of the root causes of child labour. Building the skills of those working in agriculture also increases productivity and can contribute to higher incomes and less reliance on children’s work. By explicitly taking into account child labour concerns, agricultural and rural development strategies can avoid unintended negative consequences and maximize positive impact. Ministries of agriculture frequently also monitor quality standards, help establish new markets for agricultural produce, provide subsidies for selected commodities, support improved rural infrastructure, and undertake a range of initiatives designed to guarantee food security and increase commercialization.  At a policy level, agriculture-related ministries can contribute to ensuring that child labour in agriculture, and the challenge of providing decent work for young people who have reached the legal age for work, are integrated into all policies and plans related to development of the agricultural sector. Agriculture-related ministries traditionally contribute to providing extension services and also provide an oversight role of public and private providers, ensuring for example that extension services promote growth in the agricultural sector but do not impact negatively on the environment. Ministries can ensure that extension services also take into account any positive or negative impact on child labour, by mainstreaming this concern into strategies and practice. Agricultural policies and programmes can have significant impact on the lives of rural communities and the potential to reduce child labour in agriculture when well-designed. For example, irrigation programmes can take into account other uses of water – for livestock and domestic consumption – and can reduce child labour related to watering animals and collection of water for household use. Facilitating access to simple agricultural technologies can also help reduce the work burden that leads to demand for child labour.  [Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO0 (2017). “Ending child labour: The decisive role of agriculture stakeholders”. Rome, Italy: FAO (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/i8177e/i8177e.pdf>].   |  | | --- | | **Box-3:** *International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture*  The International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA) is a global initiative bringing together ILO, FAO, IFAD, CGIAR and IUF since 2007. It was launched to foster the participation of agricultural organizations in global efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture. Poverty and inadequate enforcement of labour legislation are some of the causes of child labour in agriculture, but also the hazardous nature of agricultural work and the structure of agricultural production need to be addressed in order to eradicate this practice. Stakeholders in the agricultural sector can play an important role to this end.  The Partnership has gained increasing recognition thanks to its steady engagement in major child labour policy dialogues, including the second and third Global Conferences on Child Labour. Advocacy and awareness-raising efforts have contributed to a better understanding of this issue and on the need for agricultural and labour professionals to join forces, knowledge and expertise towards the elimination of child labour. The Partnership also carries out capacity building activities at country level to support key actors in the agricultural sector to address child labour issues in national policies and programmes, extension services and monitoring activities. The Partnership works at national, regional and global levels in order to:   * Promote cooperation between agriculture and labour stakeholders and ensure coherence of policies and programmes on child labour prevention. * Promote youth employment opportunities in agriculture. * Integrate child labour concerns in the programming of activities of agricultural and labour organizations. * Promote the adoption of safer agricultural practices and prevent children from carrying out hazardous work in agriculture. * Improve rural livelihoods and income-generating activities.   [Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) (Year of publication not mentioned). “Child Labour in agriculture”. Geneva, Switzerland: ILO (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/areas/Agriculture/lang--en/index.htm#:~:text=Limited%20coverage%20of%20agriculture%20and,formal%20contracts%2C%20continuity%20between%20rural>]. | |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| Agriculture-related ministries can play a vital role during the development and the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) relating to child labour. Often the development of such plans is led by the Ministry of Labour, but with consultation among different ministries, with employers’ and workers’ organizations and with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies. Each of these will contribute taking into account their specific strengths and expertise, focusing on those parts of the action plan that are most appropriate for them. The involvement of agriculture-related ministries allows their specific expertise to be built into both the development and the implementation. National Action Plans ideally include wide-ranging actions to reduce the vulnerability of children who might enter child labour. This can include work to strengthen their families and communities, to regulate and monitor possible workplaces (including farms and fisheries), and to work with producers’, employers’ and workers’ organizations to build sectors that are robust and less likely to be open to the temptation of taking on unpaid or exploitable workers, including children. They usually also include data collection and analysis, and take into account the needs of both boys and girls. Agriculture-related ministries can see child labour through an ‘agriculture lens’, ensuring that the particularities of child labour in agriculture are taken into account in the plan. They can make sure that the informal and small-scale farming or fishing enterprises, newer forms of agriculture such as fish farms, forestry and occupations that support agriculture such as collecting manure are not overlooked. They can also ensure that the activities planned include rural and remote areas, and target isolated and vulnerable families as well as communities.  Agriculture-related ministries also have a specific role to play in how the plans address youth under- or unemployment, particularly in agriculture. Taking a longer-term approach to child labour that looks to the child’s decent working future is crucial to ensuring both the child’s well-being and the development of her/his family and community.  An important step to ensure that children do not enter premature labour in agriculture is to make sure that relevant, accessible and free education is available for children in rural areas, including girls. ‘Relevant’ means that children and families see that the education children receive will lead to better work prospects and prepare them for a healthy, happy and financially sound future. ‘Accessible’ addresses issues that are of real concern in rural areas: for example, how children, especially girls, travel to school safely and in reasonable time, and how schools cater to all children, including those with disabilities. ‘Free’ means just that: no charge and no hidden costs (for example charges for heating or supplies). Agricultural stakeholders have an important role to play in relation to education since, for education and training to be seen as relevant to agricultural families, it must provide the technical understanding and experience that children need to become more skilled workers. The provision of agriculture-related vocational education and the promotion of apprenticeships in agriculture-related sectors are two ways of contributing directly both to reducing child labour and promoting youth employment.  When children reach the legal age for work, government can play a role in providing (or supporting others to provide) vocational training to ensure that 15 to 17 year-olds are trained to work safely. Promoting career paths in agriculture, fisheries, livestock and horticulture and training young people to take such paths go some way to encouraging them to stay on the land. Encouragement, however, is not enough. Agriculture-related ministries have an important task in ensuring that barriers to young people accessing decent work in agriculture are taken down. For example, ministries can work to dismantle regulatory hurdles that restrict access to loans and financial services for young people. Supporting mobile and school banking programmes can also contribute to young people’s starting their working life on a sounder financial footing and potentially setting up on their own. Other hurdles that young people of working age may have to overcome include training courses that have stringent entry requirements, such as access to computers or Internet that is not available in remote rural areas, or locations for courses that require unrealistic distances to be travelled. Some training may require higher levels of education or language ability than are attainable by rural children with limited schooling. Agriculture-related ministries can work with suppliers of education and training, and collaborate with ministries of education and training, to take into account the specific needs of young people looking to find decent work in agriculture.  Extension activities are widespread throughout the developing world and most governments have set up formal, structured extension services to run extension programmes and projects. While agriculture-related ministries have long provided extension services, this task is now also undertaken by a range of service providers. Organizations representing producers, workers and employers, as well as NGOs and even private companies may also offer activities that are commonly included in the term ‘extension services’.  Agricultural extension services support farmers and other rural actors to improve their livelihoods and well-being. Typically, extension services support improved understanding, techniques and infrastructure for agricultural families and communities. They can help families generate more income by improving production and storage practices and increasing access to markets. They increase profits as well as resilience, by supporting sound management of resources and the environment. Extension agents facilitate access to information and technology and provide assistance in developing organizational and management skills to more effectively run agricultural enterprises.  *Importantly*, extension agents (or workers/personnel) play an important support role to those working in agriculture, because much of the work is done on small family farms, in small fishing operations or in remote forests, where farmers, foresters, livestock herders and fisher folk work in isolation. They help isolated producers to make changes in their businesses and behaviour to break out of poverty and improve their daily lives. They also gather information from farmers, fisher folk, livestock owners and others involved in the daily realities of agricultural life, and feed this information back to inform research on the challenges and priorities of the agricultural sectors. The result is the kind of knowledge and understanding that leads to better agricultural policy, improved practices and more effective action.  Agricultural extension agents have a key role to play in addressing the root causes of child labour. Research shows that most children in child labour are not in a third-party relationship with an employer but work in family enterprises. This means that creating an economic environment in which families do not feel it necessary to put a child to work, and appreciate the long-term advisability of sending a child to school, is crucial to reducing child labour. Extension services are extremely important to efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture because, even when their actions are not child labour-specific, they address the context in which child labour occurs, by promoting rural development and by addressing poverty and the lack of decent employment opportunities for young people in rural areas. Extension agents make information available that helps agricultural families and communities improve productivity and reduce food loss, thereby improving incomes and providing the means to send their children to school. They also increase their resilience by supporting animal health and the sustainable management of natural resources that agriculture depends on, such as soil and fish stocks, and the ability of farmers and fishers to adapt to changing environments. This makes them less vulnerable to shocks that would have otherwise led to child labour, so they can keep their children in school. Extension services help agricultural enterprises, large and small, to become more effective, efficient and resilient, reducing the likelihood that families might use child labour as a coping strategy. Ultimately, they underpin enhanced agricultural development and contribute to building an environment in which families and communities are less dependent on cheap labour and so are less likely to put their children to work.  Agricultural extension agents have an important role to play in information sharing and the identification of alternative practices. Because they work across the country, they are able to reach even remote rural and nomadic communities. Beyond sharing information on the law, hazards, and education, they have a crucial role to play in helping producers identify alternatives. They can help families see a way in which they can change their practices or technologies to no longer rely on child labour. Where these changes require additional resources, they can share this information with government authorities and private sector actors who can improve access. Where additional support to children is needed, they can provide referrals to gain support from social services. It is also clearly important to address family-focused child labour in agriculture in middle- and highincome countries. Here, despite robust economic conditions, farming families may simply look upon children working from an early age as traditional and harmless. Extension agents can help share information to demonstrate to agricultural families in developing and developed countries alike that, while children might lend a ‘helping hand’, they should not be put to work prematurely and should go to school.  Producers’ organizations can also have an important role to play in identifying the use of child labour in the supply chain. They have outreach to rural and remote family enterprises, and can help to ensure that small farmers are not exploiting child labour, including in their own families. Where child labour is ‘invisible’, such monitoring can make it more visible. Producer organizations can encourage behaviour change through awareness campaigns among their constituents to prevent child labour. These might focus, for example, on codes of conduct, or national laws and regulations relating to children’s economic activity (for example the minimum age for work). Grassroots campaigns can take many forms, from rural radio and other mass media promotions to community-level activities labour contractors. Producers’ organizations can mainstream child labour concerns in their policies and strategies. For example, small-scale community fisheries organizations in Cambodia included action against child labour as part of the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in the guidelines: “Making a Brighter Future for Small-scale Fisheries through Community Fisheries in Cambodia”.  [Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO0 (2017). “Ending child labour: The decisive role of agriculture stakeholders”. Rome, Italy: FAO (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/i8177e/i8177e.pdf>].  Across the world 152 million children are exploited into child labour. Children who should be in schools are forced to work in dangerous conditions, and 71% of them work in the agriculture sector, most them doing unpaid work with their families. It is worrisome to see that the number of child labourers in agriculture has increased by more than 10 percent from 2012 to 2016, driven in part by conflicts and climate-induced disasters. This trend not only threatens the wellbeing of millions of children trapped in the cycle of exploitation, but also undermines the global target of elimination of child labour by 2025, stated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Information presented in Box-4 below depicts relevance of agricultural supply chains in the context of addressing child labour issues.   |  | | --- | | **Box-4:** *Agricultural Supply Chains & Child Labour*  Agricultural supply chains are at the heart of many national economies- a major source of income for many families, and an impacting force on the lives of millions of children – agricultural supply chains remaining the primary source of child labour today. Child labour in agriculture threatens children’s healthy development, sometimes even their lives. As a general pattern in agriculture at the global level children and adolescents workers are exposed to different dangers and risks such as sharp tools, heavy machinery, pesticides, harmful insects etc. They are forced to work for long hours in hazardous, extreme weather and dangerous conditions, damaging them physically and mentally. Agriculture sector is one of the three most dangerous sectors in terms of work-related fatalities, non-fatal accidents and occupational diseases. However contrary to this reality, it is often the case that in the rural areas where child labour is pervasive; medical care is inaccessible, improper or unaffordable.  Child labour further hinders children from receiving education. Many children do not go to school, while some may combine school and work or they stay in it intermittently. Without schooling and opportunities for their holistic development and for their families, a child and the adolescent loses opportunities for a secure present and future as well as opportunities for decent work. Due to such structural barriers, they are likely to be trapped in the cycle of poverty. Girls working in agriculture further face the double burden of having to work in fields and carry out household chores, making them even more vulnerable and marginalised. Girls particularly are at a great risk of being left behind and can experience illiteracy, migration and sexual and physical exploitation.  Taking cognisance of the urgency to tackle this vital scenario, the World Day Against Child Labour in 2019 undertook the initiative of commemorating the theme of *“Children shouldn’t work in fields, but on dreams*!”  As this year also marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the landmark ILO Convention No. 182 which calls for immediate action to abolish the worst forms of child labour, it is an apt time to reflect on the progress made and assess the continuing challenges; to devise sustainable solutions to end child labour, especially in the agriculture sector which accounts to 108 million child labourers across the globe.  With only six years left to achieve the SDG target 8.7 to end all forms of child labour by 2025, the world now more than ever needs a holistic, integrated and accelerated approach that not only targets the achievement of SDG 8.7 individually but other SDGs that have direct or indirect co-relation with it. Investing in education that is free, public, compulsory, of quality, inclusive and equitable is one of the key measure to protect children, especially girls from exploitation, which has a direct impact on child labour.  [Source: Worldwide News (Year of publication not mentioned). “Immediate Action Needed to Address Pervasive Child Labour in Agriculture”. (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <https://globalmarch.org/immediate-action-needed-to-address-pervasive-child-labour-in-agriculture)>]. |   Additionally, at this juncture, it is important to note that the COVID-19 crisis threatens progress in the fight against child labour. The COVID-19 crisis has brought additional poverty to these already vulnerable populations and may reverse years of progress in the fight against child labour. School closures have aggravated the situation and many millions of children are working to contribute to the family income. The pandemic (COVID-19) has also made women, men and children more vulnerable to exploitation. The International Year will prepare the ground for the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour (VGC) that will take place in South Africa in 2022, where stakeholders will share experiences and make additional commitments towards ending child labour in all its forms by 2025, and forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery by the year 2030.  [Source: The International Journal of Rural Development (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <https://www.rural21.com/english/news/detail/article/international-year-for-the-elimination-of-child-labour.html?no_cache=1)>].  The goals remain: (a) end child labour by the year 2025, and (b) end forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery by the year 2030. It’s time to accelerate the pace of progress. The global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to reverse years of progress. For many children and their families, the consequences have been: (a) disrupted education, (b) family illness, & (c) loss of household income.  [Source: Internationals Labour Organization (ILO) (2021). “International Year of the Child Labour”. Geneva, Switzerland: ILO (accessed on May 9, 2021 from: <https://endchildlabour2021.org/overview>]. |

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| **Selected images depicting various forms of child labour**  [Note: **(a)** No image which has copyright has been used. (b) Relevant web link (along with date on which it was accessed) is quoted below each image that has been inserted by the contributor.]  Image-1: Child Labour  child labour: Latest News, Videos and child labour Photos | Times of India  (Accessed on May 04, 2021 from: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Ftimesofindia.indiatimes.com%2Ftopic%2Fchild-labour&psig=AOvVaw3ZAmqkrJLL2kQ07KChhtEJ&ust=1620218859788000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCIiX4t6HsPACFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD>)  Image-2: Child Labour  Child Labour in India: Violators go scot-free as only 25% cases reach  conviction - India News  (Accessed on May 04, 2021 from: <https://akm-img-a-in.tosshub.com/indiatoday/images/story/201906/Child_labour_Dhanbad_Reuters.jpeg?qtJLPEYp96_Hq3qpDdH2OqeJyeJoyhr3>) |

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| **Brief Biography of Contributor (Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra)**  **Photo.Dr.Mishra.jpeg.jpg**Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra (Ph. D.) (he/his) retired on June 30, 2020 from the Population Education Resource Centre, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (DLLE), S. N. D. T. Women's University (SNDTWU), Mumbai, India. In terms of academic qualifications, he acquitted M. A. (Economics), Post-Master’s Diploma in Adult & Continuing Education, Diploma in Human Resource Development (HRD), & Certificate Course in Hospital and Health Care Management. Also, he underwent training in demography and acquired Ph. D. His areas of interest include demography, sustainable development, etc.  Dr. Mishra has authored (some co-authored) 5 booklets, 4 books, 22 book chapters, 74 journal articles, and 49 papers for conferences (some with bursary for presenting research papers at international events held at Sweden, Australia, Tajikistan, USA, Tanzania, Philippines, Ireland, Nepal, and Pakistan). Also, he has contributed to nearly 170 e-discussions. Also, Dr. Mishra has reviewed: (a) proposals (paper submissions) for 21 international conferences, & (b) over 160 manuscript’s for 79 journals. Also, he served as Judge for the 2021 IHA Health Literacy Awards (<https://hlc.iha4health.org/awards/call-for-award-nominations>). After retirement from the SNDTWU, he, is, presently, involved, in his individual capacity, with academic activities, such as authoring manuscripts (research papers), contributing to online consultations, serving as international conference organizing committee member, etc. He can be reached at (a) email: [drskmishrain@yahoo.com](mailto:drskmishrain@yahoo.com), & (b) via tel.: (+91) 9224380445. |

## Dugasa Dirbaba, Society for Education, Environment and Development (SEED), Ethiopia

Dear Sir/Madam,

thank you very much for the relentless efforts you are making to end child labour. Here I would like to raise my concern related to the topic under discussion. My concern in connection to this point is that how it is feasible to ending child labour in developing countries in general and all poor countries mainly poor SSACs in particular without defeating poverty? My suggestion is that first of all due attention needs to be paid to alleviate poverty the basic and chronic evil of human being. Poverty is the cause for all human evils such ilitracy, child labour, etc. Making a multidimensional approach to uproot poverty in poor countries is very decisive. Poverty is the mother of everything. Causes of poverty are diverese and numerous. I would suggest again and again to give equal or more emphasis to alleviation of poverty parallel/complementary to the efforts made to ending the intended child labour as targated.

Dugasa Dirbaba

## Pathawit Chongsermsirisakul, Chulalongkorn University and SiPa Research Organization, Thailand

I would like to share my experience about this problem in Thailand. It may be some positive way, although Thailand is an agricultural society, which is the economic modern development has concentrated only in metropolitans’ areas in urban. And the outer area is a rural area where the majority of the population is earning in rice farming and other agricultural work.

Most of the children labored in agriculture are within their families. At the right age and to be grown enough to help their parents. At the same time, that's not quite for employment, it's more like using labor to work in the house. Therefore, there is no problem of slavery or exploitation of children that could endanger their lives and minds. In the case of partial child labor, however, it is only characteristic of the request for help: to harvest agricultural produce to sell, where wages are fair and agreeable on both sides. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, child labor during this period is necessary and more appropriate than adults to work in the local food system. I don't think there's a problem until the end of child labor in agriculture in Thailand.

## Christian Häberli, World Trade Institute, Switzerland

Who says child labour is bad?

As taking children out of plantation farming and factories may have even worse consequences for them, as this may lead them to be forced into even more harmful activities such as prostitution, we must discuss alternatives before sentencing poor parents and greedy employers vying for money-pinching consumers abroad (and at home).

In Public International Law, forced labour is prohibited (ius cogens). And the Right to Education is granted under treatry law (ICESCR). These principles, and Public morals, would then mean obligations by home and host states alike, and include precaution and liability of international financial institutions. From there we can move to corporate governance, transparency, retailers and happy consumers buying food without information on the production methods including child labour.

Seems we must talk context - and read relevant literature and WTO case law condoning child labour - before shooting with our pens and gobbling chocolate from cocoa most probably produced by children!

## Kamasa Dorothy Azimi, Centre for Women and Food Security-Ghana, Ghana

It's very sad seeing children working on farms while their colleagues of same age go sit in classrooms learning but the big QUESTION is CAN CHILD LABOR IN AGRICULTURE BE STOPPED?

It is very challenging addressing this issue because expert will see it as an abuse to children or perhaps the children are been denied education and rather used as labor on farms by their parents, relations or some unkind humans taking advantage of the vulnerability of some children but the issues are so much to deal with.

In rural communities it is common seeing kids going to work on farms on weekends and some too go to the farms to work everyday after close of school: this isn't child abuse or their parents don't love them much to subject them to such responsibilities, the issue is that the children nor their parents or relations have no choice because everyone's efforts are needed to help on the farm that feeds the family. It will interest as all to know that most rural folks bring forth lots of children so that they can help boost the Agricultural human resources of the family. Some children are orphans and if they don't work on the farms, they will be denied food by their relations and those that are desolate will starve if they ignore the only chance to survive.

LET ME USE MYSELF AS AN EXAMPLE

I was born into a family whose main occupation is subsistence farming with a financially weak background in the northern part of Ghana. Growing up in such a rural community among other several children of an extended family, I realized one thing was key in this life that will enable me to change the situation of my life, i believed education was the weapon, even when there was no one to pay my school fees. As early as 11 years I was working on people's farms to fend for myself, when they paid me I used the money to buy exercise books for and food for school because no one asked me to go to school, I took myself to school and therefore no one was going to take the burden of taking care of my education, I did this and was able to take care of myself till I got enrolled in secondary school, I was in the boarding house and couldn't work again and that left me without money in school, but since the school was feeding students I was some nphow okay. During vacation I never went back home to the north, I took to the streets of Agbogbloshie a suburb of Accra, where I engaged myself in selling yams in the market to help me save some amount for my tertiary education after my senior high school. After secondary school, I went to stay with an uncle of mine in Cape Coast and carry out that business, this took me a year after completing my senior high school education to gather some money for my undergraduate education and my uncle gave me some financial support to raise the full amount needed because I and an effort and he was very impressed with my determination. While in the University, I had to skip lectures sometimes so that I can go and take yams from farmers and sell and raise funds for my upkeep and this affected my academic performance badly. When I got to my third year in the university, my uncle who was my only source of support got involved in an accident that got him paralyzed. Things became very tough because I had to fend for myself all alone again, I struggled a lot and he died. I continued the business and I was able to graduate from the University. This the faith of a lot of my kind such that without been used as Agricultural labor we will have no no education, or might not even survive to tell the story.

Child labor in Agriculture can only be ended if there's a way of putting money in the pockets of every desolate child.........

Child labor in Agriculture can only be ended if we can have a world without hunger and poverty........

Thank you.

## Lawal Musibau Olajire, Green agriconsult and services, Nigeria

ENDING CHILD LABOR IN AGRICULTURE WITH THE HELP OF AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS

Labor is an inseparable component of agriculture. Every stage; subsistent or commercial requires the service of a man.

Who is “a child”? Legal definition, according to the National Welfare Policy of 1989 defines a child as anybody who is twelve years (12) or below

Wikipedia presents age-related development periods and intervals as follows: Newborn (ages 0-4 weeks); Infants (ages 4 weeks-1year); Toddlers (ages 12 months -24 months); Prescholars (ages 2-5 years); School aged (ages 6-13 years) and Adolescents (ages 14-19 years).

Article 1 of the convention on the rights of the child by WHO, 1989 defines “A child” as human being below the age of eighteen (18) years.

The United Nations Convention of on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) also corroborates by defining a child as everyone under the age of eighteen (18).

From the foregoing, it can be said that anyone from age eighteen (18) and below is “A Child”. Therefore, involving any of such categories in farm activities as labor violates the right of a child.

Why do people engage children as labor in agriculture? Historically, family used to be the primary source of farm labor in Africa; and success of many farmers was often determined by the number of family members participating in planting, harvesting, packing and sales of produce irrespective of age. Farmers in some Western parts of Africa raised many children basically for that purpose. Feeding was never a problem.

They did this probably to reduce cost and increase production and these are my own perspectives. Ending child labor totally in agriculture may not be realistic across board as long as the reasons for which it happens still persist. Considering the current global crises, economic meltdown and the impact of the dreaded Covid 19 pandemic, it may be exaggerating to completely eradicate child involvement in agriculture across board for obvious reasons.

However, Stakeholder’s recognition of the rights of a child and the need to protect it adequately would be prestigious. Also, policies that will reduce poverty among farmers and enable then do more without the need of childs’ involvement are required from government all level.

It is also important to make agricultural practices “SMART” through digitalization of labor-dependent operations such as: picking, sorting, lifting, and cleaning among others especially those into which minors are employed.

Quality and affordable education for children, insurance for farmers, security of life, property and safety, development of smart technology for production, processing and storage as well as local content assurance would go long way mitigating child labor and provision of good primary health care facilities for the vulnerables should be prioritized by policy makers.

I started accompanying my late parents who were low income earners to farm since the age of ten. It was tedious but I had no choice. I decided to do it in a better way when I grow up and chose to study agriculture at the University. Experiences of twenty years as farming professional have shown that every participant in agriculture is vulnerable to abuse and their rights have to be adequately protected.

Thank you!

Lawal, Musibau Olajire

Nigeria

## Adebayo Depo, Togo

Ci joint un formulaire rempli.

Adebayo Depo

**Auteur de la présentation** (nom/genre/institution)

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| **DEPO Adebayo/ Masculin/ IADR** |

**Titre de votre présentation**

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| **Travail des enfants : quel avenir?** |

**Cochez votre catégorie de partie prenante/acteur agricole**

* Fonctionnaire gouvernemental (/ministères liés à l'agriculture)
* Organisation patronale
* Établissement d'enseignement/de recherche
* Secteur privé
* Organisation d'agriculteurs / coopérative / organisation de producteurs
* Organisation de travailleurs ou syndicat
* Société civile ou ONG
* Oganisation internationale (ONU, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banque de développement

**Si vous n'êtes dans aucune de ces situations, veuillez indiquer la catégorie d'acteur ou le secteur auquel vous appartenez (par exemple, le travail, l'éducation ou le social).**

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**Région/Pays/Lieu**

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| **Afrique/Togo/Lomé** |

**Sous-secteur agricole** (production végétale, pêche et aquaculture, élevage ou foresterie).

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| **Production végétale** |

1. Veuillez décrire le **contexte** de votre contribution et de votre proposition :
   * Quel est l'aspect du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture qui vous préoccupe ? Quelles sont les causes principales ? Et quelles conséquences ? Quel est l'impact direct/indirect ou intentionnel/non intentionnel de votre travail sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ?
   * La pandémie de COVID-19 a-t-elle eu un effet (in)direct sur le travail des enfants dans le système agro-alimentaire de votre pays ?
   * Veuillez décrire, si applicable, les activités et les projets, précédemment mis en œuvre ou en cours, destinés à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture, ainsi que leur impact/résultat.

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| **Les enfants se retrouvent dans l’obligation de faire du travail forcé dans l’agriculture pour subvenir à leur besoin même dans le cas ou leur scolarité est gratuite ou prise en charge par une tierce personne. Cette situation est due en premier lieu à une perception de l’agriculture comme moyen plus facile de gagner d’argent dans les milieux ruraux, au niveau de vie très bas des parents, aux ressources limitées des parents, à la non prise en charge sociale de ces cas de figure par la politique nationale, et aussi à l’envie de ressembler directement à leurs frères citadins.**  **Les conséquences sont l’abandon des classes, l’exode rural, une délinquance juvénile.**  **Notre travail vise à éduquer les parents producteurs sur une éducation propice pour leurs enfants, nous travaillons avec eux pour leur apporter les outils nécessaires pour faire augmenter leurs revenus, nous les formons également sur l’éducation financière.**  **Oui la pandémie a eu des effets sur le travail des enfants dans mon pays. Il est généralement plus fréquent de voir les enfants au abord des voies publiques vendre des produits agroalimentaires aux heures creuses de la journée et surtout en week end. La pandémie a rallongé ces jours de travail des enfants du fait du programme allégé qu’impose la situation de maladie. Ces enfants se retrouvent alors à produire pour le compte de leurs parents et aussi à vendre aux abords des voies ces produits agroalimentaires. Notons que quand les enfants s’adonnent à ce travail et commence par percevoir de l’argent, le retour à la classe départ s’avère compliqué pour la suite.**  **Les projets menés dans le sens de réduire ce travail des enfants sont le soutien des constructions des écoles dans la localité où nous intervenons. Les enfants se retrouvent aussi à faire de longues distances avant de pouvoir rallier leur école. L’impact direct est que la plupart des enfants sont obligé d’aller au cours et sont alors moins fréquents aux champs les jours ouvrables. Les projets visent aussi à organiser les parents producteurs en groupement pour faire valoriser leurs produits et ainsi augmenter leurs revenus. Les revenus conséquents leur permettent d’embaucher de la main d’œuvre valide pour les travaux agricoles.** |

1. **Veuillez décrire les** mesures que vous ou votre organisation pouvez ou pourriez adopter pour aborder ou accroître les efforts en faveur de l'élimination du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture. Si cette option n'est pas applicable, veuillez expliquer dans les sections suivantes les défis que vous ou votre organisation rencontrez dans la lutte contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture et présenter des recommandations pour que les acteurs du secteur agricole et d'autres parties prenantes puissent intensifier leur action.

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| **Pour accroitre les efforts, il faut des projets allant dans le sens de l’éducation des enfants et surtout de leur soutien. Les enfants désertent les classes très souvent à cause des moyens financiers et il est impératif que la société civile et l’Etat arrivent à trouver un projet commun dans le but de récupérer ces enfants en détresse. Ils doivent être suivi sur le plan socio professionnel si l’éduction scolaire n’aboutit pas.** |

1. **Défis :** Quels sont les principaux obstacles rencontrés par vous, ou par les acteurs du secteur agricole en général, pour lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ? Comment surmonter ou aborder ces difficultés (par exemple, par la politique, la législation, le renforcement des capacités, etc.)

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| **Parmi les obstacles rencontrés nous avons :**   * **La culture : difficile de faire passer le message à un parent selon lequel le travail de son enfant au champs peut porter atteinte aux droits de cet enfant ;** * **L’alphabétisation : le taux d’alphabétisation très faible ne permet pas aux parents d’appréhender l’utilité de cette démarche de lutte contre le travail des enfants** * **Ressource : les ressources limitées des organisations intervenantes sont aussi des freins. Une fois la sensibilisation finie il est difficile à ces acteurs de revenir pour un suivi et ceci par défaut de ressources.** * **Confiance : depuis des années, les interventions dans ces milieux ont pris de l’ampleur avec toujours les mêmes promesses faites aux paysans et toujours non honorées, cet aspect de choses fait que la confiance à accorder à ces derniers semblent ne plus existée et pèse beaucoup sur le travail à faire concernant le travail des enfants.**   **Pour aborder ces difficultés il faut que les programmes à mettre en œuvre tiennent compte de ces réalités des milieux ruraux qui peuvent vraiment variées d’une région à l’autre et d’un peuple à l’autre. Nous assistons très souvent à la réplique des projets et surtout des actions alors que sans associer la communauté au départ l’échec est probable.**  **Les programmes des organismes doivent s’intégrer avec celui des gouvernants pour pouvoir porter au plus longtemps possible dans le temps et surtout faire le suivi des actions menées. Ces suivis permettront de corriger et d’apporter des améliorations aux programmes préexistants.** |

1. **Recommandations destinées aux acteurs du secteur agricole :** Quelles recommandations donneriez-vous aux acteurs du secteur agricole pour aborder la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture que vous venez de présenter ?

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| **Les acteurs du secteur agricole doivent surtout se confondre à la masse, comprendre les réalités et surtout les défis de ces parents producteurs. Delà, ils pourront concevoir ou élaborer des stratégies plus viable. Ils doivent plus s’orienter et suivre les enfants en leur montrant les nombreux atouts liés à leur éducation.** |

1. **Recommandations destinées à d’autres parties prenantes :** Que recommanderiez-vous aux autres parties prenantes concernées par la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture (parties prenantes du secteur du travail, de l'éducation, de la protection de l'enfance ou du secteur social, notamment les ministères du travail, les inspecteurs, les éducateurs, les intervenants des services sociaux) ?

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| **Les autres parties prenantes doivent soutenir les actions des acteurs agricoles, ils doivent mettre en place des politiques d’emploi décents, de formation professionnelle, et de suivi des actions sur le terrain.**  **Ils doivent accompagner ces acteurs sur le plan technique et financier en vue de leur doter d’une capacité totale d’autonomie.** |

## Lal Manavado, Independent analyst/synthesist, Norway

A Holistic Approach to Deal with Child Labour in Food Systems

**Introduction**

Child Labour has been observed in every sub-system of some food systems, especially those in less affluent countries. These include food production, harvesting, transport, preservation and selling sub-systems. Meanwhile, the highest percentage of child labour seems to be in the food production or the agriculture sector. This contribution suggests a holistic means of addressing this problem.

The first difficulty one encounters here has two logically inseparable dimensions. First, in what politico-geographic area it would be feasible to undertake the proposed action, and secondly, would it be possible to carry it out there with success? Everybody may agree that the answer to the first question is world-wide, but as there is no global politico-legal authority, pragmatic necessity requires one to address the challenge on a nation by nation basis.

Even though the national authorities may not be sufficiently efficient or even indifferent to the present challenge, apart from them, there does not seem to exist any other agency with enough authority to ensure the type of coordinated appropriate action needed to resolve the present problem. One’s next task is to determine what those actions are, which calls for the identification of the causes of child labour in a food system.

Until fairly recent times in human history, whole families laboured day long to procure food, therefore, its current unacceptability reflects a slow evolution of social values in a very uneven way throughout the world. Those who are interested in the matter are kindly referred to the discussion indicated by the link at the end of this contribution. In their historical order of appearance, causes of child labour in food systems may be described thus:

* Labour-intensiveness of hunting and gathering that compelled families and small communities to engage in food procurement.
* Emergence of crop cultivation and pastoralism which required the participation of the whole family.
* Invention of division of labour and barter system that eventually evolved into modern competitive economy that is motivated by institutionalised personal gain as a social value.
* The consequences of the above development not being evenly distributed throughout the world which will be discussed below.

The post-industrial social development more or less justifiably recognised that it is incumbent upon the national authorities to enable the people of a country to enjoy a life of adequate quality. The possibility of their doing so, depends on their ability to adequately satisfy their six fundamental needs. While the failure to meet the first three of them may be fatal, the remaining three are important in distinguishing man from an instinct-driven brute:

1. Nutrition
2. Good health
3. Security in its justifiable sense; it includes security from the inclemencies of the weather (housing and clothing), physical danger from animals, other people (lack of law and order, war, etc.), threat to personal belongings, various forms of discrimination etc.
4. Education in its justifiable sense, i.e., enabling an individual to develop one’s innate abilities and skills which one may use to meet one’s fundamental needs.
5. Procreation; education enabling one to understand that the equilibrium between the living species and the ecosystems services on which their existence depends, demands the qualitative and quantitative biodiversity among them. This quantitative dimension imposes a limit on the number of individuals of every living species with no exceptions. Hence, procreation ought to be guided by family planning.
6. The set of non-material goals; so called because their achievement does not result in a material gain. For Example, aesthetic enjoyment, engaging in games and sports for pleasure, entertainment of varying quality.

Evolution of the human intellectual and practical skills resulted in an enhancement in social values. However, neither of these developments were evenly distributed throughout the globe. For better or for worse, some of those values like competitive economy driven by the desire for personal gain and its adaptation have become universal. Consequently in most countries, satisfaction of man’s fundamental needs seem to require having a sufficient income.

Even among the farmers and pastoralists, the possibility of procuring a wholesome and balanced diet seem to require buying some food items they cannot produce. Meanwhile, the current competitive economy increasingly permeates the food systems of even the less affluent countries. Thus, it is self-evident that the need for an adequate income to meet one’s fundamental needs has reached a critical state in many areas of such countries forcing children into labour in order to ameliorate family earnings. The highest incidence of child labour has been observed in such areas.

Before competitive economy reached its modern level, emerging social values recognised that the child labour as practised in the olden days is deleterious to the quality of children’s life. Leaving aside the emotions child labour may evoke, this new social value arises from the following considerations:

* Other things being equal, it deprives children of the time and energy needed to fully develop their innate abilities into useful knowledge and skills through appropriate education.
* It may be injurious to their health or may adversely affect their normal development.
* Unscrupulous adults may force them into criminal activities which may cripple their physical and mental development as well as health.

To sum up then, there seems to be a universal need for an income to satisfy man’s six fundamental needs; satisfaction of each of these became more and more dependent on the prior satisfaction of secondary needs they subsume. For instance, a city dweller may have to go to a shop, purchase the food needed, etc., before it may be cooked at eaten. Those secondary needs like going to and from a shop may require rail or motor transport. Socio-industrial development has resulted in an ever-growing number of such secondary needs.

In less affluent countries where the incidence of child labour is high, the degree of adequacy to which one’s fundamental needs are generally satisfied may be described thus:

Nutrition; general malnutrition or excessive intake of a principal nutrient like carbohydrates is prevalent. These result in reduced physical and cognitive development and in some instances, may be accompanied by some degree of obesity. This impairs one’s ability to acquire useful knowledge and skills. Moreover, it reduces one’s capacity to work, may cause deficiency diseases and makes one more susceptible to infectious diseases.

* Good health; while dietary imbalance makes these populations more susceptible to ill health, they often lack even basic primary health care, especially in rural areas. This exacerbates their already reduced capacity to acquire relevant knowledge and skills, thus reducing even more their ability to earn an adequate income.
* Security; inadequate law enforcement, political instability/illegalities, various forms of discrimination and in some instances, armed conflict may result in physical injury, loss of property, etc. Further, it may often disrupt food production and other services regardless of the provider.
* Education; often what is available is very inadequate, inappropriate and irrelevant. The so-called standard ‘education’ is not tailored to individual’s inborn abilities, the local reality, nor yet to the dietary competence relevant to the locality. It seldom encourages the local children to acquire the relevant knowledge and skills needed to ensure local prosperity and to induce them to remain in their villages. Doing so would considerably reduce the migration of rural people to the cities and the resulting social problems.
* Procreation; inadequacies in sex education and birth control have resulted in an alarming incidence of venereal diseases and high birth rates. Not only do these place a greater burden on the scarce means available to the rural populations to meet their fundamental needs, but the growing population imposes an ever-increasing burden on the already depleted ecosystems services. Unless countered immediately, these will continue to diminish their quality of life as their ability to meet those needs becomes less and less.
* Non-material needs; while dissemination of information has informed the rural populations of what is available elsewhere, ever increasing cost of items needed to satisfy this need and inadequate literacy has barred the majority of rural populations from enjoying it. Some argue that this may be one of the causes of over-population in deprived areas in city and countryside. Be that as it may, this lack lowers one’s quality of life in today’s society.

**The Question of Responsibility**

The perceptive reader would have noticed the following causal sequence:

* Evolution of social values has rejected child labour as unacceptable on secular ethical and pragmatic grounds.
* Possessing an income has become a tertiary need necessary to meet a set of secondary needs whose prior satisfaction is essential to satisfy one’s six fundamental needs.
* In a competitive economy motivated by institutionalised personal gain, losers are inevitable.
* A national authority is necessary to uphold and promote the evolving social norms of a country.
* Child labour is iniquitous; the national authority is responsible for social equity.
* Nation-wide elimination of child labour requires a central coordinating body in order to ensure the following:

1. Measures taken are appropriate to deal with the problem in the sub-system of the food system concerned. For instance, dealing with child waiters in towns and cities working for more than 16 hours a day cannot be usefully applied to those labouring in the fields.
2. Extent of the problem may vary from place to place hence, appropriate allocation of scarce resources has to be centrally determined.
3. Food and agriculture do not constitute an isolated domainit and other domains causally interact with each other. For example, if trade policy permits the import of a cheaper cereal, family farmers and other small holders of the country who cultivate it are likely to lose their income. Thus deprived, child labour may become a necessity for them to supplement their meagre income. Ensuring that the components of a national policy set do not promote child labour is incumbent upon the government.
4. Inappropriate actions in agriculture initiated or sanctioned by a national authority may promote child labour as a last resort. For instance, allowing the purchase of family farms and small holdings to create factory farms or large monoculture units would result in unemployment for their previous owners and its consequences. An industrial policy that recommends automation in a country with high unemployment would exacerbate the situation.
5. A careful examination of the other domains would show that there are many inadvisable undertakings that could easily jeopardise the livelihood of people engaged in any one of them or in any other.
6. Therefore, it would be reasonable to suggest that the national authorities ought to be entrusted with the task of coordinated action necessary to deal with child labour appropriate to the conditions obtaining in a country.
7. As less affluent countries display the highest incidence of child labour, national authorities may need appropriate assistance from regional and world-wide organisations.

**Towards a Way Forward**

The final challenge one faces here is how a national government may legitimately direct appropriate action to deal with child labour. The self-evident answer is by the implementation of appropriate set of policies designed to ensure that it excludes those undertakings that would or could bring about child labour in the country in general and in food systems in particular. Design and implementation of such a policy set represents a holistic approach to the resolution of the problem.

It has been mentioned earlier that inappropriate undertakings in any domain may lead to child labour in it or in some other. It would be generally agreed that closing food systems to child labour may be insufficient, for it might easily overflow into some other domain with even more disastrous results for the children involved. Hence, it is vital to ensure that the present approach is holistic i.e., inclusive of all domains that may potentially trigger child labour. Thus, the present suggestion is both remedial and pro-active.

Before proceeding any further, it is necessary to identify what makes the required policy set suitable for the purpose. First, each policy in it ought to be relevant as a means of resolving a given problem. Secondly, every one of them ought to be appropriate as a means to be used under the existing conditions of the country concerned i.e., it ought to be a pragmatic solution.

The importance of relevance in policies is often overlooked with disastrous results for the people. It can be easily determined by asking the question “does it contribute to the quality of life of the majority in real life?” It may be remembered that one’s quality of life depends on the facility with which one may satisfy one’s six fundamental needs. An industrial policy that promotes rapid automation resulting in unemployment could hardly be called a contributor to the quality of life of the majority.

This should not be construed as an attack on new technology, rather as a recommendation to be gradual in making use of new methods in order to avoid the human misery consequent to redundancy which has been seen in affluent countries. In less affluent ones, this may bring about catastrophic results including child labour. Thus, relevance of a national policy set is determined relative to its contribution to the quality of life of the majority.

This implies that policy relevance can never be justifiably ascertained with respect to national GDP or in any other monetary indicator, for money is a tertiary need required to meet a number of secondary needs whose satisfaction is a prior condition for meeting man’s six fundamental needs. Although necessary owing to man’s socio-technological advances, using income as a measure of quality of life is akin to using the value of a bus ticket as an indicator of how balanced is the meal one bought at the shop near the end of a bus trip to make one’s purchases.

It has been emphasised that the socio-ethics and social complexity demand that children should have the required time and support to acquire appropriate knowledge and skills as well as to satisfy the other fundamental needs as applicable to them. As child labour is a grave obstacle to this, it seriously lowers their present and future quality of life. Hence, a holistic and a relevant policy set is essential to resolve this problem. When a national policy set as a whole displays this quality, it embodies an inter-policy harmony, for each of its elements strives towards an enhanced quality of life of the people.

Appropriateness of a policy is a matter internal to it. It is indicated by the suitability of the means used in its implementation. When such means may be deemed suitable with respect to the actual conditions existing in a country, a policy embodies an intra-policy harmony with respect to the goal it is intended to attain. Therefore, inter-policy harmony in a policy set entails an intra-policy harmony in all its components.

A national policy may have four different degrees of success depending on the level of intra- and inter-policy harmony in and among its constituents. Some examples may help to clarify this point. First, the success of an appropriate and an inappropriate food and agriculture policy will be ascertained after their separate introduction into a policy ambience where inter-policy harmony already exists. Next, the success of the same food and agriculture policies in a policy ambience that lacks inter-policy harmony will be discussed.

In the first case, a relevant food and agriculture policy is appropriately implemented while all the other national policies do likewise in their own domains. Although not exhaustive, its implementation embodies the following features:

* It does not cause unemployment in its domain or in any other.
* It creates employment opportunities in the food systems it includes and in other domains which would only require training that is within the actual capabilities of the people concerned.
* It takes into account the know-how and material resources at the disposal of the people concerned.
* It has no adverse effects on the environment; it strives to promote environmental regeneration and the local food culture.
* It enables those who work a food system to earn a decent income.
* It actively contributes to the elimination of child labour by making it unnecessary.

In the second case, while rest of the national policies are appropriately trying to enhance the national quality of life, the food and agriculture policy will be doing the opposite owing to the inappropriateness of one or more of its implementation strategies some of which are listed below:

* Rapid mechanisation of agriculture and fisheries when the country has a high rate of unemployment; in such countries, farmers and fishermen usually do not earn a decent income and child-labour obtains in agriculture and in other parts of the food system, for example, child waiters. It would lead to additional unemployment thus exacerbating the problem.
* Inappropriate introduction of high-yield foreign cultivars that require continuous supplementation services viz., fertilisers, biocides and irrigation. Consider the miseries that followed the ‘Green Revolution’ in Mexico and Pakistan as well as the Aral Sea disaster. Briefly put, both resulted in a rapid population increase followed by soil erosion and salination which rendered the land barren leaving the grown-ups and children penurious.
* Uncritical promotion of the selling sub-system of a food system; this is purported to be in response to ‘market forces’, a phenomenon hitherto unknown to physics. Competitive selling cannot avoid some who will be left with unsold produce or getting a pittance in return, not to mention wilted or spoiled food. This reductive and unfair strategy will hardly help one to rid the sector of child labour.
* Inappropriate implementation strategies make the above food and agriculture policy oppose the common policy goal of enhanced quality of life which includes the abscence of child labour. Hence, not only does it lack intra-policy harmony and and achieves little success, but it does also disturb the harmony in the policy ambience into which it has been introduced which would lessen their effectiveness.

In the third possible case, a relevant food and agriculture policy embodying intra-policy harmony is introduced into a policy ambience that lacks inter-policy harmony. Here, the former may use the the appropriate strategies having the attributes described in the first example case above as well as other apt ones. However, the inter-policy disharmony in its policy ambience would not only hinder its ability to satisfy the nutritional needs of a country adequately, but it would also obstruct its efforts to deal with child labour. Some examples of how this may happen in a country are given below:

* A finance policy that allocates an undue portion of the national revenue to industry and defence while insufficient resources are allocated to agriculture, health care and education. Obviously, this would make it impossible to develop an adequate and fair food system.
* A legal policy that neither guarantees the cultivator’s land tenure nor preserves and protects the commons (land owned by original inhabitants or state owned land) nor enforces such provisions when they exist. The deleterious effects of these inadequacies on agriculture are self-evident.
* A trade and industry policy that may permit and encourage the following:

1. Purchase and use of good farmland by extraction trade or industry.
2. Uncontrolled logging that greatly diminishes ecosystems services, silting of water ways etc.
3. Changing the cultivation of food crops into that of cash crops or the export of the former for industrial use or as suggested by external experts (eg. West African pea nut export) resulting in child malnutrition.
4. Allowing the import and promotion of cheap foreign comestibles which tends to deprecate and displace the local food culture.
5. Permitting the establishment of large-scale monoculture farms and fleets of trawlers to displace local family farms, small holders and fishermen. This is generally accompanied by permission to established ‘legally’ hidden sales monopolies i.e., sets of ‘different’ chains owned by some holding company. This makes choice of food in affluent countries a joke in very poor taste and it is making rapid inroads into less affluent ones.
6. Introduction of automation when the unemployment rate is high. This list is not exhaustive; some of the consequences of each item here is given below in its corresponding Roman numeral:
   1. When farmland is thus reduced, food production would diminish thereby further lowering farmers’ income which in turn will encourage child labour.
   2. Silting of water ways and ground water level would render neighbouring farmland semi-arid; its adverse influence on local weather conditions would have similar consequences as outlined in I above.
   3. This may enhance personal income in some areas, but it would cause a reverse dependency by forcing people to import food whose quality is indeterminate. Meanwhile, cash crops require a great deal of supplementation which is known to have adverse effects on the soil and the environment. Unless it is ensured in advance that Export of food for cash would not be deleterious to local nutrition, children are among the first to suffer malnutrition as the West African example illustrates.
   4. As a rule, such comestibles are ready-made solid or liquid items whose long-term effect on human health remains to be determined by an independent authority. Their skilled promotion has already displaced many items from several local food cultures. Usually, this is followed by introduction of foreign cultivars, abandonment of agricultural villages as in Southern Angola or industrial use of farmland. None of these would promote child welfare nor environmental sustainability.
   5. It must be noted that in this example, a sound food and agriculture policy is in an ambience where one or more other policies are unsound. Here trade and industry policy share that defect with that on the environment. It results in environmental degradation and as a capital-intensive practise, it would bring about large-scale unemployment among family farmers, small holders, etc. How this may affect their children needs no elaboration.
   6. In less affluent countries, this would have serious social consequences as it could only boost the numbers of the unemployed. Some parts of a food system like sorting and packing can be automated, which would drive out of work the people employed there. Then the plight of their children would be even worse than what it had been before.

In the last case, a food and agriculture policy displaying intra-policy disharmony is introduced into a national policy set where inter-policy harmony does not obtain. In the second case discussed, some attributes of the former have been already outlined while the third case describes some features of a few other policies which imparts inter-policy disharmony into a policy ambience. Here one may expect the worst possible result. Therefore, the optimal approach to address child labour requires a sound food and agriculture policy in an ambience which embodies inter-policy harmony.

**The Way Forward**

It would be generally agreed that child labour at the expense of time required for children’s education, games, sports, aesthetic activities, and which may compromise their safety, security and health would be unacceptable in any area. However, a food system contains some essential sub-systems which belong to domains other than agriculture. Sorting and packing form two sub-systems of some selling sub-systems. Likewise, child waiters, crockery and cutlery washers not an uncommon site in many a non affluent country.

Parental poverty is often cited as a cause of child labour. Sometimes, the former is attributed to the tenuousness of farmers’ land tenure. Surely, one needs to resort to the judiciary domain to remedy this difficulty. Therefore it seems impossible not to involve the other relevant domains for a successful solution to the current problem. A few suggestions on how those domains may participate are outlined in the discussion which the link below indicates:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/comment/10009>

Before one describes a food and agriculture policy whose adequate implementation would bring about the elimination of child labour from the food systems involved, it is necessary to map out what changes in their sub-systems would be necessary to achieve this objective. Such changes would naturally vary from country to country as well as from central to regional and local levels.

In order of their causal importance, child labour in a food system arises from the following:

* Inadequate parental income owing to unemployment or meagre income.
* Lack of opportunities; this in itself is often a marginal cause, for it is often accompanied by parental poverty and governmental failure to provide essential services like education, health care, etc.
* In some instances, it results from following a local tradition dealing with which may require the diplomatic instruction of the parents even when other facilities exist.

An appropriate food and agriculture policy is intended to enable a country’s population to procure a varied and a balanced diet in a sustainable way. But vast majority of the people including producers of comestibles need to purchase some of their food. Meanwhile, everybody needs to buy a number of other necessities in order to satisfy one’s remaining fundamental needs.

The question then, is two fold. How to enable the adults manning a food system earn an adequate income so that their children will not have to work? Next, what could those children then do, or to put it differently, what facilities should be provided for them? Meanwhile it should be borne in mind that an appropriate food and agriculture policy ensures adequate nutrition to the people. Here, an unwary planner is likely to run into some practical difficulties and inter-institutional conflicts.

The present approach attempts to avoid this difficulty through a twin strategy viz. By distinguishing between the justifiable purpose of a food system and other domains whose contribution is an necessary adjunct to deal with child labour in food systems. Suggestions that follow will reflect this distinction, for it first outlines changes needed in food systems then by adjunctive measures required in other domains which are in Roman numerals.

As a sufficient parental income is essential to resolve the problem, it would be appropriate to begin with the selling sub-system. It includes vending of ready-to-eat food or food in any other stage of preparation. In order to bring about financial equity to the adult workers of a food system, one needs to ensure that a major portion of the gains it makes are shared by those who actually produce food. A selling sub-system is a doubled exchange i.e., food producers selling their produce to vendors and the latter re-selling it indirectly (through retailers, etc.) or directly to the end-users.

Changes needed in a selling sub-system:

* Formation of farmer/fisherman cooperatives to sell at a reasonable price their produce to vendors who operate on a similar basis. It is desirable that members of their families or fellow villagers form such vending units from whom the end-users may purchase food at fair prices.
* Establishment of cooperative food shops for the above purpose as well as similar or family-run restaurants in near-by towns/cities where wholesome meals are offered at fair prices.

Adjunctive measures:

* Legal devolution of the selling sub-system; this calls for the abolition of wholesale and retail monopolies.
* Legal ban on state financial support to such entities.
* A total ban on the speculation in commodity futures; although some of the items involved here are neither food nor drink (eg. Fibres like cotton, jute etc.) their cultivators are often impoverished by this practice.
* Prevention of conversion of food crops into cash crops when it reduces a nation’s ability to meet its nutritional needs.
* Imposition of effective restrictions on the promotion of mass-produced ready-to-eat food.
* Changes in financial policy required to set up and operate banks tailored to meet the needs of food systems run on a cooperative basis.
* Actively enforced legal measures to prevent price wars by ‘competitive traders’ in order to undercut the sales of the cooperatives.
* A defence policy that requires significant cuts in defence budget.
* Investment in primary health care, public health, sanitation and water purification available throughout food systems.

Transport and storage sub-systems:

* Establishment of cooperatively owned storage facilities at strategic locations so that fresh food may be quickly available to the vendors above.
* Use of the most energy-efficient transport such as water or rail as deemed fit. It is best that workers of a local/regional food system establish and operate both sub-systems on a cooperative basis. While they may cooperate with other such bodies, their amalgamation is deprecated, for it would soon result in bureaucrat overload, inefficiency and loss of income to the food producers.
* If necessary, such a unit may purchase and run its short-haul vehicles.

Adjunctive measures:

* An effectively enforced legal requirement to establish, repair or extend water and rail transport.
* A effective finance policy that would undertake to fund such transport systems.
* Facilities to obtain a technical education required to design, build and operate appropriate types of storage units.
* Help to purchase and operate suitable short-haul transport vehicles by such units.

Preservation sub-system:

* Food preserving cooperatives should be established at strategic locations as close as possible to the greatest number of food producing areas. Methods used in them should be appropriate and may include drying, smoking, salting, conserving or conversion into other dietary products. These will be transported to and stored in previously described units until needed or dispatched for sale to a cooperative selling outlet.

Adjunctive measures:

* A pro-active finance policy that support banks which help people to establish such units.
* An education policy that actively sets up technical training units in the field to instruct the members of food preserving cooperatives.
* Effectively enforced legal means to prevent price wars in the purchase of farm produce and fish by traders outside a cooperative food system.

Yielder sub-system:

* Use of local crops and animals or their improved strains that can tolerate local conditions and thrive on the ecosystems services available there. This will minimise the need for fertilisers, biocides, etc.
* Formation of farm, gatherer (harvesting forest products) and fishermen’s cooperatives from which produce is passed onto the other sub-systems of a cooperative food system. This will ensure a decent income to them while end-users benefit from wholesome food at a fair price not inflated by high profits made by a host of intermediaries.
* Establishment of shared equipment pools, repair and maintenance facilities owned and run by the cooperative involved.
* Establishment of common purchasing mechanism that will be used by a cooperative to procure the equipment, tools and other materials it requires. This would considerably reduce the individual outlay for them.
* Promotion of mixed cultivation of suitable species.
* Organisation and financing of appropriate local work-shops for workers in various sub-systems of the national food systems. These ought to be teaching sessions as well as fora for discussing common problems.
* Children already working in some part of a food system ought to be provided a suitable vocational training which may include elements of basic education at the appropriate level. It may be desirable to offer them board and lodging or an allowance during the training period.
* Leading the activities needed to coordinate and harmonise the adjunctive policies between food and agriculture and the other domains.

Adjunctive measures:

* Other things being equal, a sustainable decent income for the target group requires a sustained availability of adequate ecosystems services; these include a salubrious climate, sufficient water, soil fertility, animal food, presence of enough pollinators, natural pest control, etc. Ensuring these requires the effective implementation of a sound environment policy backed by suitable legal instruments. Such an implementation may include the required number of actions in the following non-exhaustive list:

1. Family planning.
2. Immediate halting of the destruction of forests; logging ought to be banned unless the same species is planted to replace it and the saplings survival checked at least for two years to prevent fraud which is quite common.
3. A ban on the use of arable land by various industries.
4. Carefully supervised re-forestation of land with indigenous species; such supervision needs to be continued at least for five years in order to ensure that such efforts are not mere transient cosmetic news items.
5. A real national effort to cut down the emission of the so-called ‘green house’ gases; land and maritime regulations that empowers the authorities to impose severe punishment on those who engage in irresponsible disposal of plastics, toxic substances, etc. The effect on the environment by billions of bottles of carbonated beverages consumed daily, seems to have escaped attention.
6. Technical research into roofing materials and exterior paints that will mimic the natural thermal exchange between the original green cover of an area and the atmosphere during daytime. In arid areas, the nearest green area may be used as a standard with a beneficial effect on the local climate.
7. Planting of suitable local trees along the roads.

* Unequivocal legal action to ensure land tenure of the actual cultivators and pastoralists, land ownership of an area by its present original inhabitants (especially forests and remote areas), protection of the local fishermen from intrusions by foreign fishermen.
* Legal action to restrain and devolve ‘agro-industry’ at the production level.
* Abolition of seed and animal breeding monopolies; their current sway in food production severely limits agricultural biodiversity making it extremely vulnerable to emerging pathogens. Moreover, the species they sell require intensive use of fertilisers and biocides which lowers soil fertility, kills pollinators, etc.
* Trade and industry policy ought to be guided by the legal measures suggested here.
* Education of the future food producers should pay greater attention to the local food culture and the vital importance of agriculture, relevance and appropriateness of the methods taught and culinary enjoyment. The last emphasises that man derives a personal and a social pleasure from meals, and one’s intake of food is not akin to filling a car with petrol wherein the number of calories in a meal is equated with that of litres of fuel put in the vehicle.
* Public and school education ought to strive to increase people’s dietary competence i.e., knowing what to eat and enjoy, when and where to get it and how to prepare it for consumption. At the same time, it must explain the importance of nutrition, hence the value of those engaged in food production.
* Health needs described earlier are of even greater relevance to this sub-system.
* In countries where child labour obtains, government is often responsible for public communications; internal/home affairs ought to exert itself to establish and extend goods and public transport and telephone networks and an adequate postal service.

Although non-exhaustive, the foregoing strategies respectively in food and agriculture and adjunctive policies may be easily revised to suit the needs of an individual case. Rather than presenting a single strategy set for a food and agriculture policy, it has been distributed among the relevant elements of a food system in order to ensure the logical cohesion of the present proposal. The same applies to the requisite strategies in adjunctive domains.

It may be objected that in spite of its importance, security in its present sense has not been included among the adjunctive policies. There are two good reasons for this omission; a food and agriculture authorities are not competent to engage in diplomacy or use force which may be needed to resolve armed conflicts. Neither do they have a mechanism to legislate against other causes of insecurity nor enforce the resulting regulations.

The next challenge is to identify how the international, national and regional/local institutions may contribute to the implementation of the suggested strategies. This requires one to take into account its individual variations and limits of institutional jurisdiction:

* International institutions; it will be noted that combating child labour in various sub-systems of a food system requires the intervention by diverse international bodies. However this seems to require two distinct steps.

1. Effective coordination of the activities of all international organisations concerned with various elements of food systems. FAO seems to be eminently suited to guide and moderate this task.
2. Harmonisation of the agreements, actions and guidelines of international institutions concerned with those sub-systems as indicated by the adjunctive strategies. It will require the involvement of FAO, ILO, WTO, etc. Such harmonisation may be carried out under the auspices of the UN.
3. Achieving both objectives requires sincere and serious inter-institutional negociation.

* National; the question here is how to bring about the requisite national policy harmony an appropriate implementation strategies needed to deal with child labour. Inter-departmental coordination of relevant and appropriate policies is essential for this purpose. During this process, particular attention ought to be paid to procure the necessary competence and funds. Food and agriculture authorities ought to ensure a continuous dialogue with those who are involved in the local food systems in order to design a relevant policy. Some of the measures that may be taken are listed below:

1. Inter-departmental sessions with a view to policy harmonisation.
2. A goal-directed dialogue between food and agriculture authorities and their international counterparts to procure the relevant competence and resources.
3. Similar exchanges between the food and agriculture authorities and the national NGO’s in order to pool resources and harmonise their activities.
4. If the authorities are not locally represented, immediate action should be taken to remedy this inadequacy.
5. Open public consultations to ascertain the extent of the problem and appropriate practical solutions pertinent to different areas.
6. Formulation of food and agriculture ought to be guided by the actual nutritional needs of the public and the real problems faced by those who work the food systems involved. This calls for a frank and open dialogue between the two groups.

* Regional/local; in areas where child labour is seen, the relevant official representation may be sketchy or even non-existent. In such cases, representatives of national food and agriculture authorities and the people of the area engaged in its food system ought to form working groups to address the problem. Otherwise, the local representatives of the authorities may perform that function. It is best the members of such groups are as representative as possible of every aspect of the local food system to avoid the bias vested interests would have on decision-making. Some of the most important tasks of such a group may include any of the following:

1. A survey of the output of the area’s yielder sub-system (cereals, fruits, nuts, vegetables, milk, meat or fish) and what resources are needed to increase it.
2. Formation of the producer cooperatives and common purchasing units and reparing facilities.
3. Procurement of the necessary resources from the authorities, NGO’s and international organisations.
4. Working groups should seek to establish locally owned cooperative storage and preservation facilities at strategic locations, i.e., within easy access to the maximum number of food producing areas. The above cooperatives should establish in suitable locations similar food shops and family-run restaurants or encourage and assist kindred local people to do so. Thus, every sub-system in a local food system can be turned into an interlinked cooperative enterprise. These can then be linked into a wider regional and eventually into a national undertaking.
5. Working groups should organise meetings to discuss local problems and workshops to acquire a greater appropriate competence.
6. Working groups should strive to establish suitable vocational training units for children already engaged in labour as pointed out earlier. If found suitable, international, national and local assistance should be sought to establish and operate them. Such facilities need not be elaborate and may also be used for the gatherings of working groups.

**Concluding Remarks**

One’s quality of life depends on the adequacy with which one’s nutritional needs are satisfied with culinary enjoyment. Greater complexity of how man may satisfy his fundamental needs has made an appropriate education an imperative necessity. Hence, child labour has emerged as a socially unacceptable state of affairs. Owing to the intricate logical relationship among man’s fundamental needs, addressing child-labour in agriculture necessaryily involves satisfying those needs as applicable to them.

The proposal attempts to outline such a solution and takes into account the importance of enhancing the parental income of the child victims of competitive economy and political turpitude. Stating the obvious, other things being equal, competition inevitably leaves behind losers. And where child labour is seen, other things are not equal. Therefore, the introduction of cooperative food systems is of crucial importance.

Although the nuts and bolts of how this proposal may be carried out are omitted, its adjustment to suit real conditions in a country is not difficult. Moreover, the value of the dialogue between various local groups and the authorities in policy formulation has been emphasised. Ample room has been left to diverse expertise to appropriately expand on the implementation details at various levels.

However, gaining the consent of various international and national institutions to act in unison to enhance the quality of people’s life poses an imposing difficulty. An unshakable belief in what each of them do is the ‘way’ and limited competence in undertaking holistic action remains the two most formidable problems to be overcome. Nothing short of wide-spread, clearly articulated public action would be effective in arousing the institutions from the lethargy into which centruries of reductive thought has lulled them.

What is often overlooked is that at the field level of every sub-system in a food system, there is a large body of expertise whose relevance and appropriateness has only been ascertained relative to two dangerously reductive criteria viz., newness and personal gain through competition. Inadvisability of this approach has been stressed here, for it leads to results that promote child labour. Meanwhile, recent interest in family farms and small holdings seems to point food production in an environmentally and socially benign direction.

Best wishes!

Lal Manavado.

## Rogers Ochieng Otieno, SCODA development group, Kenya

Dear Sir/ Madam.

Receive greetings from our end.

This is to give our contributions on the possible ways of ending child labour in agriculture.

Kind regards

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Rogers Ochieng Otieno/ Male/ SCODA development group** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Fighting Child Labour Promoted by Effects of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation Project in Siaya County** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| N/A |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Nyanza/ Kenya/ Siaya/ Bondo** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Fisheries and aquaculture** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| SCODA Group is situated within the periphery of Lake Victoria in Usigu Division, West Yimbo Location/ Siaya County. Its major activities are to promote Human Rights Awareness, Advocacy and Exploit fisheries resources within the Lake (fish cage farming) and improve Livelihoods of the local community. It has in place an elected executive committee and sub-committees totaling to 25 youth members who manage its schedule activities as per its mandates and appraised work plan. There is serious increase in child labour and school dropout cases in this region from the effects of hunger, malnutrition escalating due to covid- 19 pandemic. The outbreak of corona diseases is worsening situation by limiting employment opportunity for parents/caregivers causing high influx in the agriculture sector thus in a way of trying to lower cost of production they resort to employing children as cheap source of labour. This not only exposes children to economic exploitation but, also affects their concentration and ability to have focus on a better future that will be made available through competent education.  Long hours of work in the agriculture sector leads to children being exposed to hazardous labour and scorching effects of the sun which also causes a major challenge in health life of all the children engaged in child labour activities this contribute to distorted mental order and most children coupled with getting use to access to money (even if little) forms negative attitude to formal education which they compare in their narrow minds to be not lucrative; further endangering their lives.  SCODA activities and projects   1. Training parents, leaders and potential perpetrators on the dangers of child labor activities on children and the consequences as outline on the children ACT CAP 586 Kenyan laws 2. Conducting rescue missions for children in need of care and protection and placing them back in schools. 3. Working in close coordination with law enforcement sector to apprehend the perpetrators of child labor within agriculture sector. 4. Working with county government through Agriculture Sector Development Support Program (ASDSP) to train groups on financial literacy skills, linking the identified groups with banks and devolve funds e.g. National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Youth enterprise funds (YEF).   Impact/results   1. 14 children rescued and placed back in various schools with Siaya County 2. 1500 parents, guardian and leaders trained on dangers of child labor activities on children and the consequences as outline on the children ACT CAP 586 Kenyan laws 3. 8 groups with 300 members trained on financial literacy; 6 group developed proposals for consideration with NGAAF committee in Siaya 4. 1 group with 20 members trained on proposal writing; develop proposal and funded by Open Society Foundation (OSEIA) to the tune of 1.8 million. 5. Reported 16 mapped cases of school drop out for action by police. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **ACTION**  We believe that the only sure way to eliminate child labor is through joint effort of enlightened society. SCODA and myself believe that the following activity should be implemented in all parts of the world to mitigate child labor in the agriculture sector;   1. Conduct massive community consultations/ training on the effects of child labour and the legal framework provisions 2. Formation of community Anti- Child Labour Committees in every district that deals with mapping and reporting of cases 3. Funding community groups to champion awareness on effects/ impacts of child labour on children and the community 4. Establishment of children against labour committees with schools where children survivors of hazardous labour tell their stories and become champions of change 5. Avail easy to get Funding for agriculture value chain actors to commercialize their ventures in industries with ability to source for skilled labourers. 6. Conduct improve your business skill (ILO model) training to actors within and without agriculture sector and reduce risk of job loss among parents that put pressure on family management leading to child labour |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Challenges**: Low financial sustainability and Lack of clear plan for sustainability are the main challenge facing both SCODA and all other agriculture stakeholders that hinders effective implementation of activities and action plans addressing elimination of child labor.  **How to address the challenges mentioned herein includes**; There is need for donors to consider the little known organizations like SCODA for financial support by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracies that tends to only favor the who knows who in the sector. There is also need for the world to develop a cross cutting policy document that puts all countries to task of developing mechanisms including but not limited to resource allocation for the little known organizations (the likes of SCODA) to maximize their ability and skills in the fight against child labour in the agriculture sector. Finally there is need to develop a reporting system that captures operations of all players dealing with child labour eliminations within agriculture sector to track achievements by the 2025 as envisaged by the SDG goals. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| 1. Map all actors contributing a role in child labour reduction efforts. 2. Give financial support/ Fund operations/ activities of mapped organizations in the sector 3. Undertake capacity building for actors in agriculture value chains 4. Support establishment of sustainability strategy for committed organizations/ actors 5. Reward community groups championing awareness on effects/ impacts of child labour on children and the community 6. Advocate for the establishment of Child Against Labor Committees (CALC) within schools where child survivors of hazardous labour tell their stories and become champions of change 7. Initiate Funding Support For Child Labour Elimination Actors with Resilient (CLEAR) in all countries 8. Adopt improve your business skill (ILO model) training for actors within and without agriculture sector and reduce risk of job loss among parents that put pressure on family management leading to child labor |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| 1. **Educators**- cooperate with and accept all children including children rescued from labour and exploitation. 2. **Child protection system**- put up robust system that makes child protection conducive and accommodative 3. **Ministry of labor**- be committed to the task that feeds you and make legal frameworks that mitigate chances of taking children as labourers 4. **Police**- avoid taking bribes in cases that relates to child labour; support the effort of having perpetrators booked and punished by law when found culpable |

## Adolfo Rolo Sáez, Fundación Agua de Coco, Spain

Buenos días,

Aquí adjunto les envío la contribución que desde nuestra organización Fundación Agua de Coco llevamos a cabo desde hace más de 10 años para acabar con la explotación infantil en el mundo rural y la agricultura.

Un saludo,

Adolfo Rolo Sáez

Área de Proyectos | Fundación Agua de Coco

**Proponente** (nombre/sexo/institución)

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| **Adolfo Rolo Sáez / Hombre / Fundación Agua de Coco** |

**Título de la contribución**

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| **CENTRO DE FORMACIÓN PROFESIONAL AGRÍCOLA DE FIANARANTSOA**  **JOVENES: ACTORES CLAVE EN EL DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO**  **Fianarantsoa, Madagascar** |

**Indique la categoría de parte interesada/actor agrícola**

* Funcionario gubernamental (/ministerios competentes en materia agrícola)
* Organización patronal
* Institución académica/de investigación
* Sector privado
* Organización / cooperativa de agricultores / organización de productores
* Organización de trabajadores o sindicato
* Sociedad civil u ONG
* Organismo internacional (ONU, UITA, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banco de desarrollo

**Si ninguna de las anteriores es válida, indique a qué categoría de actor o sector pertenece (por ejemplo, laboral, educativo o social)**

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**Región/País/Ubicación**

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| **Haute Matsiatra / Madagascar / Ciudad de Fianrantsoa** |

**Subsector agrícola** (agricultura, pesca y acuicultura, ganadería, o silvicultura)

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| **África Sub-sahariana: Madagascar**   * **Región de Haute Matsiatra**   + **Distrito de Fianarantsoa I (Commune Urbaine de Fianarantsoa);** |

1. Proporcione algo de **contexto** sobre su contribución y propuesta:
   * ¿Cuál es el aspecto del trabajo infantil en la agricultura que le preocupa? ¿Cuáles son las principales causas? ¿Y las consecuencias? ¿Qué impacto directo/indirecto o intencionado/no intencionado cree que está teniendo su labor sobre el trabajo infantil en la agricultura
   * ¿Ha tenido la COVID-19 un impacto (in)directo en el trabajo infantil en el sistema agroalimentario de su país?
   * Si procede, describa actividades y proyectos, implementados anteriormente o en curso, para abordar el trabajo infantil en la agricultura, así como su impacto/resultados:

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| **Madagascar es una nación insular situada en el Océano Índico, frente la costa sudeste del continente africano, a la altura de Mozambique. Además, se trata de la isla más grande de África y la cuarta más grande del mundo, separada del continente por el canal de Mozambique.**  **Ocupa el puesto 164 en el último Informe sobre Desarrollo Humano (2020) del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, con un IDH del 0.528 (0.904 en el caso de España) lo que le sitúa en el grupo de países del Índice de Desarrollo Bajo. De hecho, el 60% de la población malgache vive bajo los umbrales de pobreza.**  **La situación de la infancia en Madagascar es de riesgo en varios aspectos como muestra la encuesta MICS del 2018 realizada por el instituto de Estadística de Madagascar en colaboración con UNICEF[[9]](#footnote-9); en el plano sanitario, algunos datos son bastante relevantes: el 42% de los niños de menos de 5 años tiene problemas de malnutrición graves o moderados. Sólo el 40% de los partos se producen en una unidad sanitaria (centro de salud u hospital) y la mortalidad infantil continua siendo elevada (40 por cada 1 000 nacimientos). El acceso a la salud es una necesidad básica, algo tan simple como una diarrea es la primera causa de morbilidad entre los niños de menos de 5 años, problema que se debería atajar.**  **Otros problemas que padecen los menores de la isla son el riesgo de prostitución o explotación sexual, y el trabajo infantil. Entre los 5 y 17 años el 50% de los niños y el 47% de las niñas trabajan. Los principales sectores en los que los y las menores malgaches se ven obligados a trabajar son la minería y la industria de la piedra y las actividades agrícolas o forestales: esto no les permite recibir la educación que necesitan y les priva de su derecho a la infancia.**  **Los datos reflejan además que el 76% de los niños están escolarizados en la educación primaria, aunque el porcentaje desciende considerablemente cuando nos referimos a aquellos que asisten con normalidad a la escuela. La situación empeora al referirnos a la enseñanza secundaria, ya que sólo un 27% de los y las estudiantes llegan a ella.**  **La esperanza de vida al nacer es de 66 años (Informe de Desarrollo Humano 2018). La fiebre y la malaria son las primeras causas de enfermedades (más del 40% de los casos), con la diarrea apareciendo en segunda posición (12% de los casos). Además un 1,7% de la población es seropositiva y sólo un 40% de los enfermos acuden a los establecimientos sanitarios para obtener cuidados, pero carecen de medios financieros para curarse, en particular en el medio rural.**  **La situación es especialmente difícil para la mujer, con una baja tasa de atención materno-infantil, y altas cifras de embarazos adolescentes y mortalidad materna.**  **Los niveles de malnutrición tan elevados se ven incrementados por los efectos climáticos como El Niño: las sequías en el sur y las inundaciones en el norte del país afectan directamente a la seguridad alimentaria del país. Actualmente, se calcula que cerca de 1 millón y medio de personas están en riesgo alto de hambruna debido a estos efectos climáticos.**  **Además los derechos civiles son violados continuamente. Especialmente en la defensa de los recursos naturales y de los bosques. Según Amnistía Internacional, varios activistas y organizaciones de pequeños agricultores han sido criminalizados por defender una agricultura a pequeña escala y sostenible con los bosques frente a grandes explotaciones de recursos naturales y la instalación de empresas mineras cuyo impacto sobre el medio de vida de la población rural y el medioambiente son devastadores.**  **Pandemia COVID-19**  **El contexto expuesto anteriormente muestra una situación ya de por sí complicada que se ha visto perjudicada muy severamente a causa de las medidas tomadas a nivel nacional e internacional para contener la expansión del COVID-19.**  **Uno de los principales motores de la economía malgache era el incipiente turismo (cerca de 350.000 empleos directos e indirectos) que comenzaba a desarrollarse en la isla gracias a la estabilidad política. Con el cierre de fronteras y la movilidad internacional muy restringida, la paralización del turismo a nivel mundial y también en Madagascar ha sido total y la gran mayoría de hoteles y empresas relacionadas con este sector han visto paralizadas sus actividades justo a comienzo de la temporada.**  **No sólo el sector del turismo se ha visto afectado, sino que el sector informal, principalmente vendedoras y kibaroas (carga y descarga) han visto reducidas sus posibilidades de trabajo. Las vendedoras se ven afectadas por las medidas de distanciamiento social y restricción en los horarios en los que pueden vender sus productos. Los kibaroa han visto reducido su trabajo de carga y descarga ya que las comunicaciones terrestres se han visto afectadas por el confinamiento de la capital y sólo se permitía el transporte de mercancías de primera necesidad.**  **Además, se ha producido un aumento del precio de productos de primera necesidad, principalmente alimentos y productos de higiene, por el miedo al desabastecimiento generado por la interrupción y descenso de la llegada de productos de otras regiones a causa del cierre de carreteras.**  **Estas situaciones empujan todavía más a las familias empobrecidas hacia una situación insostenible y cada vez más precaria que conlleva que todos los miembros de la familia, indistintamente edad y sexo, tengan que contribuir en la medida de lo posible a la escasa economía familiar. En el caso de los niños, realizando trabajos de kibaroa, principalmente el abastecimiento de agua en bidones de 20 litros. En el caso de las niñas, jóvenes adolescentes y madres solteras trabajos domésticos en casas ajenas que les posiciona en situaciones de vulnerabilidad de maltrato físico y psicológico y de agresiones sexuales, cuando no pasan directamente a ejercer la prostitución o son víctimas de matrimonios forzados.**  **Estas situaciones de empobrecimiento de las familias conducen a mujeres y menores a una mayor situación de precariedad y a un empeoramiento de la violación de sus derechos más básicos, a una peor alimentación y a un escaso acceso a la higiene y a la salud, llevándoles a situaciones de más vulnerabilidad ante situaciones como la del COVID-19.**  **Contexto de la zona en la que se ejecuta el proyecto:**  **La provincia de Fianarantsoa es una de las más pobladas del país. Sin embargo, es también de las más pobres, especialmente en el medio rural, y el acceso al agua potable y la electricidad por residente es la tasa más baja de todo el país. El Instituto Nacional de Estadística de Madagascar sitúa el porcentaje de población de Fianarantsoa por debajo del índice de pobreza en un 90%.**  **Su capital es Fianarantsoa, la provincia es eminentemente rural, y el sustento familiar proviene, en su mayor parte, de pequeñas explotaciones agrícolas de auto-consumo que dependen directamente de la degradación ambiental y de la biodiversidad de la zona.**  **Esta provincia presenta una importante diversidad biológica, ya que contiene varios de los Parques Nacionales más importantes del país (Isalo, Ranomafana et Andringitra), que la sitúan como destino turístico principal. Cuenta con un corredor forestal húmedo de 500 km. que acoge una extraordinaria diversidad biológica, que hace de Madagascar uno de los “puntos sensibles” de la biodiversidad en el mundo. Este bosque ofrece un importante servicio al ecosistema, principalmente asegurando la protección de las cuencas fluviales, y la prevención de la erosión de los suelos, que contribuyen al sostenimiento de las actividades agrícolas y la biodiversidad en el interior del bosque.**  **Sin embargo, la zona sufre cada vez más una importante deforestación, que deja tras ella suelos denudados y frágiles. La erosión que resulta de ello es muy importante acarreando una degradación importante de los medios lacustres, costeros y marinos que por otra parte están sometidos a fuertes presiones de transformaciones para objetivos agrícolas y a causa de una explotación excesiva.**  **El crecimiento demográfico constituye un factor de agravación muy serio para la situación del medio ambiente. En efecto, el nivel de pobreza de la población obliga a los habitantes recurrir a los recursos naturales de manera destructiva privilegiando el corto plazo en detrimento de una utilización racional que reviste un carácter duradero.**  **Según la encuesta MICS del 2018 realizada por el instituto de Estadística de Madagascar en colaboración con UNICEF2, el 65% de los menores entre 5 y 17 años están implicados en el trabajo infantil, siendo la región con el porcentaje más alto de todo el país. Esta cifra se justifica porque la mayoría de la población de esta región vive y trabaja en el medio rural y los/as jóvenes colaboran con la actividad económica agrícola, ganadera o forestal. Los datos muestran que los matrimonios de menores en la región afectan a más del doble de las niñas (30%) que de los varones (12%). Ellas son las que más sufren los matrimonios forzados ya que las familias esperan obtener beneficios económicos y sociales a la vez que los hogares se liberan de una persona más que alimentar. La Región sigue la tendencia del país en cuanto a la tasa de escolarización que es elevada en el ciclo de primaria (85%) pero se reduce drásticamente en el ciclo de secundaria (23%). Esta ruptura se debe a una falta de instalaciones educativas en zona rural y a la falta de medios de las familias para enviar a sus hijos/as a los centros urbanos donde podrían continuar sus estudios. Estas circunstancias favorecen los matrimonios forzados y el trabajo infantil en los sectores en los que trabajan sus padres (agricultura, ganadería, actividades forestales).**  **Además la malnutrición afecta severamente a la región con la incongruencia de que es una de las regiones agrícolas del país. Haute Matsiatra es la 3ª región del país con el porcentaje de retraso de crecimiento debido a la malnutrición más elevado con un 54%.**  **El fenómeno de la desescolarización después de la educación primaria es debido a la falta de recursos de las familias y a la necesidad de que los/as jóvenes apoyen las economías de los hogares participando muchos de ellos en las actividades agrícolas y ganaderas de las que subsisten las familias.**  **Otros/as jóvenes prefieren quedarse en Fianarantsoa para buscar trabajo y así no suponer una carga económica para la familia. Los niños encuentran trabajo en carga y descarga de mercancías y las niñas en servicio doméstico quedando expuestas a abusos físicos y sexuales. Estos trabajos no son ni estables ni les aportan ingresos suficientes para cubrir sus necesidades básicas.**  **Así que el fenómeno de los y las jóvenes de la calle, porque no poseen educación, ni formación, ni medios para poder ganarse la vida fuera de la mendicidad, es uno de los problemas más graves y que más condenan a la pobreza y a la marginación a la provincia de Fianarantsoa.** |

1. **Describa la actuación** que usted o su organización pueden o podrían llevar a cabo para abordar o aumentar los esfuerzos hacia la eliminación del trabajo infantil en la agricultura. Si esto no procede, explique en las siguientes secciones los retos a los que usted o su organización se enfrentan a la hora de abordar el trabajo infantil en la agricultura y aporte recomendaciones para que las partes interesadas en el sector agrícola y otras partes interesadas puedan tomar mayores medidas.

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| **Esta situación, denunciada más de una vez por parte de las comunidades locales, ha movido la Fundación Agua de Coco en colaboración con la ONG local bel Avenir, a intervenir en Fianarantsoa a través de la puesta en marcha del Centro de Formación Agrícola, ya que la organización tiene como objetivo desde su creación la atención a los niños y niñas en situación de necesidad, por lo que este grupo es el beneficiario principal de todos los proyectos de la entidad.**  **En el caso de este proyecto, se ha considerado a los y las adolescentes cómo una población especialmente vulnerable; ya que padecen las dificultades y responsabilidades económicas y sociales de la población adulta y la vulnerabilidad y carencias de la infancia en los países empobrecidos. Pero tal y como señalan los resultados de una encuesta realizada al exalumnado del Centro en el año 2020, el centro de formación ha permitido al 89% trabajar en una actividad relacionada con los aspectos que abarca la formación de la granja escuela, llamados a mejorar la empleabilidad.**  **Estudiando el terreno se comprobó que existe un colectivo especialmente frágil: el de las mujeres. De hecho, en Madagascar la mayoría de las estructuras familiares no cuentan con la figura del varón, de forma que la cabeza de familia es la mujer, que además padece una fuerte discriminación por cuestión de género en el ámbito laboral, educativo, sanitario, etc.**  **En el caso de las mujeres adolescentes, hemos observado que padecen una situación aún más precaria, provocada por mayores dificultades a la hora de acceder a la escolarización, por el riesgo de abusos, embarazos no deseados, enfermedades de transmisión sexual.**  **Además la inexistencia de otros centros de formación agrícola en la zona en la que se interviene, el elevado precio de la matrícula de los centros más cercanos y la falta de oferta de servicios de alimentación, seguimiento nutricional, alfabetización, biblioteca o internado hace que el acceso a este tipo de formación para los y las jóvenes en riesgo de exclusión social sea casi imposible.**  **Por estas razones, cada vez son más los y las adolescentes que desean acudir al Centro de Formación Agrícola y hemos observado un fuerte compromiso de las familias con la escolarización.**  **Sin embargo, después de más de 10 años de funcionamiento del centro de Formación Agrícola, detectamos las dificultades de las familias más alejadas del pueblo para enviar a sus hijos, y especialmente sus hijas.**  **Después de numerosas conversaciones con las familias, decidimos atender su demanda, habilitando una residencia segura donde las estudiantes pudiesen permanecer de lunes a viernes durante el curso escolar, de manera que garanticemos su acceso a las formaciones profesionales.**  **De esta casa de acogida ya se han beneficiado a lo largo de los últimos años una gran cantidad de adolescentes – unas 40 cada año - que, además de residir en ella, han participado de las actividades que el centro ofrece, no sólo para fomentar la formación profesional sino también para tener un apoyo integral que aumente sus capacidades y favorezca su empadronamiento. Estas actividades complementarias son tanto de formación en educación para la salud, como deportivas y artístico-culturales. Además se presta una atención especial a la sensibilización contra los embarazos precoces, la importancia del empoderamiento de la mujer (económico y social), la valorización de la mujer en su entorno social. Estos objetivos se trabajan a través de talleres específicos sobre los derechos de las mujeres y de educación a la sexualidad.**  **Además, ya que la igualdad de género es uno de los objetivos transversales de toda intervención de la ONG Bel Avenir, hemos procurados establecer una cuota de mujeres que facilite la equidad en el acceso a la formación y los recursos. Asimismo se han diseñado gran parte de las actividades y capacitaciones de forma que faciliten el acceso de las mujeres a los ámbitos laboral y social, proporcionándoles capacidades que normalmente no se les ofrecen. Capacitando a nuestras estudiantes, adquieren conocimientos que les permiten obtener igualdad de oportunidades en diferentes ámbitos de su vida, generando un cambio social sostenible y duradero.**  **La formación de la Granja Escuela ha evolucionado tanto en su contenido como en su duración. La encuesta al exalumnado en el año 2020 demuestra que la duración inicial de 1 año de formación era considerada como escasa e insuficiente para el 26% del exalumando, por esa razón y para mejorar la empleabilidad y la especialización de los y las jóvenes, se decidió ampliar la formación a 2 años, con un primer año de formación general teórico-práctica y un segundo año de especialización en una de las materias troncales y un refuerzo en la creación de un proyecto profesional propio y la búsqueda de empleo.**  **Otras de las dificultades identificadas por el exalumnado del Centro son la falta de formación del profesorado (30%), la dificultad de acceso a herramientas (28%) y la necesidad de asesoramiento pos-formación (25%). Por todo ello, el proyecto ha incluido dos formaciones de formadores para mejorar la capacidad pedagógica de los profesores, la entrega de un kit de instalación según especialización al final de la formación y el seguimiento pos-formación al alumnado durante su primer año de instalación.**  **Objetivos del proyecto**  **La finalidad de este proyecto de desarrollo integral es la formación y preparación de los y las adolescentes más desfavorecidas de la ciudad de Fianarantsoa para su reinserción en la sociedad malgache, a través del aprendizaje y de la capacitación de un oficio digno y de unos conocimientos higiénicos, sanitarios y domésticos necesarios para desenvolverse de forma autónoma en la vida diaria.**  **Los alumnos y alumnas siguen una formación de dos años: un primer año teórico-práctico donde se han formado en unas materias troncales (agricultura, ganadería y medioambiente) y unas formaciones anexas (carpintería, albañilería, costura, fabricación de jabón, cestería, apicultura y ricipiscicultura ). Durante el segundo año (el año del proyecto) se especializarán en una de las materias troncales (ganadería avícola, porcina, cultivo de arroz y leguminosas y horticultura) y se seguirán beneficiando de las foramciones anexas.**  **El equipo técnico del centro de formación está compuesto por: 1 coordinadora del centro, 1 responsable pedagógico y de proyectos, 1 agente administrativo, 10 formadores, 1 bibliotecaria, 2 responsables del internado, 1 responsable de almacén,1 agente de seguridad de día.**  **El Centro de Formación Agrícola dispone de las instalaciones siguientes: 1 Biblioteca, 1 Taller pedagógico, 1 oficina administrativa, 6 almacenes de herramientas agrícolas, material fungible, bienes alimenticios, 1 internado para las jóvenes alumnas, 2 edificios para los gallinas, 1 edificio para los cerdos, 1 edificio para los cebús y 2 dormitorios para las clases verdes, 1 edificio cocinaalmacén, 1 sala de formación y taller cestería, 1 taller de agricultura y carpintería, 1 almacén agrícola, 1 sala de reunión, 1 comedor, 1 zona de huerta (0,5 ha), una zona de botánica (0,5 ha), 1 zona de agroforestaría (0,5 ha), 1 arrozal (1 ha) y un vivero (200 m2).**  **Además hay una apuesta decidida de la parte de Agua de Coco por las energías renovables ya que desde hace años realiza inversiones en este sentido. Así, el Centro de Formación Agrícola de Fianrantsoa cuenta con una instalación de paneles solares que le permite abastecerse de más de la mitad de la energía necesaria para su funcionamiento, consta también de una zona de producción de biogaz aprovechando las sinergias generadas de la ganadería, tiene un sistema de recogida de agua de lluviaque complementa con agua subterránea a través de cinco pozos existentes en el interior del Centro de Formación.**  **Objetivo general:**  **Favorecer la integración socio-económica de adolescentes en riesgo de exclusión social, con especial incidencia en las jóvenes mujeres y reforzar la creación de redes de agricultores y el desarrollo de recursos económicos en el medio rural de la región de Haute Matsiatra.**  **Objetivos específicos:**  **OS1. Mejorar la apropiación de conocimientos pertinentes y adaptados a la realidad actual de los jóvenes hombres y mujeres que realizaron la formación agrícola y ganadera.**  **OS2. Incrementar la gestión autónoma y profesional de las actividades económicas de los y las adolescentes mediante asesoramiento y acompañamiento al inicio de las mismas.**  **OS3. Favorecer y promover el acceso de mujeres jóvenes al mercado profesional mediante la formación agrícola y ganadera**  **Población beneficiaria**   * **Directamente:**   **80 adolescentes cada dos años, 40 mujeres y 40 hombres en circunstancias extremas de necesidad, de entre 14 y 22 años. Sin formación básica ni específica, desempleados o en situación de precariedad laboral; empleados en la economía sumergida, o víctimas de explotación sexual. Se trabaja conjuntamente con otras asociaciones de Fianarantsoa y las zonas rurales para priorizar los y las adolescentes que estén en las circunstancias descritas.**   * **Indirectamente:**   **La población de Fianarantsoa en general y en particular la del barrio de Tambohomandrevo, al favorecerse la actividad comercial, sanitaria y financiera en esta zona. Las familias de los y las jóvenes formadas así como las zonas rurales originarias de los beneficiarios y beneficiarias directas también se verán favorecidos por al creación de redes de agriocultores y la introducción de nuevas técnicas agrícolas y ganaderas más respetuosas con el medioambiente.**  **Sitio web:** [**https://aguadecoco.org/proyectos/formacion-agricola-ganadera-y-enecoturismo/**](https://aguadecoco.org/proyectos/formacion-agricola-ganadera-y-enecoturismo/) **Testimonio:** [**https://youtu.be/X6yl7soyQBw**](https://youtu.be/X6yl7soyQBw) **Fin 13ª promoción:** [**https://youtu.be/s3\_j0DtcGpY**](https://youtu.be/s3_j0DtcGpY) |

1. **Retos:** ¿Cuáles son los principales obstáculos a los que usted, o las partes interesadas del sector agrícola en general, se enfrentan a la hora de abordar el trabajo infantil en la agricultura? ¿Cómo podrían superarse o abordarse estos retos (p.ej. mediante políticas, legislación, desarrollo de capacidades, etc.)?

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| **Madagascar está sometida a los efectos del cambio climático durante todo el año. En las zonas áridas del sur del país las sequías se intensifican y las escasas lluvias llegan meses después de lo habitual. En las zonas altas del país (como Fianarantsoa) con un clima y pluviometría tradicionalmente favorables a los cultivos, las inundaciones son más frecuentes y sus consecuencias más devastadoras sobre la producción agrícola y ganadera. Estos efectos climáticos pueden afectar a la buena consecución de los objetivos del proyecto en la fase de post formación, cuando los alumnos y alumnas se instalen en sus zonas de origen. Desde la formación se ofrecen técnicas más respetuosas con el medioambiente y que puedan disminuir los impactos de estas inclemencias climatológicas.**  **Las zonas rurales de Madagascar conocen un incremento de los casos de robos de ganado. En Madagascar las mafias que comercian con los zebús se las conocen como los Dahalo. En ciertos lugares del país, sobre todo en el sur de la isla, hay zonas controladas por los Dahalo que llevan a cabo confrontaciones armadas con los militares. La zona donde se desarrolla el proyecto tiene una menor presencia de Dahalos o ladrones de ganado pero cada vez son más habituales los robos de ganado (no sólo zebús sino también porcino y avícola) conllevando a una inseguridad creciente en las zonas rurales de la región. Desde la organización se trabaja para que los exalumnos y alumnas de la formación se organicen en asociaciones agrícolas con el objetivo de compartir información y experiencias pero también como grupos de presión sobre las administraciones públicas qué son las responsables de garantizar la seguridad en estas zonas.**  **Los alumnos y alumnas deben implicarse en la formación para garantizar que la acaben con el máximo de conocimientos adquiridos. Al finalizar la formación se les hace entrega de un kit de instalación según la especialidad escogida. Se han detectado casos en los que las familias en casos de pobreza extrema, venden una parte de los kits de instalación con el consiguiente perjuicio en el desarrollo de la actividad profesional seleccionada. Además, en numerosas ocasiones, los alumnos y alumnas no consiguen aplicar las nuevas técnicas aprendidas por la reticencia de sus familias a introducir novedades en sus modos de cultivo o ganadería. Desde el Centro de formación se trabaja con las familias para sensibilizarlas a la importancia de los kits de herramientas para el futuro desarrollo de la actividad y la aplicación de las técnicas aprendidas por sus hijos e hijas durante la formación. Además se realizan varios seguimientos post-formación para reforzar este trabajo con las familias y acompañar a los alumnos y alumnas en sus comienzos en la explotación agrícola y ganadera.** |

1. **Sugerencias para las partes interesadas del sector agrícola:** ¿Qué recomendaría a las partes interesadas para abordar la cuestión del trabajo infantil en la agricultura que ha abordado?

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| **Desde nuestro punto de vista dos estrategias son claves para disminuir la incidencia del trabajo infantil en el mundo rural y en el sector agrícola. Todo ello buscando la disminución de la pobreza que es la razón principal por la que los y las menores se ven empujadas a apoyar económicamente a sus familias.**  **Por un lado mejorar las técnicas agrícolas y ganaderas que mejoren el rendimiento agrícola pero en respeto y sostenibles con el entorno medioambiental. Por ello, desde nuestro Centro enseñamos técnicas agrícolas y ganaderas que sean sostenibles con el medioambiente y aprovechando las sinergias que se producen entre diferentes actividades. Además, vemos de vital importancia el apoyo a la creación de redes de agricultores para que puedan compartir informaciones, conocimientos y experiencias. Estas redes de agricultores puede facilitar las sinergias entre actores agrícolas y que estas redes faciliten el acceso a nuevas tecnologías, creación y acceso de insumos y acceso al mercado de manera conjunta y colectiva.**  **Por otro lado, la falta de infraestructuras en el mundo rural (centros educativos, centros de formación, banco de semillas) y entre el mundo rural y los mercados (carreteras, transportes, silos de almacenamiento) suponen barreras económicas que los y las agriculturas más pequeñas difícilmente pueden asumir individualmente.** |

1. **Sugerencias para otras partes interesadas:** ¿Qué recomendaría a otras partes interesadas que se ocupan de la cuestión del trabajo infantil en la agricultura (sector laboral, educación, protección de la infancia o sector social, incluidos los ministerios de trabajo, inspectores, educadores, profesionales de los servicios sociales, etc.)?

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| **El Estado central de Madagascar así como el de la Región son los principales actores que pueden y deben garantizar el acceso a los servicios básicos de la población del mundo rural y favorecer el acceso a los mercados de los productos del mundo rural.**  **Como hemos destacado anteriormente, existe un problema de seguridad de robo de ganado, debido a la falta de la presencia de fuerzas del orden en las zonas rurales pero también por los índices de pobreza que sufre la población de la que se aprovechan las mafias del mercado negro del ganado.** |

## Gires Teboukeu Boungo, University of Bamenda/AFAMODEC, Cameroon

Chère Modérateur,

En pièce jointe, ma contribution à l'appel. La thématique est: Problématique et essais de solution liés à l’implication des enfants dans la cueillette/ramassage des produits forestiers non ligneux (PFNL) comestibles

Mes salutations.

**Auteur de la présentation** (nom/genre/institution)

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| **TEBOUKEU BOUNGO Gires/ Male/ University of Bamenda** |

**Titre de votre présentation**

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| **Problématique et essais de solution liés à l’implication des enfants dans la cueillette/ramassage des produits forestiers non ligneux (PFNL) comestibles** |

**Cochez votre catégorie de partie prenante/acteur agricole**

* Fonctionnaire gouvernemental (/ministères liés à l'agriculture)
* Organisation patronale
* Établissement d'enseignement/de recherche
* Secteur privé
* Organisation d'agriculteurs / coopérative / organisation de producteurs
* Organisation de travailleurs ou syndicat
* Société civile ou ONG
* Oganisation internationale (ONU, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banque de développement

**Si vous n'êtes dans aucune de ces situations, veuillez indiquer la catégorie d'acteur ou le secteur auquel vous appartenez (par exemple, le travail, l'éducation ou le social).**

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**Région/Pays/Lieu**

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| **Afrique Centrale/ Cameroun/ Yaoundé** |

**Sous-secteur agricole** (production végétale, pêche et aquaculture, élevage ou foresterie).

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| **Foresterie** |

1. Veuillez décrire le **contexte** de votre contribution et de votre proposition :
   * Quel est l'aspect du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture qui vous préoccupe ? Quelles sont les causes principales? Et quelles conséquences ? Quel est l'impact direct/indirect ou intentionnel/non intentionnel de votre travail sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ?
   * La pandémie de COVID-19 a-t-elle eu un effet (in)direct sur le travail des enfants dans le système agro-alimentaire de votre pays ?
   * Veuillez décrire, si applicable, les activités et les projets, précédemment mis en œuvre ou en cours, destinés à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture, ainsi que leur impact/résultat.

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| **Les forêts du bassin du Congo abritent des millions d’habitants dont une grande partie dépend directement des ressources forestières et notamment des produits forestiers non ligneux (PFNL). Certains de ces produits les fruits, graines, racines, insectes ou champignons sont utilisés comme sources d’alimentation et contribuent à la fois à la sécurité alimentaire et à l’équilibre nutritionnel des populations. Les PFNL ont un potentiel socioéconomiques et une importance extraordinaires. La demande ne cesse d’augmenter, parfois pour des produits qui sont de plus en plus couramment utilisés par tous et plus seulement par les populations vivant en forêt.**  **La contribution des PFNL à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle est fondamentale pour l’intérêt et la motivation des populations à consommer et à pratiquer le commerce des PFNL. De façon générale et chez les pygmées/bantoues en particulier, la cueillette et le ramassage des produits alimentaires en forêt sont le domaine des femmes et des enfants. L’implication des enfants dans cette activité, bien que rentable, pose un problème d’inadaptation à l’âge ce qui peut nuire à son éducation ou qui est susceptible de porter atteinte à sa santé, à sa sécurité ou à sa moralité.**   * **Avec le changement climatique et dégradation de l'environnement (déforestation), les enfants sont de plus en plus obligés de parcourir des dizaines de kilomètres (Km) les exposant ainsi à certains accidents tels que les morsures de serpents, les chutes des tronc d’arbres et bien d’autres. Ces accidents sont habituellement mortels au regard de l’absence des mesures d’urgence pouvant accompagner l’enfant.** * **Les enfants travaillent souvent pendant de très longues heures et finissent par dormir en forêt car n’ayant plus de force et de temps pour rentrer en communauté. Durant la nuit ils sont exposés aux piqures de moustiques et autres insectes les exposant ainsi au paludisme et à d’autres infections.** * **Les fruits forestiers, généralement mangés crus sont les principaux aliments consommés par les enfants lorsqu’ils sont en forêt ou même en communauté; ceci durant la période d’abondance. Bien que ces fruits constituent d’excellentes sources vitaminiques, minérales, mais aussi de sucres rapides et d’eau, ils ne peuvent pas à eux seuls couvrir les besoins nutritionnels de l’enfant. Ainsi, les enfants sont souvent exposés à la malnutrition qui peut avoir un impact sur leur croissance physique et cognitive.** * **L’éducation des enfants reste inquiétante car ils s’absentent régulièrement pour aller à la recherche des PFNL comestibles pour s’alimenter et pour la vente.** * **La vente des produits de la cueillette et du ramassage est réalisée par des jeunes filles de moins de 18 ans. Elles sont exposées le long des routes principales vendant les produits collectées et s’exposant ainsi aux agressions sexuelles et à la prostitution.**   **La COVID-19 a eu un impact direct sur le travail des enfants dans le système agroalimentaire au Cameroun à travers une augmentation observable du nombre d'enfants impliqués dans la cueillette/ramassage, la transformation et la commercialisation de produits alimentaires. Suite à l’augmentation des cas de contamination et des morts, l’Etat du Cameroun a pris plusieurs mesures préventives parmi lesquelles la fermeture des écoles. Les enfants étaient obligés de rester à la maison. Malheureusement, cette décision a été un facteur prédisposant au travail des enfants notamment en milieu rural.**  **A l’état actuel de nos connaissances, aucune activité ou projets concrets n’ont été précédemment été mis en œuvre dans notre pays afin à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture.** |

1. **Veuillez décrire les** mesures que vous ou votre organisation pouvez ou pourriez adopter pour aborder ou accroître les efforts en faveur de l'élimination du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture. Si cette option n'est pas applicable, veuillez expliquer dans les sections suivantes les défis que vous ou votre organisation rencontrez dans la lutte contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture et présenter des recommandations pour que les acteurs du secteur agricole et d'autres parties prenantes puissent intensifier leur action.

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| - **Faire une analyse concrète de la situation (enquête). Les activités de recherche doivent être soutenues afin de générer des données et des informations (causes principales) qui guideront la prise de décision sur cette question très pertinente. Les données concernant le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture sont très rares dans notre pays.**  **- Accroitre la sensibilisation à travers l’éducation et mobilisation communautaire afin que les personnes qui implémentent ou encouragent le travail des enfants pour la production agricole soient avisées des risques liés.**  **- Pratiquer la domestication des produits forestiers non ligneux (PFNL) comestibles dans les communautés. Le développement de méthodes de domestication participatives qui prennent en compte tous les acteurs sociaux permettra d’avoir autour des ménages des produits alimentaires que les enfants vont en forêt chercher. C’est une solution dont les résultats peuvent être directement mesurables dans le temps et dans l’espace.**  **- Mettre sur pied au niveau national et communautaire, des instances ou organismes chargés d’appliquer la législation sur le travail des enfants. Cela contribuera à la protection de l’enfance et à la punition des personnes réticentes ou réfractaires.**  **- Développer l’agriculture scolaire ce qui permettra aux enfants de s’intéresser à d’autres produits alimentaires. Cette solution permet aussi de renforcer la diversité alimentaire par la culture de nouveaux aliments.** |

1. **Défis:** Quels sont les principaux obstacles rencontrés par vous, ou par les acteurs du secteur agricole en général, pour lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ? Comment surmonter ou aborder ces difficultés (par exemple, par la politique, la législation, le renforcement des capacités, etc.)

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| - **Difficultés d’obtention de financement et d’infrastructure pour la collecte de données sur le travail des enfants dans le secteur forestier, la promotion de la domestication des PFNL comestibles et le développement de l’agriculture scolaire.**  **- Difficultés à briser les mauvaises attitudes et fausses perceptions (croyances coutumières) chez les personnes encourageant le travail des enfants en forêt.**  **- Difficultés de mise en application de la législation existante sur le travail des enfants en général. Même si celle encadrant spécifiquement le travail des enfants en milieu forestier est quasi-inexistante dans notre pays, il est important de s’assurer de sa mise en œuvre une fois qu’elle sera effective.**  **- Limitations de connaissances sur le concept « travail des enfants et risques liés » dans le domaine agricole ce qui impose un renforcement de capacités pour viser l’atteinte des objectifs.** |

1. **Recommandations destinées aux acteurs du secteur agricole :** Quelles recommandations donneriez-vous aux acteurs du secteur agricole pour aborder la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture que vous venez de présenter ?

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| **- Faire de la lutte contre le travail des enfants en milieu forestier une activité de développement participatif. A cet effet les acteurs du secteur agricole doivent se comporter comme des facilitateurs dans le processus d’éducation et de mobilisation communautaire visant le changement de comportement des personnes impliqués.**  **- Les acteurs du secteur agricole doivent maitriser les causes principales et spécifiques liées au problème du travail des enfants. Ces causes peuvent varier d’une communauté à une autre et sont des indicateurs pour la prise de décision relative à la lutte.**  **- Intégrer le concept « Agriculture sensible à la nutrition » dans la production des aliments car la diversité alimentaire au sein du ménage peut réduire le travail des enfants en milieu forestier.** |

1. **Recommandations destinées à d’autres parties prenantes :** Que recommanderiez-vous aux autres parties prenantes concernées par la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture (parties prenantes du secteur du travail, de l'éducation, de la protection de l'enfance ou du secteur social, notamment les ministères du travail, les inspecteurs, les éducateurs, les intervenants des services sociaux) ?

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| - **Le ministère du travail et ses partenaires doivent faciliter la création des activités génératrices de revenus pour les parents car ils sont souvent les premiers à envoyer les enfants à la pratique de telle activité. La pauvreté rurale est l’un des principaux moteurs du travail des enfants dans l’agriculture.**  **- Le secteur éducatif doit développer des modules d’éducation des enfants afin d’informer et accompagner ces derniers dans la prise de conscience des risques liées à l’inadéquation entre le travail effectué et le développement corporel.**  **- Les acteurs du secteur social doivent s’assurer de l’existence ou de la création d’un environnement juridique solide permettant d’encadrer et de protéger les enfants.** |

## Emre Yılmaztürk, ILO, Turkey

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the ILO Office for Turkey, I would like to share with you our “Call for action for ending child labour in seasonal agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders”.

Below you can also see web-links to the ongoing projects of ILO Turkey.

<https://www.ilo.org/ankara/projects/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

We wish our call would contribute to the FAO regional consultations for the International Year.

Looking forward to receiving more information on the FAO high-level Global Event on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture and developing new collaboration opportunities in the near future.

With best regards,

Emre Yılmaztürk

Senior Project Coordinator

ILO Office for Turkey

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Mr Emre Yılmaztürk (Senior Project Coordinator), International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for Turkey** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Elimination of Child Labour in Seasonal Agriculture in Turkey** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| N/A |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Turkey** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **Child labour appears as a problem in Turkey. According to the Turkish StatisticalInstitute (TurkStat) Child Labour Force Survey conducted in 2019, 720 thousand children in the age group of 5-17, which account for 4.4 % of total child population were engaged in economic activity. 30.8 % of those children (221 thousand) were engaged in economic activity in agriculture sector.**  **Mobile and seasonal agricultural labour is recognized as one of the worst forms of child labour as it exposes families to all forms of risks to which children are excessively vulnerable. Children engaged in seasonal agricultural labour represent one of the most disadvantaged groups in terms of working and living conditions associated with problems of environment, education and health. Risks such as the hazards of machinery and equipment used in agriculture, exposure to pesticides, long working hours, exposure to climate conditions (hot and cold), heavy load lifting/transport, physical strain, working in isolated environments coupled with adverse accommodation may lead to chronic health problems throughout life.**  **Major causes of child labour include poverty, lack of access to free and quality education, migration, unemployment of adult family members, traditional perspectives and social exclusion, lack of inspection, informality and demand for cheap labour.**  **Inability to get adequate education that leads the child to become part of the unqualified labour force in the future reinforces the vicious cycle of poverty.**  **The pandemic has increased economic insecurity, profoundly disrupted supply chains and halted manufacturing. When these and other factors result in losses in household income, expectations that children contribute financially can intensify. More children could be forced into exploitative and hazardous jobs. Those already working are now at even greater risk of facing circumstances that are even more difficult and working longer hours. Gender inequalities may grow more acute within families, with girls expected to perform additional household chores and agricultural work. Temporary school closures may exacerbate these tendencies, as households look for new ways to allocate children’s time.**  **Under the Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, the ILO Office for Turkey is currently implementing three projects in cooperation with The Ministry of Labour and Social Security, General Directorate of Labour focusing on combating child labour in seasonal agriculture. The three projects undertaken in 21 provinces of migration origin and destination will be implemented until 2024 with funding from the European Union, FERRERO and CAOBISCO (Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionary Industries).** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **While child labour has declined considerably in Turkey in the last three decades, it is still a problem in seasonal agricultural production. The ILO Office for Turkey formulated an updated programme covering 2021-2025 to advance its work in and experience derived from combating child labour since 1992 in cooperation with national stakeholders. The ILO child labour programme strategy is based on three integrated programme outcomes with a particular focus and objective on enhancing national and local capacity for the elimination of worst form of child labour (WFCL) in seasonal agriculture as well as providing services to children at risk and their families:**   1. **Increasing access to free and quality public education.** 2. **Providing support for strengthening current child labour governance institutions and coordination/cooperation mechanisms.** 3. **Increasing and strengthening advocacy and awareness on child labour.**   **Through the comprehensive intervention model in the projects of eliminating child labour in seasonal agriculture, ILO aims to withdraw a total of 18,300 children by the end of 2023 from work and/or prevent starting work. Furthermore, considering the pesticide exposure in the field which adversely affect the present and future generations’ health; occupational safety and health trainings will be provided to 2.000 families and 12.00 children for raising awareness on safety culture.**  **The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including particularly Sustainable Development Goal SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, and specifically Target 8.7, calls for immediate measures to secure the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025. Emphasizing that the goal could be reached through leaving no one behind, the United Nations declared the year 2021 as the “International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour” and initiated global action. The programme developed by the ILO Office for Turkey in order tosupport the said global action and, ILO Office for Turkey provided its pledge and conducted dissemination activities.** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Turkey is among the first six countries to join the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) initiated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1992. Since that time, Turkey has been effective in the elimination of child labour and made significant progress. In this regard, Turkey ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention (No.138) and ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182) in 1998 and 2001 respectively. In order to translate political commitment into action, National Time Bound Policy and Programme Framework (TBPPF) for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour (2005-2015) was put in place. Since the initiation of TBPPF, child labour in mobile and temporary agricultural labour except for family business appears as the priority area for action against child labour. National Employment Strategy (2014-2023), National Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (2017-2023) and respective action plans are the following milestones as policy developments.**  **However, capacity development of national and local institutions in planning, managing, coordinating, monitoring and implementing activities to eliminate WFCL in agriculture is vital, as well as improvement of coordination among these.**  **Additionally, awareness raising programmes on ending child labour targeting general public, children, families, employers, agricultural intermediaries, private sector, national and local stakeholders, decision-makers, school principals, teachers, and media shall be strengthened. The fight against child labour is a multidimensional concept that involves many actors. Many public institutions and organizations, employers and employer organizations, employees and labour unions, families of working children, professional organizations, universities, school administrators, teachers, other civil society organizations; we as individuals or as consumers all have important roles in this important matter.** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| **National and local government institutions can take measures to make sure full compliance to national legislation on combatting child labour.**  **Employers and businesses can adopt business principles upholding child rights and commit to supply chains free of child labour.**  **Individuals can make personal choices to consume responsibly, raise funds and demandgovernments and private companies to accelerate action.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| **ILO is the only tripartite U.N. agency with government, employer, and worker representatives. This tripartite structure makes the ILO a unique forum in which the governments and the social partners of the economy can freely and openly debate and elaborate labour standards and policies. The projects under the umbrella of ILO Office for Turkey adopt the tripartite approach for inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in the project activities. Within this scope, the multi-stakeholder approach should be embedded to the projects in order to accelerate action, share good practices and demonstrate know-how. The Projects within the scope of Child Labour Programme in ILO Office for Turkey will be implemented in partnership with The Ministry of Labour and Social Security and in close cooperation with relevant organizations and institutions including Ministries of Family and Social Services, National Education, Interior, Agriculture and Forestry, Youth and Sports, workers’ and employers’ organizations, Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), municipalities, universities, private sector and NGOs. Therefore, stakeholder consultations plays a crucial role in ensuring different/alternative ways of actions according to nature of the activities in order to support strong communication and efficient coordination.**  **On a broader perspective, in line with the summary of the FSN Forum consultation held in 2020, the below measures can be listed as the elements of multi-sector approach:**   * **Linking child labour elimination efforts with social protection measures in order to address poverty,** * **Strengthening workplace inspection practices,** * **Enforcing business practices upholding child rights,** * **Introducing measures to ensure access to quality and free education and prevent school dropouts, and promoting effective transition from school to work to support decent youth employment opportunities,** * **Finally strengthening public finance response for social policies and increasing the fiscal space for child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection.** |

## Fidele Nzabonimpa, Rwanda

Veuillez trouver en annexe l'avant projet de l'appel à l'action pour la lutte contre le travail des enfants dans le secteur agro-alimentaire.

**Auteur de la présentation** (nom/genre/institution)

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| **NZABONIMPA FIDELE** |

**Titre de votre présentation**

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| **L’élimination du travail des enfants dans la riziculture** |

**Cochez votre catégorie de partie prenante/acteur agricole**

* Fonctionnaire gouvernemental (/ministères liés à l'agriculture)
* Organisation patronale
* Établissement d'enseignement/de recherche
* Secteur privé
* Organisation d'agriculteurs / coopérative / organisation de producteurs
* Organisation de travailleurs ou syndicat
* Société civile ou ONG
* Oganisation internationale (ONU, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banque de développement

**Si vous n'êtes dans aucune de ces situations, veuillez indiquer la catégorie d'acteur ou le secteur auquel vous appartenez (par exemple, le travail, l'éducation ou le social).**

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| **L’inspection du travail** |

**Région/Pays/Lieu**

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| **Province de l’EST/RWANDA** |

**Sous-secteur agricole** (production végétale, pêche et aquaculture, élevage ou foresterie).

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| **Riziculture** |

1. Veuillez décrire le **contexte** de votre contribution et de votre proposition :
   * Quel est l'aspect du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture qui vous préoccupe ? Quelles sont les causes principales ? Et quelles conséquences ? Quel est l'impact direct/indirect ou intentionnel/non intentionnel de votre travail sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ?
   * La pandémie de COVID-19 a-t-elle eu un effet (in)direct sur le travail des enfants dans le système agro-alimentaire de votre pays ?
   * Veuillez décrire, si applicable, les activités et les projets, précédemment mis en œuvre ou en cours, destinés à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture, ainsi que leur impact/résultat.

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| * **L’aspect du travail des enfants dans l’agriculture qui me préoccupe c’est la main d-œuvre des enfants dans la riziculture**   **Les causes principales sont : la pauvreté, les conflits entre les parents dans les foyers, l’ambition pour les enfants de gagner de l’argent, ces situations obligent l’enfant d’aller chercher le travail pour subvenir à ces besoins qui normalement devraient être comblés par les parents.**  **En tant qu’inspecteur du travail je fais de visites d’inspections et sensibilisation et par conséquent les enfants trouvés dans la riziculture se voient retirés dans le travail qui leurs sont interdits.**   * **Je pense que la pandémie de covid-19 aurait eu un impact sur le travail des enfants dans le système agro-alimentaire par ce que beaucoup de secteurs d’activités ferment souvent les portes alors que l’agriculture continue d’être l’activité essentielle pour la survie de gens.** * **Les activités précédemment mis en œuvre** **et en cours, destinés à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture sont :**   + **les inspections dans les zones de cultures de riz et ananas**   + **les campagnes de sensibilisations des agriculteurs aux méfaits de travail des enfants**   + **la formation des comités de proximité chargés de prévenir et lutter contre le travail des enfants** |

1. **Veuillez décrire les** mesures que vous ou votre organisation pouvez ou pourriez adopter pour aborder ou accroître les efforts en faveur de l'élimination du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture. Si cette option n'est pas applicable, veuillez expliquer dans les sections suivantes les défis que vous ou votre organisation rencontrez dans la lutte contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture et présenter des recommandations pour que les acteurs du secteur agricole et d'autres parties prenantes puissent intensifier leur action.

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| * **intensifier les inspections du travail spécialement dans l’agriculture** * **promouvoir les campagnes de sensibilisations des agriculteurs aux méfaits de travail des enfants** * **la formation des comités de proximité chargés de prévenir et lutter contre le travail des enfants** * **mettre en place de comité chargés de prévenir et lutter contre le travail des enfants dans chaque zone ou se pratique l’agriculture** |

1. **Défis :** Quels sont les principaux obstacles rencontrés par vous, ou par les acteurs du secteur agricole en général, pour lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ? Comment surmonter ou aborder ces difficultés (par exemple, par la politique, la législation, le renforcement des capacités, etc.)

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| **Les obstacles sont le changement des mentalités des agriculteurs et la pauvreté des familles des enfants et pour le surmonter il faut renforcer leurs capacités et faire l’assistance sociale pour les enfants les plus nécessiteux.** |

1. **Recommandations destinées aux acteurs du secteur agricole :** Quelles recommandations donneriez-vous aux acteurs du secteur agricole pour aborder la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture que vous venez de présenter ?

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| * **Instaurer un système de sécurité qui vérifie l’âge des personnes entre dans les zones de cultures de riz** * **mettre en place de règlements qui interdits le travail des enfants dans les zones de cultures de riz** * **mettre en place de comités charges de prévenir et lutter contre le travail interdit aux enfants** |

1. **Recommandations destinées à d’autres parties prenantes :** Que recommanderiez-vous aux autres parties prenantes concernées par la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture (parties prenantes du secteur du travail, de l'éducation, de la protection de l'enfance ou du secteur social, notamment les ministères du travail, les inspecteurs, les éducateurs, les intervenants des services sociaux) ?

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| * **Promouvoir les inspections du travail en allouant un budget suffisant de lutte contre le travail des enfants** * **Mettre en place des comités de proximité (par exemple au niveau du village, zone de culture) de lutte contre le travail des enfants** * **Mettre en place un fonds d’assistance pour les enfants les plus nécessiteux qui ne participent plus aux travaux qui leurs sont interdis** * **promouvoir des syndicats des inspecteurs du travail en vue de faciliter les échanges d’expériences intercontinentales en matière de travail interdits aux enfants.**   **NZABONIMPA fidèle**  **Inspecteur du travail** |

## Sylvie Christel Mbog, ONG ODECO CAMEROUN, Cameroon

Prière de trouver ci-joint notre modeste contribution

Cordialement

Sylvie Christel MBOG

ODECO Cameroun

**Auteur de la présentation** (nom/genre/institution)

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| **MBOG SYLVIE CHRISTEL , ONG ODECO CAMEROUN** |

**Titre de votre présentation**

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| **Lutte contre le travail des enfants dans l’agriculture :”Arrêtons d’écrire et de parler » Agissons ensemble, main dans la mains »** |

**Cochez votre catégorie de partie prenante/acteur agricole**

* Fonctionnaire gouvernemental (/ministères liés à l'agriculture)
* Organisation patronale
* Établissement d'enseignement/de recherche
* Secteur privé
* Organisation d'agriculteurs / coopérative / organisation de producteurs
* Organisation de travailleurs ou syndicat
* Société civile ou ONG
* Organisation internationale (ONU, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banque de développement

**Si vous n'êtes dans aucune de ces situations, veuillez indiquer la catégorie d'acteur ou le secteur auquel vous appartenez (par exemple, le travail, l'éducation ou le social).**

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| **ACCOMPAGNEMENT DES DYNAMIQUES LOCALES DE STRUCTURATION ET DEVELOPEMENT, CONSEIL AGRICOLE** |

**Région/Pays/Lieu**

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| **CAMEROUN YAOUNDE** |

**Sous-secteur agricole** (production végétale, pêche et aquaculture, élevage ou foresterie).

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| **Dans tous les sous-secteurs notamment la production végétale** |

Veuillez décrire le **contexte** de votre contribution et de votre proposition :

* + Quel est l'aspect du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture qui vous préoccupe ? la dangerosité des taches effectuées (le défrichage, l’écabossage, le transport des charges lourdes, la manipulation des équipements comme les moulins voire les pressoirs à huile, la traction animale….) et les interférences dans la scolarité des enfants
  + **Quelles sont les causes principales ?**
* La pauvreté /la famine
* L’âge des parents
* La culture
* L’ignorance des conséquences sur la santé et la croissance de l’enfant
* La distance entre le lieu de résidence de l’enfant et l’établissement scolaire le plus proche (Accès à l’éducation)
  + **Et quelles conséquences** ?

Enfants sous-scolarisés ou non scolarisés

Maladies (tétanos, ….exposition au corona en ce temps de pandémie)

Blessures, morsures d’animaux

Intoxication due à l’inhalation répétée des produits chimiques

Perte de l’estime de soi pour les enfants obligés de travailler au lieu d’aller à l’école

Etc….

* Quel est l'impact direct/indirect ou intentionnel/non intentionnel de votre travail sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ?

-La prise de conscience des producteurs et autres parties prenantes qui se traduit par l’élimination progressive des taches dangereuses confiées aux enfants et la surveillance, dénonciation des cas identifiés ;

-L’augmentation des revenus des ménages suite à la mise en place et aux développement des activités génératrices de revenus surtout pour les femmes ;

-Réduction du nombre d’enfants travaillant dans les exploitations à travers le retrait et la réinsertion des enfants retirés des plantations dans le système scolaire ou professionnel, la formation des jeunes ruraux (à partir de 18ans) sur les différents métiers agricoles en rapport avec les activités menées dans leurs localités respectives

* La pandémie de COVID-19 a-t-elle eu un effet (in)direct sur le travail des enfants dans le système agro-alimentaire de votre pays ?

Dans notre zone d’intervention, pendant la période de confinement, les enfants sont sortis des salles de classes pour se retrouver dans les exploitations agricoles, les lieux d’écoulement et de transformation des produits agricoles afin de soutenir financièrement les parents et dans certains cas, juste pour combattre l’oisiveté.

* Veuillez décrire, si applicable, les activités et les projets, précédemment mis en œuvre ou en cours, destinés à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture, ainsi que leur impact/résultat.

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| **Activités**   1. Sensibilisation des parents, enfants, enseignants, acheteurs des produits agropastoraux, producteurs, agents de développements locaux ; 2. Retrait des enfants en situation de travail dangereux et leur réinsertion dans le circuit scolaire ou parascolaire ; 3. Accompagnement à la création et au Développement des activités génératrices de revenus pour les parents**;** 4. Développement des métiers agricoles par le renforcement des capacités des jeunes travailleurs ruraux . |

1. **Veuillez décrire les** mesures que vous ou votre organisation pouvez ou pourriez adopter pour aborder ou accroître les efforts en faveur de l'élimination du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture. Si cette option n'est pas applicable, veuillez expliquer dans les sections suivantes les défis que vous ou votre organisation rencontrez dans la lutte contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture et présenter des recommandations pour que les acteurs du secteur agricole et d'autres parties prenantes puissent intensifier leur action.

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| * La sensibilisation des producteurs et autres parties prenantes sur la problématique du travail des enfants * Accompagnement à la création et au Développement des activités génératrices de revenus pour les parents * Développement des métiers agricoles par le renforcement des capacités des jeunes travailleurs ruraux |

1. **Défis:** Quels sont les principaux obstacles rencontrés par vous, ou par les acteurs du secteur agricole en général, pour lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ? Comment surmonter ou aborder ces difficultés (par exemple, par la politique, la législation, le renforcement des capacités, etc.)

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| **Principales difficultés**   1. L’implication effective des représentants locaux du gouvernement dans le respect de la législation et la prise en charge des cas identifiés ; 2. L’indifférence de certaines autorités locales face à la problématique du travail des enfants en général et l’agriculture en particulier. 3. La reconnaissance de la problématique dans certaines contrées du pays |

1. **Recommandations destinées aux acteurs du secteur agricole :** Quelles recommandations donneriez-vous aux acteurs du secteur agricole pour aborder la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture que vous venez de présenter ?

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| **Appuyer les initiatives en faveur de la lutte contre le travail des enfants à l’exemple de :**   * + La gratuité effective de l’école   + La promotion de l’emploi des jeunes dans l’agriculture   + La promotion et l’adoption de pratiques agricoles qui empêchent que des travaux dangereux soient confiées aux enfants   + La sensibilisation continue sur la problématique   + Le développement des AGR |

1. **Recommandations destinées à d’autres parties prenantes :** Que recommanderiez-vous aux autres parties prenantes concernées par la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture (parties prenantes du secteur du travail, de l'éducation, de la protection de l'enfance ou du secteur social, notamment les ministères du travail, les inspecteurs, les éducateurs, les intervenants des services sociaux) ?

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| * + Assurer la cohérence des politiques et des programmes de prévention ainsi que le suivi de la mise en œuvre de ces programmes et du respect des politiques**,** de la législation en vigueur |

## Sajeevani Weerasekara, Queensland University of Technology, Australia, Sri Lanka

Dear Mr. Bernd Seiffert

As per the official reports Child labour situation in Sri Lanka are as follows;

"Some 40,000 children are working as child labourers, which is about 1% of the school-going child population. In other words, one out of a hundred children in Sri Lanka are in child labour, mostly hazardous forms.

Child labour and non-attendance in regular schooling is relatively high in Sri Lanka’s rapidly urbanising city centres than in rural areas. There is an established pattern of child labour –predominantly in the teenage category, engaged in the informal services sector. Their numbers are highest in the districts of Kurunegala, Gampaha, Colombo, Monaragala, and Batticaloa, with many other urbanised localities not far behind.

A large proportion of soon to be young adults are engaged in child labour within the broader ecosystem of the informal services sector: such as in tourism, transport, petty trading, and caregiving. A majority of these children are boys. A large number also work in boutiques, tea kiosks, eateries, and other informal trades, in low-wage and precarious employment"

However, in my opinion, to eliminate child labour in agriculture a country should have a holistic approach; Some of the sectors to be considered are as follows;

1. Poverty reduction should be given first priority

2. In some agricultural families parents do not prefer children's to have higher education as eventually they will move away from farms and no one to look after farmlands; In that case flexible school educations for agricultural families, agricultural colleges and universities would be a better option, until countries will develop to adopt equalize systems and until eradicating the poverty.

3. Farmers insurance & crop insurance should be popularized as interruptions to child education and children moving to farmland instead of having an education at school are some impacts of hazardous situations such as droughts, floods

4. Current education system should be more equipped with agricultural knowledge. However, it should be rather giving specific agricultural knowledge, such as techniques, language to all children, while giving them overall knowledge there should be a system to give specific agricultural knowledge to those who are from agricultural areas, those who are interested to learn. This should not be considered as marginalizing or discriminating as it is to give priority to agriculture as a subject and give equlize importance to specialize such knowledge.

5. There should be parallel awareness campaigns to educate people that any career is not higher or lower than another. Not only doctors, lawyers but farmers are highly important to the development of the country. At least the education system should be catered to make such changes in the idiology, while governments taking actions to improve the standard of living of farmers.

Sajeevani Weerasekara, Sri Lanka

## Gazal Malik, Global March Against Child Labour, India

Greetings from Global March Against Child Labour!

Please see attached our contribution to the ongoing call for action.

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Regards,

Gazal Malik

Policy Research Coordinator

Global March Against Child Labour International Secretariat

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Global March Against Child Labour** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Addressing Child Labour in Agricultural Supply Chains, Global to Local** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Our teams are based in The Netherlands and India, working with CSO networks across regions** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming, Aquaculture** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?

(i) Family Farming - Efforts to eliminate child labour in agriculture face persistent challenges because of rural poverty and the concentration of child labour in the informal economy resulting in unpaid family labour. Most agricultural labour by children remains invisible as it is absorbed into “piecework” of the family work unit. Child labour in family units also goes unrecognised even in child labour surveys resulting in significant data and knowledge gaps. Moreover, national labour legislations are not effective enough to address child labour in family farming due to alternatives for livelihood for the households with child labour and other economic challenges being faced particularly by smallscale and marginalised farmers and producers.

(ii) Migration - Child labourers in agriculture who migrate frequently with their families seldom find school education accessible to them. Particularly in seasonal harvesting or volume based work where entire families are working as a unit, there is a negligible scope for children to get enrolled or continue their education in a school due to lack of effective monitoring and remediation systems at the community level. Regions where children migrate for working on farms also lack educational structures to accommodate them and prevent gaps in their education. Girls in particular, are more vulnerable to migrating and dropping out of school due to safety concerns and have no other option than looking after their siblings and performing household chores besides working on the farms.

(iii) Gap between local and global supply chains - Too much investment has been made towards addressing child labour in only the most visible/top tiers of supply chains with little effort to address local risks contributing to child labour. Existing interventions have not been impactful enough to address the informality of agriculture and challenges of family farming as well as declining agricultural household incomes that result in child labour. Respective funding on addressing sustainability challenges in agriculture is also more focused towards capacity building of farmers without taking into account issues of child labour, migration and poverty amongst smallscale and marginalised farmers as well farm workers. It may also be noted that there is undue focuss on addressing child labour in global supply chains, whereas majority of the child labour is found in domestic supply chains. This too needs to be prioritised.

(iv) Gender inequality and gender based norms - Gender is a key cross-cutting issue of child labour. In informal sectors such as agriculture where women comprise of the majority of workforce yet remain unrecognised and receive lower wages as compared to men, female poverty directly contributes to child labour. Children work to not only support household income but also to support their mothers in household chores and childcare in the absence of any institutional assistance to help women who work on farms besides doing looking after other needs of the families. This has led to status quo where girls continue to be pushed towards domestic chores in their homes along with child labour on farms with pre-existing discrimination in terms of access to education whereas boys are expected to “man-up” and start performing hard physical labour to support family income.

* + Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?

While agricultural production continued in most parts of the world owing to continued demand for agro-products, it is the small scale and marginalised farmers, producers and children in their households who faced the worst consequences of COVID-19. Economic distress for smallholder farmers increasing with each day of coronavirus-induced restrictions created situations for increase in child labour. In rural areas where child labour is rampant with pre-existing challenges of education infrastructure and digital divide, school closures further reversed the progress made to address child labour and increase school enrollment.

In countries such as India, migrant exodus caused by the pandemic and loss of employment has further increased the burden on rural infrastructure that was already struggling to address the needs and challenges of employment and education for vulnerable families.

On the other hand, in Uganda where Global March is working on addressing child labour in coffee supply chain, the pandemic induced lockdowns and curfews during the crop producing season negatively impacted rural livelihoods[[10]](#footnote-10), leading to loss of income and poor nutrition amongst rural dwellers. However, certain agro-commodities might not be as negatively impacted as others due to ongoing demand from the EU such as coffee from the mountain area in Uganda which is a luxury product. While we are yet to see the nuanced impacts of school closures on child labour and eduction in the targeted regions of Uganda, it is feared that when schools reopen completely, parents will be less likely to invest in their children’s education in order to sustain family income. In such cases, children are at the risk of dropping out of school and succumbing to exploitation. This was proven true in case of child labour in sugarcane growing in Uganda where our members did a a quick follow-up study - many children in sugar growing communities did not return to school.

In Bangladesh, where Global March has been working on addressing child labour in shrimp fry collection, was severely affected due to the combined aftermath of COVID-19 and the Amphan cyclone, impacting the small scale farmers and fry collecting communities. The livelihood of already vulnerable communities of the coastal regions with high incidents of child labour in shrimp supply chain is further threatened in the wake of such changes. Many such children and their families have already been moving to nearby regions in search for employment options, a process which is now being expedited by the impacts of cyclone Amphan and COVID-19, making it more difficult to track children at risk.

* + If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| The Global March Against Child Labour is implementing projects in Uganda and Bangladesh towards creating “child labour-free and gender inclusive agricultural supply chains” by demonstrating good practices that link global and local supply chains, which are replicable. The project intends to promote area-based approach by advocating for implementation of child friendly villages/upazilas (districts) in both countries where children from the households of small-scale farmers and producers engaged in coffee and shrimp supply chains are engaged in child labour. The child friendly village (CFV)/community model once operationalised is sustainable in nature where children, youth and women of the communities are empowered to fight for enjoyment and access their rights, rather than being dependent on aid/ support from external sources. A key aspect and focus of the project is capacity building of CSOs, particularly of the Global March partners.  Further, the project focuses on nutritional safety of children by promoting tailored school feeding programmes such as “seeds for education” and “school kitchen gardens” in Uganda. These are constituted in consultation with the communities, farmers, local stakeholders and government through seeds for education intervention. This will promote increase in school attendance, school retention and will help to reduce food security and nutrition issues amongst children, thereby preventing them to engage in child labour.  A child labour monitoring system is also being developed in the target regions so that the schools and communities in Bangladesh and Uganda can keep track on the out-of-school children and those with irregular attendance, thereby acting as vigilants against child labour. Additionally, the programme is focused on addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on child labour in the targeted regions. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| The key issues for action being taken up by Global March and its partners to address child labour in agriculture are:   1. Bridging the gap between global and local - Using good practices based on area based approach such as child labour monitoring system, Global March is working towards addressing the gap between local and global agricultural supply chains. In its existing work in Uganda and Bangladesh, Global March and its regional partners are focusing on advocacy to convince the governments to initiate child friendly villages with strong community monitoring of child labour in the coffee and shrimp producing regions respectively. Such an approach also enables connecting small scale farmers and producers and international buyers as well as governments at both global and local level to work collectively towards sustainable and child labour free supply chains. 2. Child Labour Monitoring - A monitoring system led by the community not only keeps a check on child labour incidents but also helps in bringing children back to school. Global March is working with communities in coffee growing regions of Uganda on community sensitisation and capacity building to enable them to keep a track of child labourers and out of school children to ensure there is no child labour in not only coffee supply chain but also in other sectors in the region. Additional interventions such as school feeding programmes in collaboration with farmers and school authorities in the project also play a crucial role in enhancing the chances for children to have uninterrupted access to education as well as their food security. 3. Advocacy at all levels - Global March has significant emphasis on advocacy by using global supply chains legislation as well as international frameworks on child labour for creating an overspill from global supply chain. At the international level, we engage in regular liaising with key stakeholders such as the ILO, FAO, Alliance 8.7, and other sectoral forums etc. for collectively exploring potential opportunities for strengthened advocacy on addressing child labour in agricultural supply chains. 4. Gender lens to child labour - Applying gender lens to child labour is about not only strengthening sex disaggregated with respect to child labour but also going beyond that. Underlying gender issues such as differences in experiences and lived realities of girl and boy child labourers; inequality indicators of women such as wage gap in the target communities; gender mainstreaming in policy asks; legislative concerns and in functioning of child labour monitoring system are some of the examples to highlight how we include gender as a cross-cutting aspect of child labour throughout our interventions on the ground. Global March is also committed to increasingly work towards collective adoption of gender as a key aspect in addressing child labour in sectors such as agriculture by increasing awareness and building capacities of different stakeholders on the importance of mainstreaming gender to benefit both boys and girls but also women workers equally. Besides, there is also emphasis on assessing risk indicators associated with gender realities and experiences and how they are key determinants of child and forced labour practices in supply chains. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| 1. **Declining Agricultural Income -** The agriculture sector is currently faced with a plethora of challenges and one of the most alarming ones is the agricultural income. Smallholders, landless farm labourers, pastoralists, fishing communities and female headed households in rural areas are the most vulnerable groups with high incidents of child labour. On the other hand, farmers untouched by initiatives of global companies struggle for getting fair prices along with other agricultural supply chain challenges. Thus, addressing child labour in agriculture is not possible without addressing agricultural distress whilst also taking action towards a better future for agriculture.  Further, merely addressing agricultural income and sustainability challenges is not enough. Marginalised communities also need effective policies to reduce inequality of their access to assets such as land and water as well as strengthen female workforce and gender equality in wages and decision making. Child labour is not an isolated but a structural phenomenon and therefore without addressing the structural issues of agrarian economies, it is unlikely to expect child labour free supply chains. 2. **Certifications -** Global supply chain actors are increasingly relying on certifications to sell child labour free products. Unfortunately, certifications alone are not enough to prevent or address child labour in agriculture. While certifications put emphasis on sustainability aspects of the supply chain by working with farmers and promoting environment friendly agricultural practices, most of them lack on-ground child labour programmes to reach all producers in the informal sector. Current forms of certification and farm based practices increase pressure on farmers without holding duty bearers accountable and convincing companies to do their due diligence. The critical question pertaining to distribution of risk and responsibility in the supply chain is missing from certification programmes. The biggest example is the cocoa sector where despite more than half of cocoa being grown under certification label, child labour and trafficking persists. In other words certifiers need to move from making farmers comply with their standards and start addressing the root causes of child labour with the buy-in of the whole value chain. Thus, certifications need to ensure their strategies are more holistic and include addressing child labour by engaging with other stakeholders at the local level, especially wage workers, unions and grassroots organisations. 3. **Lack of unionisation -** Agricultural, farm and plantation workers lack collective bargaining and often the migratory nature of work make it more difficult for them to unionise. The right to organise and collective bargaining needs to be strengthened for not only farm workers but also middlemen, suppliers and contractors who have more leverage and an informal (yet a crucial relationship) with farm workers and farmers. Additionally and most importantly, women farmers and farm workers’ need stronger collectives and unions such as associations, micro-credit groups and group enterprises for not just social but also their economic empowerment which can significantly reduce the burden on children to engage in child labour. 4. **Legislations to address child labour in agriculture -** International conventions relating to child labour have not been noticeably ineffective in addressing child labour in agriculture due to informality and other structural issues pertaining to rural agrarian economies. Local legislations have also been unsuccessful, especially in their enforcement to address child labour in family farming in rural areas. While it is crucial to ensure that labour laws are applied to address child labour in agriculture, legislations need to be more accommodating of rural livelihood challenges and supported with policies that help children assert their right for an education. Providing social and economic support to families engaged in agriculture with a multi-stakeholder approach that interlinks various departments and ministries and better working and living conditions are equally important. Furthermore, community led monitoring systems with accountability from relevant stakeholders is the need of the hour to identify and remediate cases of child labour and taking into account the interest of the child. Regulations that change the system instead of penalising already struggling and vulnerable producers and farmers are required for creating an enabling environment. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| 1. **Promoting area-based interventions -** Good practices that take into account local and nuanced realities have the potential to not only identify child labour but also address the gap between local and global supply chains by including communities, school authorities and CSOs as key stakeholders. However, such interventions need to be initiated by the national governments who have an important role to protect human rights and combat child labour, ensure access to education, raise awareness and maintain rule of law. The private sector should support the government as a part of its duty to respect human rights especially when area based approaches such as the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation system can be implemented with a range of stakeholders and embedded in a supply chain structure as well as within a community to address child labour. 2. **Identifying and addressing challenges posed by migration -** Child labour in agriculture is intrinsic to migration for seasonal work done by families where children not only engage in hazardous work but lose the smallest of opportunities to go back to school. Concerned stakeholders at both levels (native region as well as destination region of migrant workers) need to develop a robust system in order to identify and address challenges presented by migration. For instance, improvement in education infrastructure with more cooperation between education departments; adjusting the school calendar and pedagogy to address the needs of migrating child labourers; promoting unionisation for better farm work wages; legal employment contracts and fair price for crops and access to social support schemes for migrant workers especially women and children.   Additionally, migrant workers are bound by delivering outputs for which the entire family including children need to work as one unit such as during harvesting of sugarcane in India. Such a system causes exploitation at various levels including dismissal of individual labour, absence of individual employment contracts and violation of minimum agricultural wages to name a few. Structural issues pertaining to agricultural practices relying on such practices need immediate and collective intervention to respect the rights of vulnerable children and agricultural workers.   1. **Human Rights Due Diligence -** There is a need for mandatory due diligence legislation as all the voluntary initiatives have failed to make an impact on the issue of child labour. Companies need to adhere to mandatory requirements of human rights due diligence through regulatory framework and continued risk assessment. The companies need to ensure to include the risk indicators such as farm working and living conditions, wages, implementation of local laws, access to collective bargaining and remedy to ensure their due diligence is not only limited to the top tiers of their supply chains. While human rights due diligence might seem as an “extra burden”, it has the potential to ensure that companies identify, prevent, mitigate and account for actual or potential adverse human rights impact such as child labour where they may be involved through their own activities or business relationships, rather than forcing farmers to take most of the responsibility. 2. **Increasing agricultural income -** In order to address child labour in agriculture, improvement in agricultural income is a must for which only fair prices and living income is not enough. Farming needs to be made not only sustainable but also lucrative for which diversifying from one particular crop such as cocoa or sugarcane is important to increase income of farmers. This is not only essential for preventing child labour but also ensuring the resilience of farmers amidst price collapses, crop diseases and adverse weather. Higher farm gate prices also remain a key factor to account for.   For families of smallholder and marginalised farmers and farm workers dependent on other farmers’ lands and commercial farming, improvement in income is desperately required via initiatives such as cooperatives and village savings and loans associations can be undertaken for rural development. These groups have the highest incidents of child labour due to cyclical poverty, indebtedness, landlessness and restricted access to the market, technical assistance for agricultural work and little or no access to collective bargaining for better wages.   1. **Strengthening the gender lens -** The impact of gender inequality on child labour is still an underlooked phenomenon. Gender based norms and discrimination are key factors behind child labour in agriculture. Sex disaggregated data is needed to not only address gender wise engagement of child labour in agricultural activities and sector but also preventing school dropout rates. Further, sex disaggregated data should take into account domestic chores causing the ‘double-burden’ shouldered especially by girls in combining domestic chores with farm work and the ‘triple-burden’ when schooling is included.Besides assessing the gendered experiences and impacts of child labour in agriculture, it is equally crucial to address the issues of women farm workers and farmers who comprise majority of the workforce in agriculture and yet remain invisible. Gender wage gap and lack of access to farm resources contribute immensely to female poverty which creates an enabling environment for child labour support household income. Equal representation of needs and challenges faced by women farm workers and farmers often remain unnoticed due to lack of collective bargaining and mobilisation along with women led producer organisations in agriculture. Thus, the lens of livelihoods, autonomy and collectivity for women is key to addressing child labour and preventing perpetuation of gender based unpaid labour such as childcare and household chores amongst child labourers. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| 1. Strengthening connections between stakeholders - Many agricultural supply chain actors are working on sustainability led interventions. However, the work is mostly being done in silos and needs more cooperation to address the complexities of not only social issues but also political and technical issues of agriculture to address child labour. NGOs working on the grassroots level are not directly linked with child labour issues and programmes. Stronger synergies between the CSOs, governments and private sector are needed for stronger impacts for beneficiaries such as children and other workers at the bottom of the supply chain. 2. Future of farming - It is time to transform farming from just a way to survive, into a decent job with a living income to create a continued generation of proud farmers. To fulfill the ambitious goal of sustainable and child labour free farming, the future of agriculture needs to be examined by concerned stakeholders. There is no doubt that agricultural investment by the private sector has boosted income in the rural regions but at the same time they have not been able to take into consideration the socio-political and economic challenges associated with farming in respective regions. While more farmers are coming under the purview of sustainability programmes being run by businesses, at the same time the rural youth is not motivated enough to take up agriculture as a source of decent income due to more investment and hard work and lesser returns. Agriculture is sensitive to evolving trade dynamics of a globalised market, climate change and changing priorities of profit led companies.   Merely ensuring that workers in agriculture stay above poverty line is like doing the bare minimum to address child labour. Government departments and the private sector in cooperation with civil society and most importantly the communities need to work with more holistic approaches to reform agriculture. |

## Andrew Patterson, CARE, United States of America

Hello FSN Forum Team,

CARE is pleased to respond to the call for action on ending child labor in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders. Our submission, Harnessing the Power of a Multi-sectoral Approach and Public-Private Partnership to Address the Root Causes of Child Labor in Cocoa Communities, is attached herewith. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments.

Thank you and kind regards,

Andrew

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Andrew Patterson/Male/CARE USA** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Harnessing the Power of a Multi-sectoral Approach and Public-Private Partnership to Address the Root Causes of Child Labor in Cocoa Communities** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **USA, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **The Issue**  There are 168 million child laborers between 5 and 17 around the world, and an estimated 108 million work in the agriculture sector. According to NORC's recent study, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), “an estimated 1.56 million children work on family cocoa farms in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana alone. 1.48 million children have been exposed to at least one component of children's hazardous work in cocoa production (including about 770,000 children in Côte d'Ivoire and 710,000 in Ghana)”[[11]](#footnote-11). A report by the International Cocoa Initiative also highlights the impact of the COVID19 crisis on child labor[[12]](#footnote-12). Indeed, this report attests that “during semi-confinement, the percentage of children identified by ICI as being involved in child labor increased by 21.5%”.  Child labor within the sector is often seen by families as an economic necessity upon which the entire family relies; it is a result of many factors, including lack of economic opportunity, low wages, and barriers to education (ILO)[[13]](#footnote-13). In some cases, children stop attending school and begin working to provide additional income for their families. In cocoa-producing communities, children are especially vulnerable to becoming child laborers to help with household expenses. While engaged in cocoa production activities, children risk harm to themselves by using machetes and other hazardous tools to harvest cocoa pods, and through exposure to agricultural chemicals without protective clothing. It is not only harmful to their health but can also limit their education and create broader economic barriers later in life.  **A Decade of Partnership**  To effectively end child labor, we must collectively address systemic issues of poverty, inequality, and injustice throughout the cocoa value chain. In Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, CARE and its partners including Cargill, MARS WRIGLEY, and General Mills, among others, are uniting their efforts to support cocoa sustainability and women’s empowerment in cocoa growing community by building better lives for cocoa farmers and their families. This partnership in West Africa focuses on establishing more prosperous, sustainable, and resilient cocoa farming communities through a community development and women lead centered approach that engages communities throughout the entire process.  **CARE’s Cocoa Multisectoral Program Framework and the Right to Food, Water, and Nutrition.**  CARE’s multisectoral cocoa work draws on decades of experience, leveraging best practices and proven approaches that are evidence based to drive impact. The cocoa program approaches detailed below are strategically bound together by CARE’s cocoa program framework and are aligned with CARE’s global strategy, the Right to Food, Water and Nutrition, which seeks to support 75 million people, the majority of them women and girls, to fulfill their rights to food, water and nutrition. Key components of this strategy, and of CARE’s cocoa programming, are to scale Village Savings and Loan Associations, promote gender equality, improve sustainable agriculture, and help women overcome barriers for transformative  ***Cargill***  Since 2008, nine projects have been implemented in the region to address critical challenges faced by cocoa farming communities, including low cocoa production, child labor, women’s economic empowerment, lack of access to financial services, malnutrition, and education. To date, these cocoa development programs have reached 236,589 people, 62,459 directly and 174,130 indirectly in 323 communities – of those reached, 111,167 are women. The CARE-Cargill partnership is creating change in these communities through the principles and goals established in CARE’s She Feeds the World framework, the Cargill Cocoa Promise[[14]](#footnote-14) commitment, as well as through a participatory development approach that is informed and led by cocoa communities themselves.  We know that tackling poverty and the underlying causes of child labor requires a holistic and integrated approach – one that recognizes the complexities of child labor and the complex set of factors that perpetuate it. CARE and Cargill thus employ a multi-sectoral community development approach to promote education, increase awareness (and change social norms) around child labor, enhance nutrition, improve access to markets, support the empowerment of women and girls, and facilitate the growth and diversification of household incomes across cocoa growing communities in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana.  Our priorities and interventions center around the following objectives:   1. Improved ability of communities to reduce child labor through community-based governance structures like child protection committees, school management committees, community development committees, and other groups.    1. Communities are more aware of, and can better identify and prevent, cases of child labor.    2. Children have access to critical resources like school kits and birth certificates required for school enrollment and success. 2. Increased economic stability of households/community members vulnerable to child labor (with a focus on women and girls).    1. Target populations have enhanced technical and life skills to better support their households and livelihoods via CARE and Cargill’s training package – Farmer Field and Business School.    2. Target populations have diversified income to mitigate the effects of environmental, political, and economic shocks and stresses via a financial inclusion approach that builds agency, community cohesion, and empowerment for income diversification. 3. Enhanced wellbeing of cocoa communities through increased access to key resources, services, and infrastructure identified as key needs by the communities, including water points, schools, and health centers. 4. Strengthened food security and nutrition outcomes among cocoa communities through community-based nutrition promotion and nutrition-sensitive agriculture.   **Figure 1. A decade of cocoa programming and partnership evolution with Cargill.**    ***MARS***  In 2016, CARE-MARS *Women for Change* program in Côte d'Ivoire also joined the dynamic, with emphasis on improving life of women in cocoa communities through the *Village Saving and Loans* (VSLA) approach. The program aims to increase the potential for women in cocoa growing communities and gender equity in households and communities, while supporting increased savings, income growth and diversification, improved school enrollment rates and increased nutrition. The program also aims to shift social norms and reduce gender-based violence by engaging men and encouraging joint saving and decision-making. The model is based on the concept that a healthy and financially stable community is also a productive community. Since the beginning of the program, over 24,000 VSLA members have been supported through 850 VSLAs groups established with more than $2.9 million USD saved in 88 communities in Côte d’Ivoire. Encouraged by this powerful model and its results, in 2020, Mars Wrigley committed to scale up the partnership with CARE with an investment of $10 million USD, targeting to reach more than 60,000 members in cocoa communities in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana by 2025.The CARE - MARS *Women for Change* program is fully integrated into the Mars Cocoa for Generations strategy, which aims to transforming the cocoa supply chain so that global sustainable development goals are met, human rights are respected, the environment is protected, and cocoa farmers, their families and their communities have the opportunity to thrive.  CARE’s deep experience with VSLAs shows that when: a) cocoa-farming households gain access to financial skills and tools; b) women are able to engage in entrepreneurship and collective action; c) and gender equality is increased in cocoa-growing communities, then cocoa-farming households achieve economic resilience and improved livelihoods, directly contributing to achieving a living income. To achieve these results, the W4C model first creates VSLAs. These groups become an entry point for a suite of complementary interventions organized around four areas:   1. Financial inclusion and connections to formal finance. 2. Entrepreneurship supporting income generation and diversification. 3. Gender-equality interventions at individual, household, and community levels; and 4. A healthy family curriculum that promotes early-childhood development and child protection by engaging parents and households.   A women-centered approach aims to create sustainable change for farmers and their households by investing in women empowerment. By supporting cocoa farming families to improve their income, Mars and CARE contribute to reducing human rights risks in the supply chain, while also contributing to women’s social and economic empowerment.  **Figure 2: The Women for Change logic model**    **General Mills**  General Mills Foundation and CARE launched the *Cocoa Sustainability Initiative* (CSI) in 2014, with the goal of improving smallholder cocoa livelihoods and well-being in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire. The project aimed to address a range of interconnected issues, from low agricultural incomes and income diversification to women’s agency and voice to inclusive governance and climate change resiliency. Over the past six years, CARE and GMI have implemented the CSI program in several cocoa-producing communities across Ghana and CIV.  Now in its third phase, CSI continues to align with and contribute to SFtW by increasing the food and nutrition security and climate change resilience over 52,000 people (community men, women and children as well as government partners reached directly and indirectly), increasing community engagement and building solid partnerships that will scale up programming across both countries. Whiles a total number of 18,285 men, women and children will receive customized training and assistance for the adoption of a wide range of practices (improved gender relations; women’s economic and transactional empowerment and social protection among others) for themselves and their households, 9,751 stakeholders will be specifically targeted to receive customized assistance and training for adoption of improved Agriculture practices and inclusive markets. In addition, it is also planned that improved practices will be introduced on about 10,426 hectares of land in both countries.  CSI key focus areas are as follow:   1. Women’s empowerment, with a focus on strengthening and supporting women to increase their confidence and skills, and cope with the challenges they face, including in farming, marketing, and negotiation skills. 2. Increasing women’s access to and control of productive resources through the promotion of access to information, appropriate agricultural and productive resources including land, inputs and access to finance. 3. Enabling women’s access to inclusive markets to unlock greater production, expand profits on small-scale agriculture, and increase food security. 4. Improving health and nutrition through integrated approaches. 5. Strengthening community governance and response mechanisms for child labor mitigation, transforming structures by building capacity of communities to engage with local government to voice their priorities and address socio-cultural norms that promote inequities, including women’s marginalization. 6. Building partnerships at the district, national and global levels. 7. Influencing policies and practices by sharing program learning and evidence with key decision-makers.   **Multi-stakeholder Engagement**  Another focus of our partnership approach is multi-stakeholder engagement. We know we cannot eliminate child labor on our own and thus engage a multitude of stakeholders across the sector in support our of objectives. For instance, CARE and its partners - Cargill, MARS, and General Mills - work to implement targeted community-driven initiatives aimed at identifying and preventing child labor across the cocoa supply chain. In partnership with the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) and the Child Right Initiative (CRI), Mars and Cargill are implementing an innovative model for child labor prevention and response in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, called Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS).  This system allows our partners to go a step further in their efforts to eradicate child labor and is based on best practices developed by ICI. Setting up a CLMRS is an integral part of the Cargill Cocoa Promise, MARS Cocoa for Generations, General Mills’ Sustainable Cocoa Sourcing, and the CARE-Cargill-MARS-General Mills collaborations. CLMRS works to complement, enhance, and inform our overall development approach by raising awareness about the impact of child labor, identify incidents within the supply chain, and implement remediation and prevention activities such as providing access to birth certificates, school kits, community schools, vocational training for youth aged 14-17, income generating activities for households with child labor, as well as strengthening school management and establishing child protection committees. The multisectoral approach and interventions within our programming build upon CLMRS. CLMRS allows partners to know where the more vulnerable communities/households are to child labor risk, and that informs where we target our interventions and community-based remediation action.  Our partnerships have also successfully engaged and leveraged the unique influence and resources of local and national governments, to drive impact in cocoa communities. We are actively building institutional sustainability by working with and through government, the private sector, and local actors, and suppliers through policy and advocacy to ensure project models are adopted and scaled for broader impact.  For instance, in 2015 the Cargill partnership with CARE in Côte d’Ivoire leveraged the success of Support to Cocoa Growing Communities I and II programs to engage local government, ultimately receiving additional support from the Conseil du Café Cacao (Coffee and Cocoa Council), which invested approximately $1 million to match funding from Cargill and targeted cooperatives. This funding supported the construction of 33 teacher’s housing units and 9 nurses’ housing units to complement that 11 schools and 3 health centers built by the project.  **Proof of Impact (Two Program Examples):**  Support to Cocoa Growing Communities II (2013-2015) (SCGC II) in Côte d’Ivoire sought to improve the living conditions of smallholder farmers and their families by using holistic approaches to promote economic and social development in cocoa producing communities. Between 2013 and 2015, SCGC II trained 1,780 parents and 963 children to recognize and understand various forms of child labor and laws concerning the worst forms of child labor. In addition, 12 governing bodies – Community Development Committees (CDCOMs) – were created so that community members could come together to develop solutions to common problems within their communities, including child labor. At the end of SCGC II, on average, the cooperatives estimated an 82% reduction in the risk of child labor among families in 15 communities. The combination of child labor education, community action planning via CDCOMs, and stakeholder engagement contributed to this observed decrease in the risk of child labor in Côte d’Ivoire.17 Child labor prevention and mitigation is sustained in these communities through the structures and processes established by the project that continue to be led by communities. The CDCOMs, for instance, include child protection focal points that comprise child protection committees dedicated to sensitizing the communities on child labor and to how identify and prevent it. They also support communities in the mobilization of resources from local government and other stakeholders to continue educational infrastructure develop, rehabilitation, and improvement such that children have greater access to schools.  This approach was also successful in PROCOCO Ghana. Child protection training among beneficiaries and stakeholders, combined with school-related infrastructure development and rehabilitation, placed education at the center. With education identified as the pathway to supporting the elimination of child labor, PROCOCO was able to successfully contribute to a reduction in child labor, from 16.2% to 9.3% at the end line. Education-centric social and behavior change communication, combined with child labor reduction efforts, influenced educational outcomes as well, with primary school enrollment increasing by 4%.  Our suite of interventions addressing the root causes of child labor has become a best practice. The programs that followed PROCOCO and SCGC II dedicated greater resources toward establishing child protection committees, improving education infrastructure, and enhancing capacities of CDCOMs and other groups to identify and prevent child labor. CARE is also now working alongside industry leaders like The World Cocoa Foundation and International Cocoa Initiative to better monitor and track key community development and child labor metrics across the region. These data inform our ways of working, allowing for course-corrections and reallocation of resources to priority areas in cocoa communities. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| Each phase of these partnerships builds on lessons learned from previous phases and our evidence base. We’ve learned that the role of women in combatting child labor, and in the cocoa value chain more broadly, is often overlooked. Yet, when they have access to agricultural inputs, income, and are meaningfully and equitably engaged in decision-making, their impact on cocoa sustainability, production, and child labor is significant. In fact, a [2016 OXFAM report](https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/womens-rights-cocoa-sector?_gl=1*vnxg7m*_ga*OTU1Nzc5MjYuMTYyMDkyMTc2OA..*_ga_R58YETD6XK*MTYyMDkyMTc2OC4xLjEuMTYyMDkyMTg4My4w) highlights the role of women in ensuring cocoa supply chain sustainability, their contribution to cocoa production, and the impact they have on their households and children’s wellbeing when empowered with adequate resources, income, and control. Women are more likely to reinvest in their households, their family needs, and their children’ education. This is why CARE and its partners are committed to placing women at the heart of its interventions now and in the future.  ***Cargill and General Mills***  Our current phase of programming, PROSPER II, and CSI III, draws from CARE’s She Feeds the World (SFtW) framework – an integrative approach to food and nutrition security, as well as from Cargill Cocoa Promise goal to enhance Community Wellbeing through a strategic action plan. SFtW not only emphasizes access to critical inputs like water, land, seeds, finance, and access to markets but also includes an explicit focus on nutrition, safety nets, and social protection in times of crisis. Critically, SFtW puts women’s empowerment at the center of everything we do, working directly with women to strengthen their skills and confidence in sustainable agriculture practices, financial inclusion, market engagement, gender equality, and food and nutrition security – while also engaging with men and boys to support efforts for greater equality. Cargill and General Mills are also engaging its direct and indirect supply chain, monitoring, and reporting on progress to eradicate child labor in cocoa growing communities and leveraging the power of partnerships to create a thriving cocoa sector. Both, Cargill, and General Mills are implementing a holistic approach to ensure long-term sustainability and impact of the CLMRS combining supply chain and community interventions to identify, remediate and prevent child labor. Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate believes that investing in farming communities is an investment in the future. By providing farm workers with healthcare services, educating the next generation of farmers to a high standard, working to identify and prevent child labor, and giving women more access to economic opportunities, we are creating a safety net for cocoa farmers living in precarious conditions – and an opportunity to strengthen their socio-economic resilience. Such interventions also improve farm productivity, helping to secure cocoa supplies for generations to come.  ***MARS***  The CARE – MARS Women for Change regional expansion in Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire is establishing a global communications strategy to share the programmatic story with key stakeholders and partners. Through strong advocacy efforts, the Women for Change approach will be positioned as an industry-leading model for sustainable cocoa farming and progressing toward a living income. In partnership with Mars, program partners, and participants, CARE will build awareness around the Women for Change model and impact among key stakeholders ranging from local authorities and value-chain actors (co-ops, input suppliers, etc.) to national government ministries, suppliers and buyers. In this way, beyond community-level impact, CARE’s expansion of Women for Change seeks to influence practice and policy at the national, regional, and global levels.  The first stage of this process is underway through the “W4C: Building the Business Case” initiative. The top-level goal of this work is to connect program strategy and business outcomes to effectively drive downstream impact that resonates across MARS key impact areas (Brand reputation, Supply Security/sustainability, Next generation of farmers, Climate/deforestations etc.). The first iteration of the W4C business case is expected by the end of 2021. To support this process, a supply chain stakeholder assessment will be conducted in July in Cote d’Ivoire.  **Our partnerships will continue to address child labor using a gender-transformative approach that targets the unique challenges of women and girls in cocoa-growing communities because when we lift up women and girls, we strengthen and transform entire communities.** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Root causes of child labor**  All stakeholders within the cocoa sector are under increasing pressure to eliminate all forms of hazardous child labor within their supply chains. The challenge faced is complex given that the identification of all incidents of child labor in large supply chains requires many resources. Likewise, it is essential to carry out appropriate remediation activities for the cases identified to avoid recurrence which requires a considerable investment. And beyond identification and remediation, the prevention of child labor is a challenging task given that many times the root cause is poverty, for which it is necessary to implement activities that increase incomes and improve the living conditions of households and the community in general. Moreover, the lack of awareness of existing national legislations around child labor or of the long-term negative effects of such practices on the physical and moral development of children are also root causes of child labor.  The primary causes of child labor are socioeconomic, which is why efforts to halt such practices must start at a grassroots level. The myriad factors that influence the prevalence of child labor demand a holistic approach involving all stakeholders. The cocoa sector has broadly committed to putting in place CLMR Systems (including CARE partners such as Cargill), and right now, the issue is how to scale such a resource intense model. For example, Cargill has the target to introduce a monitoring and remediation system in countries where it directly sources cocoa by 2025 and is currently scaling its CLMRS, however the scale to be achieved is immense – reaching more than 100,000 farmers in Cargill’s supply chain in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Also, to date, the focus has been on monitoring, but it is becoming clear that there needs to be a shift towards remediation of some of the main root causes of CL. The root cause of CL is multidimensional poverty – so this requires a multi-sectoral approach in which all stakeholders need to play a role: industry, civil society and governments.  CARE and its partners are also working closely with governments and policymakers to define and implement standardized policy approaches to child labor. Our partners are working with civil society and NGOs such as CARE who know the local context best to provide cocoa farming families with the tools they need to be economically successful and break the cycle of poverty. CARE and its partners also collaborate across industry to share information, scale up best practices, and learn lessons from each other.  **Social Norms and Policy Landscape**  Both Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana face contextual challenges that hinder economic growth and empowerment among women farmers, specifically inequitable land tenure systems and social norms. For example, nearly 80 percent of Ghana’s lands are owned under customary land tenure systems where men own, inherit and control the land; although half of the land is cultivated by women—women who own smaller, less quality land holdings than their male counterparts . As land ownership is historically patrilineal in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, access to productive land is a challenge for women cocoa farmers. Gender inequalities “are dictated by customary laws and social practices, where women’s inheritance rights are severely limited” (Sarpong, 2006).  Social norms are a main driver of inequality in cocoa supply chains, particularly social norms that limit women’s productivity, access to and role in local markets and, thus, their ability to produce and generate income from sales of cocoa. Stephanie Barrientos (2013) notes that women work extensively on family farms on which social norms dictate the role of men and women. For example, women are heavily involved in harvest and postharvest activities, but are constrained from both access to and role in working with the local markets. Men typically take the final product to the market, negotiate prices, and ultimately control the profit from the sale of the product. This creates major power asymmetry between men and women, as women are effectively excluded from price negotiations, supply, and delivery schedules, or in knowing market demand and supply attributes.  Women’s roles in the cocoa supply chain in West Africa are limited by historical biases and social norms related to their contribution and role as farmers. These structural barriers not only restrict their access to productive resources including land, water, extension services, and information, but they confine their decision-making ability at household and community levels. Local biases bound women to subservient roles in the supply chain, where their labor is exploited by men who benefit from market access and, ultimately, income generation from cocoa production and sales. Relational norms between men and women, like financial decision-making ability in households, leave women with even less control and power over how on-farm income generation is utilized. Despite their crucial roles in the cocoa supply chain, poor smallholder women farmers in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire cannot overcome the significant local biases in the cocoa supply chain that relegate them low level, often unpaid roles.  While the cocoa and chocolate industry has made progress in reducing gender inequities in the supply chain, there is space to further galvanizing the sector to make more explicit commitments, and incorporate more clarity on their approaches to women’s economic empowerment and gender equality in their sustainability frameworks, and form partnerships to deliver against them. In addition, a stronger focus should be placed on influencing the policy landscape such that women’s land tenure rights and roles as farmers are recognized and supported. Lastly, more comprehensive social norms change approaches (like Social Analysis and Action) that challenge traditional norms that limit women’s access to economic opportunity should be incorporated into multi-sectoral programming across the board.  Social norm and practices also continue enable child labor and their involvement with the cocoa supply chain. Indeed, beyond the economic aspect, families also require children to work on the family farm and help so that they too can learn how to do agriculture. This aspect is also highlighted in the recently published Empathy report of MARS “[The Resilience Journey (mars.com)](https://gateway.mars.com/m/13eb11bffad76478/original/The_Resilience_Journey_Empathy_Generation_2021-pdf.pdf)”  **Climate Change, Low Yield, and Living Incomes**  The low incomes that derive from continued low yields (due to the effects of climate change, aging farms, and farm infrastructure generally), coupled with the recent price decline has meant increased origin government skepticism or hostility to productivity programs as well as increased support for interventions that focus on farmer incomes and income diversification strategies (whilst ensuring sufficient access to markets for non-cocoa production). It has also increased attention on living income as a measure of success for these programs. For instance, the Berlin Declaration of the ICCO included the following statement: “We affirm that the cocoa sector will not be sustainable if farmers are not able to earn a living income.” Galvanizing support for commitments, initiatives, and policies that address the living income differential should be a priority for cocoa stakeholders seeking to ensure cocoa sustainability and eliminate child labor. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| A snapshot of recommendations for agricultural stakeholders engaged in multi-sectoral efforts to combat child labor in cocoa communities can be found below. These recommendations are based on an assesses of the impacts, shortfalls, and lessons learned within this public-private collaboration over the last thirteen years.  **FORMALIZE PARTNERSHIPS AND INTEGRATE WITH GOVERNMENT PLANS, POLICIES, AND INITIATIVES:** Long-lasting change in the cocoa sector, and ultimately the elimination of child labor, can only be achieved through strong collaboration and coordination across stakeholders. Better multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination across existing initiatives can support in avoiding duplication of effort while also pooling resources for more significant impact. CARE is currently formalizing partnerships at local district assemblies and government agencies to promote sharing and improved coordination across other key actors, to harmonize interventions at a sector level and strengthen working group dialogues among those actors. Agricultural stakeholders, NGOs, and other key actors must work to leverage resources from and create synergies with existing and new partners, including government. Doing so will ensure improved sustainability of our actions, greater distribution of resources to priority needs, and alignment of collective interventions with national standards and policies.  **STRONGER GENDER PROGRAMMING & PRIORITIZING WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN THE COCOA VALUE CHAIN:** Most successful projects are gender-transformative and work to create change both at the household level as well as systemically. Our partnership has a gender-focus, including explicit strategies to engage men and boys in the promotion of women’s empowerment to improve attitudes, behaviors, and structures that support gender equality for people and communities. However, despite progress in this space, gender inequities continue to limit women, particularly women farmers. Agricultural stakeholders should strengthen their gender equality approaches by supporting women’s empowerment efforts, increasing women’s access to and control of productive resources, advocating for more equitable policies, and enabling women’s access to inclusive markets and meaningful participation as recognized farmers within the cocoa value chain.  **STRENGTHEN VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOAN SCHEMES THROUGH DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGIC TRANSFORMATION, INNOVATION, & FORMAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION**  Many cocoa farmers face financial capital constraints before harvesting their crops and often need to take loans to support themselves until the next harvest. Yet lack of information, high interest rates, lack of collateral to take loans, and lack of access to financial institutions are all barriers to farmers’ ability to access financial resources. For smallholder farmers to achieve higher productivity, timely access to short-term finance for inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, machine services, transport, labor, and fuel is fundamental. The seasonal nature of cocoa production implies that all input costs are incurred before the harvest and farmers sometimes need to borrow a significant proportion of their harvest income upfront since they are usually liquidity constrained and need credit. Due to the financial risks, this type of finance is often unavailable to cocoa farmers and can limit the productivity and quality of their production, not to mention their capacity to adopt better technologies and expand their businesses.  CARE’s financial inclusion and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) approach has created enormous value in the communities we serve, improving access to finance for women and men who are often excluded from formal and informal financial systems. The VSLAs provide members a platform to access informal financial services and training across various topics, including financial literacy, business management, and diversification through income-generating activities.  CARE aims to take its VSLA platform to the next level within the CARE-MARS-Cargill partnership, building a new generation of VSLAs that not only improve access to finance at the community level, but also open doors to the emerging digital economy. This includes digitization of the VSLA process using a shared digital platform to promote effective cashless systems by reducing security risks and increasing productivity. It also entails transforming a paper-based record system to an electronic system to improve tracking of loans and savings across VSLAs, enhancing group efficiencies, transparency, and data sharing. The evolution of VSLAs into the digital world will accelerate and deepen financial inclusion while increasing the usage of digital financial services in rural cocoa communities.  Digital tools are a core catalyst to take social innovations like VSLAs to scale. Technology can help us engage VSLA members more efficiently, deepen our impact and lower costs. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way many VSLAs meet, save and lend and there is an urgent need to augment traditional in-person meetings with digital engagement and opportunity. CARE’s Chomoka initiative offers savings groups, and women in particular, a low-risk entry point to the digital economy and can help them transition from informal to formal finance. With that said, lack of access to formal and informal financial continues to present challenges across cocoa farmers community. Thus, agricultural stakeholders should enshrine financial inclusion models within their cocoa sustainability and multi-sectoral approaches to facilitate adequate access to financial capital for farmers. Emphasis should also be placed on increasing accessing to formal financial to broaden farmers’ access to financial capital, beyond the VSLA.  **EMPOWER COMMUNITIES FOR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT**: Over the course of more than a decade of partnership, CARE’s, and all its partners focus on sustainable, long-term change and development has sharpened. Activities have, and should continue to, become more integrated over time using approaches that empower women and vulnerable groups, and protect children for sustained, community-led development. Programs are intentionally linking child protection, nutrition, food security, agricultural productivity, income, education, market linkages, and women’s voice to provide durable solutions to the complex circumstances surrounding poverty in Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, and around the world. Programs should continue to, but also improve upon, building conditions and linkages that empower communities to continue activities, and to design programs with thoughtful sustainability, continuance and exit plans in place. CARE and its partners should build on their knowledge to continue implementing activities that have been shown to be sustainable, such as VSLAs.  **ENHANCE NUTRITION PROGRAMMING:** Successful programs do not assume that greater availability of food—even nutritious food—or higher income automatically translates into improved nutrition. Providing nutrition education about diets for women, infants, and young children, and considering structural and relational norms that affect nutrition practices, must be in place. Within the CARE-MARS Women for change program, this aspect is captured, and nutrition messages and promotion of social behavior change for improved food and nutrition practices in conjunction with the Healthy Families curriculum are considered. The training manual integrates 20-minutes education sessions and activities into group meetings. Topics covered in the manual include budgeting for better nutrition; animal source foods; intra-household food distribution; and proper hygiene and sanitation practices. A cycle of “Explore,” “Reflect” and “Act” promotes recommended behaviors and results in commitment from members to adoption. CARE will integrate elements of the “Growing the Future” manual as appropriate in VSLA convenings.  **COMMIT TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:** Sustained commitment to climate change adaptation and risk management activities over the long term is critical, given the severity of the impact of climate change on small-scale food producers. The effects of climate change have created crop production challenges for farmers; however, CARE crosscutting programming with its partners has increased the resiliency of rural communities and improved their ability to adapt to climate change. For instance, despite unpredictable climate patterns and widespread production loss across the Ghanaian cocoa sector during PROCOCO (our second phase of programming), farmers were able to mitigate decreases in production. Farmers not associated with PROCOCO observed twice as much production loss. With that said, farmers are facing new climate-related challenges each year and will need to refine their climate change management strategies as weather patterns become increasingly variable. Cargill has committed to ending deforestation in its cocoa supply chain by 2030, and MARS’ aim is to achieve a deforestation free supply chain for cocoa they source by 2025[[15]](#footnote-15). Forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, providing livelihoods for millions of farmers, and securing food supply for a growing global population. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| **STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION**: Each stakeholder in a supply chain has a unique and distinct role to play in tackling child labor. Governments and policymakers must play an important part, alongside industry and civil society, in tackling child labor. This can include setting clear policy frameworks, objectives, and definition of child labor, which the ILO recognizes can vary from country to country. Developing a standard framework for eliminating child labor could limit siloed and unsustainable interventions in the cocoa sector while simultaneously creating consistency, coherence, and synergy across different interventions and initiatives. These must be designed and organized upstream and introduced into the system in a scientific and standardized manner. Working closely with governments to define the best pathway forward is a core pillar of ultimately ending child labor.  **LOCALIZED APPROACH:** When it comes to implementing programs at a local level, local organizations, authorities and NGOs are best placed to help deliver these in the most impactful way, given they are often closely connected with community leaders and aware of local socioeconomic or cultural considerations. Our experience has shown that working in this way – partnering with NGO partners to tailor global best practices to local needs – is the most effective approach.  **CHILD-CENTRED INTERVENTIONS:** Growing understanding of holistic, child-centered community development and the harms of child labor, combined with corporate due diligence in identifying and supporting at-risk children are key drivers of ending child labor. |

## Ayo Okelana, Cleannation Foundation, Nigeria

Please find attached the response of Cleannation Foundation as regards the call against child labour in agriculture.

Thank you.

Ayo Okelana

Cleannation Foundation

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Ayotunde Okelana/Male/Cleannation Foundation** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **A Multi-Sectoral Approach to End Child Labour on Osun Farms and Farming Settlements** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| **West Africa/Nigeria/Osun State** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **Osun State is an agrarian State that has a lot of children who are involved in the different forms of economic activities on agriculture and food processing. According to NEEDS analysis, a larger percentage of the population derive their income from agriculture and related activities (NEEDS, 2004). Most of the times, these families perceive these children as potential labourers that were born actually to work on the farm. As observed by Osokoya, Alabi, Fashola (2014), Osun state is one of the 6 states that make up the south-western geographical zone of Nigeria with much arable land. Osun state covers an area of 8700 kmsq with capital at Osogbo with a growing population of about 3,416,959. From the website of the State, Farming remains the centre of economy of Osun state having well over 90% of her rural population involve in farming activities relating to crop sub-sector, thereby providing the bulk of income in the state (www.osunstate.gov.ng/). It should be noted therefore, that one of the major reasons farmers are polygamous is for a harem of wives who shall be useful on the farm. Therefore the primary issue of child labour in agriculture that is of concern to us is the concept of PERSPECTIVE.**  **The main causes of this issue include: tradition, illiteracy, and economy. Generally, an average African mind perceives trans-generational heritage as a legacy every family can transfer to the upcoming generation. This is seen in the way the fathers acquire farmlands aside from the ones inherited from their progenitors. This has also made them attract more women whom they technically turn-out to be wives. Obviously, a hardworking woman is expected to give birth to very hard-working sons and daughters. Aside this is the case of illiteracy. The rate of literacy among rural in Nigeria who are mostly farmers is 68% (Olowu, 2008). It is pertinent to know that farming remain largely in the hands of peasant farmers who majorly relying on old traditional ways of farming, whose information needs are not met and they are lacking relevant strategies and tools for modern farming (Ibid.). Economic reasons are another crucial cause of child labour in Osun, in Nigeria, in Africa. A lot of incentives and welfare packages are usually being announced as provided for these rural dwellers, but how many of them have access to these? The major insurance these farmers seem to know is their children, and their children on the farm.**  **The intended impact our work shall be having on these children shall include:**   1. **We shall be focusing on the education of the children so that in the nearest future they can take over these farmers using better technology which will enhance better community development, increase in food production and zero child labour.** 2. **Adult literacy programme shall be embarked upon for their parents. This shall help to enlighten the minds of parents and reposition them to understand the concept of family planning (by implication they shall not be giving birth arbitrarily). The women shall learn better nutrition formulation for the children. They shall better realise issues like child abuse, teenage pregnancy, illiteracy among children, child trafficking, etc. that are associated with the practice of child labour.** 3. **Assess to fund by the farmers which shall enhance their productivity by the use of modern farming implement, improved varieties of seeds and seedlings, choice of organic herbicides and manures for their farms, and so on.** 4. **Opportunity to make use modern farm implements as at when needed. One of the major complains of farmers is access to these implements. Generally in South-Western Nigeria, there is the scarcity of modern farm implements, even for rent. When there are no tractors, and tractor attachments (such: ploughs, fertiliser spreader, harrows, etc.), harvesters, All-Terrains Vehicles/ Utility Vehicles (ATV/UTV), etc.; farmers will make use of the children at their disposals.**   **The impact of COVID-19 on African children cannot be quantified. When all chips are down children bear the brunt. The pandemic dealt a big blow on their lives. Some labourers who travel from Benin Republic to work as labourers in Osun State for instance could not come into the country. A lot of children kept falling ill because of much work. These children are subjected to work with little, or no assistance. The impact in Ede was more terrible because there was no rain. Several stands of corn dried up aside staple food like cassava, yam, and other food supplements like big pepper, tomatoes and chilli wasted when the children became too tired to continue. Generally, the food system on this side of the country almost collapsed because unfortunately, Osun State was one of the first set of States in Nigeria to come in contact with the virus. So, everywhere was locked down, movement became highly restricted and the patches of children available on the farms must join in the activities whether they wanted or not. More sadly enough, because of the proximity of Osun State to Ogun State where the first case was recorded, for every adult that is lost to the COVID-19 infection, more children are engaged on the farm to do more work; and also expose these children to more susceptibility. Much importantly, children in this part of the world do not have the right to exercise their willpower, so whatever the father or mother, or uncle says must stand, and be carried out to the letter.**  **The on-going activity of Cleannation Foundation to address child labour in agriculture is done through the medium of community sensitisation among the religious settings. The focus is to allow children to go to school. Nigerians being highly religious are mostly captivated by talks, sermons, or exhortation given at their churches, mosques or religious programmes. In order to re-orientate a Nigerian especially at the rural sides, one of the major moves is to firstly win the heart, and pre-disposition of the spiritual head of the community. Once, we achieved this we have the permission already to discuss with the religious leaders at the Ward levels. This method has been found to be effective considering the reasons for choosing it. But it is lacking support from the government because teachers at the rural areas are very few, and not readily available. These teachers live very far way from the villages. On considering the increased transport fare and the risk and fear of recent kidnappings along such terrains, the teachers would prefer to appear in the schools at unexpected times to prevent predictability of either the kidnappers, or insurgency groups. Hence, the rural school setting lacks organisation, patronage and the desired progress.** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| 1. **Lobby the Ministry of Women, Child and Social Welfare for the strengthening of government policy on child labour through the enacted Child Right Law** 2. **Sensitise community people through the radio on the effect of child labour in agriculture** 3. **Build the capacity of farmers’ association on labour laws** 4. **Advocate for farmers-funding through NIRSAL National Microfinance Bank** 5. **Collaborate with agencies such as IITA, NIHORT and related farm mechanisation organisations on the behalf of the famers on the use of farm implements such as tractors, and mounting equipment** 6. **Encourage and Register farmers on adult literacy programme** 7. **Set up village schools for children** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Obstacles we encounter in addressing child labour include:**   1. **Illiteracy on the part of the parents** 2. **Poor government intervention on adult education** 3. **Poor knowledge on child labour and consequences among the farmers** 4. **Long distance of available schools to the farms** 5. **Discouraged teachers**   **These challenges are the have are already the problem this project intends to solve as discussed in no. 2 above.** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| 1. **That government policy on child labour be made clear to the people at the grass root** 2. **That Farmers’ union would be better informed on government labour policy as regards the use of children on the farms** 3. **That farmers’ association be strengthened so as to act as a monitoring force to identify and report defaulters on child labour** 4. **That the prosecution of defaulters be executed to deter future defaulters.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| 1. **That the Ministry of Labour sensitizes farmers’ union on the dangers of child labour** 2. **That the Ministry of Education should make school more conducive for farmes’ children** 3. **That the government upholds and enforce the universal Basic Education policy** 4. **That regular inspections be made to the farm areas, especially during planting and harvest** |

## Francis Folley, Youth Coalition for the Consolidation of Democracy, Malawi

Dear Team,

I write to submit my application as in the Call for Action: ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders through my organization -Youth Coalition for the Consolidation of Democracy -Malawi. Please find attached.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

In solidarity and partnership

Francis Folley

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Francis Folley- Male – Youth Coalition for the Consolidation of Democracy (YCD).** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Up-scaling action in the elimination of child labour in Tobacco plantations in Malawi** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| **N/A** |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Sothern Africa, Malawi, Nchalo** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| As 152 million boys and girls are still trapped in child labour worldwide, and 71% or 108 million of them are working in agriculture.[[16]](#footnote-16) Children are being increasingly involved in working activities to compensate labour gaps and income losses in food and agricultural production.[[17]](#footnote-17) This situation is likely to reverse progress and undermine efforts to eradicate rural poverty (SDG 1), achieve zero hunger (SDG 2), and eliminate child labour (SDG 8.7). The situation is much serious in Malawi as it is revealed that out of every 100 children in Malawi, 38 are in child labour. Of all these children in child labour (65% in agriculture – tobacco (2015 Malawi National Child Labour Survey).  In its recent report on the worst forms of child labor, the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) reported that over 20 percent of children ages 5-14 in Malawi were involved with some form of work, both hazardous and not. [[18]](#footnote-18)  Children in Malawi are engaged in hazardous work in the production of tobacco. Children are handling tobacco risk illnesses from nicotine absorption, including green tobacco sickness. They are exposed to pesticides, chemicals, and harsh weather conditions; they also utilize sharp tools. Some children work alongside family members who are tenants on tobacco farms. In the tenancy system, tenants’ pay is based on the quantity and quality of tobacco sold to farm owners after the harvest season, and parents have an incentive to use their children to increase their earnings. Tenants often incur loans during the growing season; in many cases, they are unable to repay these debts, resulting in entire families being placed in debt bondage. Children are forced to do exploitative hazardous work instead of going to school (2015 Malawi National Child Labour Survey).  The various studies that have been carried out in Malawi have identified that child labour happens as a result of many factors. The economic situation in Malawi is a critical issue in addressing child labour. 40% of the population live below the poverty line and in most cases they have to involve their children in economic activities in an effort to provide food for the family. This is particularly bad during the lean period when food from the last harvest is depleted and yet the new crop has to be tended to, to get a good harvest. This compromises the children’s school attendance usually resulting in the children dropping out of school. The school facilities in the country are also poor and the pupil teacher ratio in public schools is so high that school is not attractive to children. In addition, the HIV and AIDS pandemic has complicated the situation further in Malawi. With an adult infection rate of 12%, many children are left orphaned or become bread winners while looking after sick parents. There are also cultural factors that tend to encourage child labour. In many communities, children who are initiated between the ages of 10 and 14 are deemed to be adults. After initiation, schooling is not a priority. Most children enter marriage or join the workforce. Weak legal framework and enforcement of laws and policies, social acceptance of child labour, poor coordination, collaboration and networking, weak institutions and technical capacity, HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 pandemics, and limited coverage of poverty alleviation programs also fuel the child labour incidences in Malawi.  **Our previous and current programs in the elimination of Child Labour in Malawi**   1. For the past three years, my organization has been implementing a three (3) year project to end child labour in tobacco and tea plantations in Thyolo district in Malawi called **Zero Child Labour in tobacco and Tea plantations in Thyolo district in Malawi**. The project aim was to help eliminate hazardous child labour in tobacco and tea-growing areas within the context of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour in Malawi.   Project Results   * The project managed to withdraw 800 children from exploitative and hazardous labour * 517 children were intercepted from human trafficking for the purposes of using them as workers in tobacco and tea plantations. * Local child labour prevention and monitoring structures have been strengthen through trainings in child labour prevention, reporting and monitoring systems.  1. **Fair Share Campaign for the Elimination of Child Labour in Malawi**   My organization is the National Coordinator for the Faire Share Campaign for the Elimination of Child Labour in Malawi this year as the World celebrates the UN Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.  Now, the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on agri-food systems is exacerbating rural poverty and is leading to an increase in child poverty, school dropout and food insecurity. Most of the children who have lost their parents, or whose parents are not working due to COVID-19 pandemic are working in exploitative and hazardous labour in tobacco plantations in order to survive. If no interventions are taken in scaling up efforts to eliminate exploitative and hazardous child labour, we expect to see the first increase in child labour for decades in Malawi due to COVID-19 pandemic economic shocks. This is why Youth Coalition for the Consolidation of Democracy (**YCD**) in Malawi applies for this call in order to raise our voice and express our concerns, commitments, and actions towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture (tobacco farming), and to highlight the situation and reality of rural communities in the agricultural sector in Malawi. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| In its efforts to achieve SDG 8.7 (to **eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025)** Youth Coalition for the Consolidation of Democracy (**YCD**) in Malawi intends to implement a two year project called “**Up-scaling action in the elimination of child labour in Tobacco plantations in Malawi**”. This project will be implemented in three major tobacco-growing districts in Malawi (Mchinji, Ntchisi, and Rumphi) where child labour is very high. The incidence of child labour in these three districts is high in general (Mchinji: 87.1%, Ntchisi: 91.1%, and Rumphi: 93.3%), as well as in tobacco growing alone (Mchinji: 54%, Ntchisi: 55%, and Rumphi: 39.8%)[[19]](#footnote-19). DOL ILAB 2014 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child labor. Retrieved from <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/malawi.htm> highlighted Malawian tobacco as a commodity produced with the use of child labour and forced labour. In Malawi, the agricultural sector employs 87 percent of the work force and accounts for 90 percent of the country’s foreign-exchange earnings, with 65 percent of the foreign-exchange earnings coming from tobacco. Tobacco is a very significant source of Malawi’s employment. The lessons, best practices learnt and recommendations from this project will be shared at national, regional and global fora so that the project is also feeding into the national, regional and global programing as we strive to achieve SDG 8.7 (to **eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025).**  This Project has the overarching goal of eliminating hazardous child labour in three major tobacco-growing districts of Malawi – Mchinji, Rumphi, and Ntchisi – within the context of the country’s National Action Plan against child labour in Malawi. The project will focus on preventing children ages 5 to 17 from exploitative, hazardous, and the worst forms of child labour (WFCL), and protecting legally working children ages 15-17 from hazardous work in tobacco growing. The ultimate expected impact of this project is to protect 10,000 children against child labour.  Project Goal: Elimination of hazardous child labour in tobacco growing areas within the context of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour in Malawi,  **This project has two strategic objectives:**  **Strategic Objective 1**: To protect, including prevention, withdraw of those ages 5-14 from exploitative, hazardous, and the worst forms of child labour in tobacco plantations; and  **Strategic Objective 2**: To protect legally working children (ages 14-17) from hazardous work in tobacco plantations.  **Activities**   1. Conduct three introductory meetings with the District Executive Committees (DECs) to introduce the project in Mchinji, Ntchisi and Rumphi Districts. In line with the decentralization policy, District Executive Committee (DEC) is a strategic entry point of interventions in a district as all the projects enter the district through the DEC. YCD will therefore engage the DECs in these three districts to present the project with its strategies. This engagement will as well trigger DECs’ support towards scaling up action in the elimination of child labour in Tobacco plantations in the districts. 2. DevelopOccupational safety and health **(OSH)** guide to protect the legally working children (ages 14-17) from exploitative and hazardous work in tobacco plantations. 3. Facilitate labour inspections in the tobacco farms. 4. Train sixty (60) youth organizations in child labour prevention, reporting and monitoring tools in tobacco farms. 5. Conduct twelve (12) road shows to raise awareness on child trafficking and dangers of child labour in tobacco plantations. 6. Conduct twenty (20) radio programs on child labour and dangers of child labour in tobacco growing areas; and child labour survivor testimonies on community radio stations 7. Conduct three district events (one in Mchinji, Ntchisi and Rumphi districts) on child labour with survivor testimonies to mark the UN Year for the Elimination of Child labour, in so doing strengthening local child labour monitoring and prevention systems. 8. Repatriate illegally working children (ages 5- 14) that will have been withdrawn from exploitative and hazardous work in tobacco plantations 9. Mobilization meetings with the traditional leaders, police and courts to get their full commitment for the enforcement and implementation of the Tenancy Policy, Child Labour Policy, Trafficking in of Persons Act and Employment Act in the targeted three districts. 10. Media tours. On quarterly basis we will be taking a media tour into the grassroots communities to gather stories surrounding elimination of exploitative and hazardous child labour. These media tours will be used as a social marketing tool for positive change. From these tours newspaper articles and newsletter information will be developed and published. Each media tour will be comprised of 6 journalists and will be for a day. 11. Project exit meeting with the District Executive Committees (DECs) in Mchinji, Ntchisi and Rumphi to share projects results, recommendations and evaluations.   **Expected Outcomes:**   1. Children of legal working (ages 14-17) are protected from exploitative and hazardous work in tobacco plantations. 2. Illegally working children (ages 5 - 14) are withdrawn from exploitative and hazardous work in tobacco plantations and are repatriated into their homes. 3. National, district, community and coordination mechanisms in the elimination of child labour are strengthened 4. National policies and legal framework support the enforcement and implementation of the Malawi’s Child Labour National Action Plan.   **Strategies that will be used.**   1. IEC production of anti-child labour messages including heavy involvement of community based media outlets on exploitative and hazardous child labour in the tobacco farms. The project will also introduce animations and pictures to ensure that citizens, especially the illiterate, understand and can actively take part in up-scaling efforts to eliminate child labour in tobacco farms. 2. Capacity Building: The project will train key sixty (youth) organization in child labour prevention, reporting and monitoring tools in tobacco farms. These trained youth organizations will be champions of community dialogues in scaling up efforts in the prevention and elimination of child labour in tobacco farms. 3. Partnerships, networking and coordination engagements to improve multi-stakeholder collaboration at grassroots level as a wider strategy in prevention and elimination of child labour in tobacco farms.   **Project time frame:** This is a 24 months project running from July 2021 to June 2023. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| Obstacles in the efforts to eliminate child labour in tobacco growing areas in Malawi are just so many. The economic situation in Malawi is a critical issue in addressing child labour. 40% of the population live below the poverty line and in most cases they have to involve their children in economic activities in an effort to provide food for the family. This is particularly bad during the lean period when food from the last harvest is depleted and yet the new crop has to be tended to, to get a good harvest. This compromises the children’s school attendance usually resulting in the children dropping out of school. The school facilities in the country are also poor and the pupil teacher ratio in public schools is so high that school is not attractive to children. In addition, the HIV and AIDS pandemic has complicated the situation further in Malawi. With an adult infection rate of 12%, many children are left orphaned or become bread winners while looking after sick parents. There are also cultural factors that tend to encourage child labour. In many communities, children who are initiated between the ages of 10 and 14 are deemed to be adults. After initiation, schooling is not a priority. Most children enter marriage or join the workforce. Weak legal framework and enforcement of laws and policies, social acceptance of child labour, poor coordination, collaboration and networking, weak institutions and technical capacity. Now, the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on agri-food systems is exacerbating rural poverty and is leading to an increase in child poverty, school dropout and food insecurity. Most of the children who have lost their parents, or whose parents are not working due to COVID-19 pandemic are working in exploitative and hazardous labour in tobacco plantations in order to survive. If no interventions are taken in scaling up efforts to eliminate exploitative and hazardous child labour, we expect to see the first increase in child labour for decades in Malawi due to COVID-19 pandemic economic shocks. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| To agricultural stakeholders we make the following recommendations.  Agricultural stakeholders in tobacco farming should follow all child labour laws and policies when engaging children workers. Besides following the laws and policies, they also need to report all forms of child labour and efforts towards elimination of child labour in tobacco farming. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| Tostakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture we make the following recommendations.   1. **Maintaining and working through pre-existing structures:**   Maintaining and working through pre-existing structures is as crucial to the sustainability of the efforts towards elimination of child labour in tobacco growing areas. We recommend that future projects build on existing community structures, when possible, for two reasons. The first is that many existing community structures fall under government oversight and will have a higher chance of effectiveness and sustainability. The second is that building on existing structures fosters a sense of community ownership over the program in all of its elements: from implementation, to overcoming challenges, to reaching its ultimate goals.   1. **Communicate Policy and Programmatic Changes at the District and Community Levels**   It is important to communicate both policy and programmatic changes to stakeholders at the district and community levels. For example, the Child Labour Conference in 2012 resulted in publicizing a list of hazardous materials. It is important that people outside of policy-making areas also receive and embrace these messages in order to eliminate child labour. Moving forward, it will be important to strengthen the links, so communications can be passed from the national level to the community level. It is also important to ensure that any significant changes in project programming are similarly communicated from the national level to the communities.   1. **Partnerships, networking and coordination:**   Partnerships, networking and coordination engagements are very important to improve multi-stakeholder collaboration at grassroots level as a wider strategy in prevention and elimination of child labour in tobacco farms. |

## Megan Passey, International Cocoa Initiative, Switzerland

Dear Bernd,

Please find attached the completed submission on behalf of ICI.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have questions or require additional information.

Best, Megan

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Megan Passey, F, International Cocoa Initiative** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Scaling-up effective practices in** in preventing, identifying and addressing **child labour at cooperative and community level** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| **Multi-stakeholder partnership** (including civil society and industry members) |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Switzerland** (secretariat) |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming (cocoa)** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **In Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, the origin of more than 60% of the world’s cocoa, most production takes place on smallholder family farms. As in agriculture elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa, child labour is common: the most recent surveys show that 50% of children in cocoa-growing households in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana are in child labour.[[20]](#footnote-20) As in other supply chains, child labour is a complex structural problem with several root causes, including poverty and limited access to basic services, such as education, healthcare and social protection, as well as shortcomings in business conduct and business environment.[[21]](#footnote-21)**  **The Covid pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges. In May 2020, when schools were closed, there was a 21% increase in child labour in cocoa communities in Côte d’Ivoire compared to previous years, followed by a return to expected levels by September.[[22]](#footnote-22) While no comparable quantitative data is available for Ghana, school closures lasted much longer and other research suggests that similar challenges existed, exacerbated by economic pressure faced by households.[[23]](#footnote-23)**  **Child labour monitoring and remediation systems (CLMRS) are a means of targeting prevention, mitigation and remediation assistance to children involved in or at-risk of child labour, as well as to their families and communities. They have been shown to reduce hazardous child labour by around 50% among children identified.[[24]](#footnote-24)**  **Since these systems use community-based monitors, they have been able to continue functioning throughout the pandemic and related restrictions, showing that this model can resist shocks, and facilitate activities to raise awareness, identify children at risk, and provide support to prevent and remediate cases.**  **ICI has been supporting its members and partners to set-up, implement and improve the effectiveness of these systems since 2012. Currently they are estimated to cover around 25% of cocoa-growing households in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana. Given the widespread nature of the challenge of child labour, system coverage needs to be scaled-up to reach all households across cocoa-growing areas to make impact.** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **ICI and its members can scale up coverage of Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS), as well as other effective approaches, to prevent and address child labour. With our members we have pledged that by the end of 2021, at least 540 000 cocoa-growing households in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana will be covered by systems that effectively prevent and address child labour** **as part of corporate human rights due diligence efforts, representing approximately 30% of the cocoa supply chain in those countries. This pledge is one step towards a much larger ICI ambition to help ensure that 100% of the cocoa supply chain is covered by 2025.**  [For more details see our article on the subject.](https://cocoainitiative.org/news-media-post/ici-and-its-members-pledge-to-scale-up-child-protection-systems-in-2021/) |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **In it’s 2021-2026 Strategy, ICI has identified a number of barriers to scale, which we aim to address with our members and partners, including:**   * **Knowledge gaps about child labour and forced labour, their causes, and the most cost-effective actions to address them** * **Lack of alignment among key stakeholders leading to piecemeal and sometimes incoherent efforts that fail to reach critical mass** * **Shortfalls in motivation, incentives and compulsion for all parties to invest in and contribute to change as part of a shared responsibility** * **Inadequate transparency and accountability, preventing inaction from being noticed and commitment from being rewarded** * **Capacity gaps across many key stakeholders that inhibit the development and use of sustainable systems that can deliver lasting impact at scale** * **Insufficient funding and resources to implement what is required to effect sector-wide change**   **These barriers to scale can be addressed through the following actions:**   * **Promote evidence, knowledge and learning: robust research and data is needed to identify effective interventions, develop and pilot new approaches through operational innovation, and identify and share knowledge on evidence-based approaches with proven impact. In addition, the right enabling environment needs to be in place, with effective policies, standards and benchmarks, including through harmonised Human Rights Due Diligence legislation.** * **Coordination is needed to support the scale up of effective systems, avoid duplication, identify gaps in coverage and ensure they are operating effectively. Stakeholders implementing systems need to share granular information about coverage and performance to facilitate and effective scale-up. Reporting on common sector-wide indicators, is one way to do this.[[25]](#footnote-25)** * **Funding: Child labour monitoring and remediation systems and other effective approaches come at a cost. As for any intervention, investment in people, training, time and skills is needed, both during set-up but also in the longer-term. The cost of maintaining effective systems needs to be planned for in the long term, to ensure they are sustainable. In parallel,** it is necessary to further improve the effectiveness and **efficiency of systems, gather and generate evidence and share good practices to inform continuous improvement.** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| **Collectively, we have learned a lot from nearly a decade of implementing activities to prevent and address child labour in the cocoa sector.**  **Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) are one approach that has proved to be effective in this context in protecting children and their families. Community development approaches, which in practice are often combined with child labour monitoring, have also shown similarly encouraging results.**  **Researchers from the University of Chicago recently evaluated the impact on child labour of a package of interventions over three years, including CLMRS and community development approaches. They found that these interventions led to a lower likelihood and lower prevalence of child labor and hazardous child labor, estimating a 30% reduction in child labour prevalence in assisted communities.[[26]](#footnote-26)**  **Stakeholders in cocoa agriculture and beyond should use these evidence-based approaches and increase their coverage to match the scale of the challenge of child labour. Farmer groups or cooperatives, suppliers, traders, processors, brands and retailers should work together to put these approaches in place across the supply chain, sharing costs. Business need to be prepared to invest in effective systems in the longer term and strengthen partnerships with local and national authorities in relation to information sharing, capacity building and the provision of support.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| **Policymakers in cocoa consuming countries should support the development of robust legislation in relation to human rights due diligence, a means to accelerate responsible business practices and scale-up prevention and remediation mechanisms in the cocoa sector and beyond. Appropriately designed and implemented, CLMRS can support the implementation of due diligence expectations placed on companies under the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights.**  **Governments in cocoa producing countries should continue to strengthen the availability of public services, such as quality education, healthcare and social protection. This would facilitate the referral of children identified at risk to appropriate support, and enabling them to be linked to specialist services, where needed. Government actors also have an important coordination role in relation to child labour monitoring and remediation. Both Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana have national child labour monitoring systems and partnerships with private systems need to be strengthened.** |

## Mbewe Lucky Crown, Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE), Malawi

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope that this email finds you in good health. On behalf of Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE), I would like to submit our contribution towards Call for action: ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders.

CYECE is an NGO based in Malawi working towards child promotion, Youth Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Youth Empowerment and Participation. Please find the attached form for your attention.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Lucky Crown Mbewe

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE) The Executive Director Mr. Lucky Crown Mbewe Private Bag B-349 Lilongwe 3 Phone: +265 (0)999 562 460 Email: crown76.lucky@gmail.com, info@cyecemw.org** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Integrated Programme Towards Ending Child Labour in Tobacco Estates in Malawi** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| **N/A** |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Malawi** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **There is an increase in cases of child labour in tobacco estates in Malawi even though Ministry of Labour and development partners have been making efforts to end the social vice. (NSO) 2017 established that 38% of tobacco labour force in Malawi is provided by children under 18 years. There are several drivers of child labour in Malawi; Poverty drives children to child labour as they try to complement poor households resource base. Further, ILO (2015) reported that 78.8% of tobacco tenant do not know labour laws hence ignorantly engage children in tobacco work. Another cause of child labour is the increasing demand for cheap labour in Kasungu, Dowa, Mchinji, Mzimba and Lilongwe among other tobacco growing districts. UNICEF (2020) reported that COVID-19 has escalated house hold poverty leading to increased child labour in rural areas in Malawi. Child labour contributes to escalating school drop-out among male and female children. In addition, child labour has negative health impact as it exposes children to Green Leaf Tobacco Sickness Chikonga among children. At macro level, child labour limits tobacco market as buyers shun tobacco from child labour countries globally.**  **CYECE contributes to the efforts towards ending child labour in Malawi through different approaches and interventions. The organisation establishes and supports Community Child Labour Committees which monitor and withdraw child labourors and repatriate them back into their home jointly with district labour offices. The organisation also raises awareness on labour laws and social ills of child labour through targeted estates campaigns, media, mass awareness meetings and Information Education and Communication materials (IECs). CYECE also provides scholastic support to poor vulnerable children to prevent child labour. The organisation engages poor households in economic empowerment programmes as a measure of prevention children from joining child labour. The above interventions have contributed to the reduction of child schools drop out, reduced number of children joining child labour and promoted health and wellbeing of children.** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education prioritizes the following interventions towards elimination of child labour in agriculture industry;**   1. **Mobilizing communities and establishing, revamping and supporting more Community Child Labour Committees (CCLC) to conducted child labour surveillance in tobacco growing districts of Kasungu, Mzimba, Lilongwe and Mchinji in Malawi.** 2. **Conduct economic empowerment programmes targeting poor households to prevent child labour in Malawi. The organisation prioritizes community based and sustainable economic empowerment programmes and Income Generating Activities (IGAs) at household level and cooperatives. The proceeds of the IGAs are used to support children to continue with schools and avoid child labour.** 3. **Raising awareness on labour laws in tobacco growing communities in Malawi. The organisation uses different communication media to reach out to parents, estate owners, teachers, and children themselves. Among others the organisation plan to continue using mass awareness sessions, print and electronic media, IECs, dialogue sessions, and others.** 4. **CYECE intends to intensify child labour monitoring/inspections together with District Labour Officers to facilitate withdraws of children employed in tobacco estates. The organisation will also establish toll free child labour reporting phone to facilitate more withdraws.** 5. **CYECE is also implementing after schools programme in schools in tobacco growing areas so that children are engaged in sports and leisure as compared to joining child labour. The organisation train teachers and School Management Committees in managing and sustaining of the play centres.** 6. **The organisation also conducts school feeding programme in selected districts namely Dowa, Kasungu and Mchinji. The objective of the intervention is to ensure that children from poor households have food so that they should not drop out of school and join child labour.** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| 1. **Limited knowledge of labour laws among community members in rural areas in Malawi. Parents send children to child labour and small scale estate owners or private farmers employ children without age screen and without knowing that it is a ilegal to employ minors. The situation can be overturned through child rights and labour laws popularization in tobacco growing districts in Malawi.** 2. **There is no convenient child labour reporting mechanism for community members to report child labour cases to relevant authorities including Labour Officer and Police. The challenge can be overcome through raising awareness on child right and labour laws and introducing toll-free phone lines for community members to report child labour to labour officer, police and Community Child Labour Committees.** 3. **Limited, disjointed and weak child labour monitoring and inspection in tobacco estates in Malawi as a result of limited government funding and human resource in the Ministry of Labour. The situation can be improved through establishing, training and supporting more Community Child Labour Committees to engage in consistent child labour inspections in estates complementing District Labour Officers in all agriculture districts in Malawi.** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| * **Need for donor community to finance efforts undertaken by the government, CSOs and other stakeholders on elimination of child labour in Malawi. Ministry of Labour and local CSOs lack long term programmes on ending child labour due to limited funding.** * **Companies in tobacco industries have a social responsibility to raise awareness in the ills of child labour, support education sector with scholastic materials and construction of school blocks and poor household’s economic empowerment programmes. In Malawi key stakeholders in tobacco industry are JTI, Limbe, Leaf, Philip Morris and alliance one.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| * **Need for continued collaboration and multisectoral approach to efforts towards elimination of child labour in agricultural sector in Malawi. Ministry of Labour, Police, Ministry of Agriculture, Traditional Leaders, Community Committees, Media, Employers Association and CSOs collectively have key roles in ending child labour hence need for collaboration (Strengthening collaboration of the Inter-ministerial Committees on ending Child Labour).** * **Need for sustainable community based approaches towards ending child labour. Empowering and supporting Community Child Labour Committees key towards community ownership of the processes.** * **Need for intensification of labour inspection and age screening of employees in agricultural estates by labour office and Community Child Labour Committees in Kasungu, Mchinji, Mzimba and Lilongwe in Malawi.** * **Government through Ministry of Labour should train and support labour inspectors to conduct Labour Inspection more often.** |

## Patrizio Fanti, Save the Children, Italy

Dear FAO colleagues of the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equity Division,

We’re pleased to share Save the Children contribution to the Call for action “ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders” released by FAO.

With our application we’ve aimed to provide a quite specific and practical contribute by focussing on Save the Children experience in Cote d’Ivoire, hoping this will be helpful to inform the ongoing global discussion.

Thank you very much for this initiative,

Best,

Patrizio

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **SAVE THE CHILDREN** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Stop child labour in cocoa plantation communities in Ivory Coast** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Ivory Coast-cocoa sourcing areas** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **Issue, Causes and Consequences:**  **Côte d’Ivoire is the world’s largest producer of cocoa beans, with more than 40% of global production.[[27]](#footnote-27) Two-thirds of Ivoirians work in agriculture and an estimated 85% of farmers’ income depends on cocoa.[[28]](#footnote-28) While Ivoirian cocoa is significant to the global and local economy, the cocoa supply chain contributes to, and often reinforces, structural poverty, child labor and exclusion – especially impacting children, women and adolescents. Despite the government of Côte d’Ivoire’s efforts to fight against child labor, recent studies have found that the prevalence rate of hazardous child labor in cocoa production among all agricultural households increased from 23% in 2008/09 to 37% in 2018/19.[[29]](#footnote-29) Around 55% of cocoa producers live below the poverty line (INS 2015): their earnings are below the living income rate, and insufficient to meet the family needs[[30]](#footnote-30). The lack of household income diversification exposes rural families to price shocks and the lack of clear land** **titles compound the situation, with greater competition for suitable land, loss of forest coverage, low productivity because of land fatigue and lack of sustainable agricultural techniques. Moreover, cocoa farmers have a weak bargaining power, which makes them receiving a small share of total value in cocoa value chain and only a 30–40 % of farmers are organized in 2,500–3,000 cooperatives in the country, with a large share of these not functional.**  **The inability of producers to realize a living income to support their families forces them to stop investing in their farms, cut salaries and in most cases to use child labour, taking their children to help out on the family farm, often in hazardous conditions or to detriment of their schooling.**  **Cocoa production is one of the agricultural sectors where children (boys and girls) even below the legal minimum age for employment can be found working in unhealthy and even dangerous circumstances, mainly associated with: (i) carrying heavy loads; (ii) working with dangerous tools; (iii) spreading dangerous chemicals; (iv) long hours of works, especially during the two harvest seasons. In addition, children in cocoa producing areas are exposed to enormous protection challenges, such as sexual violence, early marriage, harmful traditional practices, child trafficking, child abduction, lack of birth certificate, lack of proper care, physical punishment at home and school, etc**  **As highlighted by UNICEF (2018), the low income of cocoa farmers' households, the limited access to quality education, safe water and adequate health and sanitations facilities, and the vulnerability of cocoa’s farmers children to other child protection issues (e.g. abuse, exploitation, lack of birth certificates) are all important constraints which persist and perpetuate child labour as an harmful coping strategy. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in 2016, 21,5 % of children aged 5–17 in Ivory Coast (23,9% for boys and 19,1 % for girls) are engaged in hazardous work (INS 2017), percentage which raises up to 30,7% in rural areas. Those data are aligned with findings of the national survey carried out on the employment and child labour situation, carried out in 2013-2014 by the Ministry of Employment in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and ILO (INS 2014). According to this survey, one in 5 children (20,1%) aged 5-17 years old (1,424,996 children), are engaged in CL, with a prevalence in the agricultural sector (49,1%); and four children out of 10 engaged in CL are employed in hazardous work (38,7 %).**  **An ICI study conducted among 130 cocoa growing communities in Ivory Coast in 2019 (on the basis of national 2017 data) revealed that CL rate amongst children aged 5-17 is 20.9%, with higher percentages among older children aged 14-17 (37,3% vs 17,6% for children 5-13); and that about two-thirds (63%) of children aged 14-17 involved in CL are found in the agricultural sector and 26% work without attending schools, while 18% of them combine school and work (ICI, 2019). Recent statistics from the merger of data between MICS 2016 and the study conducted by the Ministry of Planning and Development and funded by UNICEF[[31]](#footnote-31), indicate that in the central west region: 70.9% of children 0-4 years are deprived of protection against violence and 80.1% of sanitation; 65,8 % of children 5-14 years are deprived of protection against any forms of violence while 45% have no access to education; adolescents 15-17 years old are still victims of violence (63.44%) and outside of any education system (84.5%).**  **Direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact of our work: our work wants to tackle CL from different angles, by acting in parallel on the most statistically significant risk factors correlated to child labour: (I) Access to education and education quality; (II) Household income; (III) Cocoa** **cultivation (livelihood, local production modalities, environment); and (IV) A&Y and women’s education and empowerment.**  **It is an integrated and holistic model that wants to create an enabling/supporting environment to remove the root causes of CL and ensure children’s protection by acting at different level (from the household/farmer to the community to the cocoa companies) and in different, interrelated, sectors: from access to education to child protection, from empowerment of adolescents and young to community development and financial support.**  **Activities and projects, previously implemented:**  **Since 2016, Save the Children started a collaboration with Ferrero through the launch of a pilot project in Ivory Coast (department of Soubré), aiming at implementing mechanisms for the protection of and responding to the specific needs (psychosocial, medical, education and assistance) of children victims or at risk of harmful work, sexual abuse or exploitation in their families and communities. After a successful 15-months pilot in 10 communities (March 2016 - May 2017), the project was extended by three years (June 2017- May 2020) and 10 more communities were added, bringing the total to 20 communities. This new phase, named Child Labour in Cocoa Plantation (CPCP) project, reached 5.625 children, including 2.715 girls aged 5-17, victims or at risk of abuse and exploitation and worst forms of CL, who benefited from an increased access to education, strengthening of child protection mechanisms and case management, improved food security and livelihoods and community development’s interventions.** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **The Programmatic Framework that we have developed focuses on:**   * **Child protection, by enhancing people's knowledge on existing laws and on respective roles and responsibilities, and helping local communities to understand when child work affects children’s and adolescents’ health and personal development and/or interfere with their schooling. We’ll respond to the WFCL through the establishment/strengthen of community, departmental and regional child protection mechanisms; will support case referral and management, remediation and foster families’ solutions, while ensuring children effective participation in all steps; will support the establishment/strengthen of an effective joint child case management and referral system and will reinforce CP actors’ capacities, as well as capacities of other stakeholders in the cocoa supply chain so as to influence their policies and business practices.** * **Learning and education, because of the educational offer is both an alternative prevention and a response strategy to the WFCL, we support the provision of quality education and informal/formal learning, reinforced by behavioral change interventions, with the aim of reducing the exposure of children to CL. Our interventions are meant to provide an immediate response to the situation of children outside the school system by establishing/revitalizing bridging classes and then making infrastructure and material available. Children and Adolescents will also benefit from a tailored life skills training that will provide them with the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors they need to take responsibility for what they do and be also more successful in their life.** * **Community development, by contributing to improve the day-to-day conditions of rural populations by adopting an operational approach at 4 levels:** * **Community participation, including active engagement from empowered adolescents and youth;** * **Economic empowerment and financial inclusion of households;** * **Strengthening community’s capacities to access to health services and adopt good nutrition behaviors;** * **Strengthening community’s capacities to access and manage water sources.** * **Adolescents and youth empowerment. The limited socioeconomic opportunities to access a formal employment increase the risk for adolescents and youth to end up being enrolled in informal socio professional activities, thus being exposed to a high risk of indecent work and economical exploitation. So we’ll help them increase their capacities and skills and/or develop their own business. This component will help adolescent and youth acquiring the skills, competencies, attitudes and behaviors they need through:** **(i) provision of a supportive learning environments; (ii) participatory learning; and (iii) real life practices.** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Among the main obstacles/challenges that may limit the impact of the actions in favour of the eradication of CL, we can highlight the following one, that do specifically refer to the cocoa supply chain:**  **- The lack of clear, shared and inclusive coordination, which limits the potential impact of many actions that could otherwise be more efficient and effective. The need to bring together the various (many) stakeholders "around the same table" is becoming more and more felt, to avoid duplication of work, overlapping, confusion and dispersion of resources.**  **- The insufficient level of involvement of private companies, governments and relevant stakeholders in a participatory debate. There is still limited openness and honesty in ongoing discussion among stakeholders on what (most of all) impacts the lives of farmers and their families: market prices, farmers’ income and living income differential.**  **-The lack of legal / identification documents experienced by most of the farmers we work with: this has an impact on their life and the economic opportunities they can take advantage of, as well as on the lives of their children, for example to access different educational opportunities (for instance, without a birth certificate you cannot enrol in school). Therefore, the need to define and structure also administratively and legally the presence of migrant farmers / seasonal migrants is a reality in many agricultural supply chains - their presence must be managed, institutionalized, legalized.**  **-The lack of a shared culture on the meaning and impact of child labour. There is high need for a cultural change in order to move from "child labor" to "child work", by supporting cultural awareness focused especially on gender equality and seasonality. Still today there is a tendency to justify CL if it regards girls and / or if it is a question of working "only" during certain periods of the year, given that "seasonal absence" from school is not perceived as a serious matter.**  **-The lack of sustainable alternatives: most of the farmers we work with depend on cocoa production and having no alternatives they suffer from every little fluctuation in prices / problems related to the harvest. These alternatives, which concern not only alternative income-generating activities but also agro ecological production techniques, reforestation, soil conservation, products processing etc., must be systematically proposed in the framework of the interventions in favour of farmers and their communities. They can be also great opportunity for youth vocational training and IGAs.**  **- Moreover, linked to the previous point there is the need to support investments at farmers’ level: in terms of capacity building, administrative issues, purchase of inputs, equipment, machines, access to credit, etc.**  **Finally, the final Evaluation of our past initiative in Cote D’Ivoire also identified the sustainability of the gains obtained as a key challenge. Lack of personnel, dilapidated and unsuitable premises, insufficient equipment and financial resources were reported to hamper the efficiency of the social services. In addition to that, the full implementation and operationalization of the Community Action Plans (CAP) also emerged as a criticality, being strongly dependent on the financial capacity and resource base of the targeted local communities.** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| **We believe that the CL issue in the agricultural supply chain must be addressed by acting on several fronts simultaneously. For those who work in this supply chain it is therefore essential to propose integrated and coordinated actions, in order to attack the root causes of CL from every possible point of view and maximize the impact. Therefore, at macro level our key recommendation is to design holistic, targeted interventions, and collaborate/partner with other interveners if unable to work on multiple levels. In addition, governments and private companies as key players in the supply chain must necessarily be involved. Policies and regulation should take into consideration and strategically include systematic mitigation and remediation actions as well as severe penalties for those who do not implement them.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| **As above mentioned, to eradicate CL we need to act on its causes and on multiple levels. All the problems illustrated, as can be seen, depend on other "sectors" which are not Agriculture but are closely related to it. Consequently, it becomes essential to widen the spectrum of action. A holistic and integrated intervention, improving access to education, strengthening the economic capacities of families, supporting the identification, referral and management of protection cases, responding to the needs of children psychophysical health and wellbeing, (etc.) will indeed have an impact on reducing the number of children involved in child labor. The key recommendation is that all these "non-agricultural" actors must be ready to collaborate and coordinate their interventions with agricultural stakeholders.**  **Furthermore, it would be necessary to create information and data management systems that are cross-sectoral and shared, to, once again, avoid duplication and maximize impact, as well as keep track, monitor progresses and gaps, and evaluate them.**  **Finally, in order to ensure project sustainability, it is recommended to plan and budget for solid “Exit Strategies” to handover the achievements of the project to the community and the relevant government services. For the sustainability of the CAPs is moreover necessary to plead in favor of greater involvement of the State and local authorities and private organizations in the financing and implementation of the as well as a greater commitment by communities to take ownership of their own development.** |

## Lynda Mull, International Initiative to End Child Labor, United States of America

Please find attached our completed Call for Action Application form. IIECL would be very interested in partnering with FAO on the implementation of strategic actions to end child labor in agriculture. As you will see from the submission, since its inception, IIECL has committed 100% of its efforts toward ending child labor in the US and worldwide, but particularly in agriculture.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With regards,

Lynda D. Mull

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Lynda Diane Mull (female) International Initiative to End Child Labor (IIECL)** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Strategies to Reducing Risks of Child Labor and Achieving Decent Youth Employment in Agriculture** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| **United States** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **Since its inception in 1998, IIECL has designed, field-tested, and trained staff on its methodologies to end child labor primarily in agriculture but in other sectors as well. IIECL has completed studies to understand fully the contributing factors, push / pull for migration and internal / external risks, that fosters its continuation. Some of the methodologies include comprehensive social reviews (CSR), task mapping/risk assessment (TMRA), rural labor market (RLMA), and a beneficiary-centered case management approach to assisting children and youth toward achieving future employment goals through education and skills training (PAVE – Pathways Advancing Viable Education/Employment). The combination of these approaches allows for a comprehensive understanding of the root causes of child labor and an informed approach to design and implement actions at multiple levels (individual, family, farm, community, agricultural sector, and country) to**  **Since its inception, IIECL has conducted numerous child labor-related rapid assessments, baseline studies, and social reviews in farming and other sectors in numerous countries and regions of the world. Over the years, IIECL has assisted numerous international development agencies and organizations to understand child labor, train their staff, and design and assist with implementing program actions. Some of these include:**  **IIECL has designed and conducted job task mappings and risk analyses (TMRA) in several agricultural sectors in multiple countries, including cocoa, coffee, bananas, plantains, honey, goat farming, traditional leather tanning, sunflowers, corn and other oilseed, etc. These assessments included micro, small, medium, and large farming or business operations depending on the country and situation. In these studies, IIECL maps each task in the production process as implemented by the producer and identifies those work conditions and tasks that would be considered hazardous based on a process management analysis to determine tasks too risky for youth to be engaged and conversely those that could be considered safe work if risks can be mitigated. This includes identification of potential tasks that are developmental, age and task appropriate for youth under 18, and that are compliant with the country’s work age restrictions.**  **From this analysis, IIECL can offer producers the beginnings of a “job description” that identifies work tasks, skills needed, tools to be used, protective gear required, training, etc. Also, IIECL’s analysis identifies hazards and steps necessary to mitigate risks based on the production practices used by farmers. Additional analysis examines other risks that can also contribute to incidences of child labor, such as the farmers’ approach to recruitment, remuneration, health and safety, and social dialogue. This results in a comprehensive social review of the situation and factors that contribute to the internal and external risks of child labor in the targeted agricultural sector.**  **Drawing from the results of the comprehensive social review, IIECL works with farmers to identify some low costs strategies that micro, small and medium farmers can use to reduce their internal risks that result from how they approach operating/managing their farm and their chosen production practices. The results are discussed with farmers and technical assistance is provided to help farmers and/or cooperative members develop plans of action. Another aspect of the comprehensive review is to identify external risks that influence the occurrence of child labor in rural agricultural areas and provide technical assistance to facilitate farmers engaging with other key stakeholders to address these external challenges. Varying aspects of this work has been conducted in Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Ethiopia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, and Colombia.**  **Using the results of the comprehensive social review, in Morocco, this included training with labor inspectors and other government agency personnel to work more effectively with farmers and other small informal employers in a supportive and more cooperative way, and to be able to collect information to update hazardous orders in various sectors. Work in Morocco also included a rural labor market assessment to assist the training program and its teachers to identify potential providers of skill training and agricultural-related and other work opportunities for legal working age youth.**  **In Ghana, the Ministry of Labor used the results of the task mapping and risk analysis to update their hazardous work definitions in cocoa. Further, a functional vocational literacy training program in cocoa production was developed that integrated basic education within the context of vocational skills training in cocoa. This was designed for out-of-school youth who were functionally illiterate.**  **In Ethiopia, once Ministry of Education staff were trained, the results of the task mapping led to the Ministry of Education staff using the results to help in their building agriculturally related vocational skills training curricula. Task mapping, if applied in a particular way, enables the collection of information that includes understanding the vocabulary, math, science, history, health, management, legal, and social aspects of farming that can be applied in any agricultural or other sector.**  **In Nicaragua, the comprehensive social review was applied to help farmers to identify internal and external risks that farmers face that contributes to forced and child labor, trafficking, and other worker rights violations. These risks are grounded in the way in which the farm owner manages and operates their farm. From micro to large, all farmers are hiring, supervising, firing, paying, and managing their farms. While they may understand the law, they are unaware that there are some approaches they are using that increases their risks of having problems on their farms related to retention, accidents and injuries, and treatment of women and children. These risks lie in approaches used by farmers with recruitment, remuneration, health and safety, and social dialogue.**  **Likewise, while farmers are addressing their internal risks, they cannot be expected to be responsible to address all of the lack of rural infrastructure development and social development in rural areas. But, it is important that they understand the key role that they play and the need to ensure that their internal risks are addressed while working with other key stakeholders to address the external risks, such as roads, water, sanitation, schools, teachers, worker housing, etc. Further, their understanding about international standards and norms and how that they at the farmgate level do play a role in the international markets is important.**  **In Panama, two plantain producer associations and a banana producer developed plans of action. Further, IIECL facilitated meetings with key stakeholders, including government agency representatives, to explore strategies to address external factors that contribute to child labor, such as rural infrastructure challenges, and to clarify with farmers their obligations under the law. This provided an opportunity for farmers to share real life experiences they face daily thereby increasing the farmers’ awareness of their legal obligations and government officials’ understanding of the farmers challenges. Further, this allowed key stakeholders an opportunity to inform the farmers of services and assistance they have available to assist with challenges farmers felt they faced alone.** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **Often the funding received allows IIECL to offer only one aspect of the work that is needed by farmers or cooperatives of farmers. As a result, in many countries only part of what is needed to address child labor and other human rights violations are addressed before the project closes. What is needed is a holistic approach to addressing the social risks faced within an agricultural sector, whether its agriculture, fishing, forestry, etc, Regardless of the size of the business operation and its level of formality, there are specific actions that can be undertaken to reduce and mitigate risks of child labor and technical assistance and training needed by producers at each level of growing formality that can enable the producer to make improvements in reducing risks while they grow as a business.**  **Further, the answer is not grounded in fully removing youth from the agricultural workplace but ensuring that youth are placed into age and task appropriate work under safe conditions while building their work skills and understanding of health and safety in the workplace. While many farmers are aware of their no child labor legal requirements, farmers who hire and parents who bring their children with them to work, do not have a full understanding of implications, paths of other choices, alternatives, and small, low-cost steps that can be taken to prevent the occurrence.**  **In rural areas, the primary employment is agriculture. Yet, it is often not viewed as a viable or desired place of employment. It’s not just a matter of their not being schools and the quality of the instruction provided. Farms, regardless of size, need to consider making their workplace a desirable place of employment that attracts workers, youth and adults, to stay and/or return during peak harvest seasons, and that offers an opportunity for a worker’s growth in their employment status. Regardless of the formality of the farm’s operation, there are key steps that can be undertaken by the producer with respect to recruitment, remuneration, health and safety, and social dialogue that are appropriate for the size of the farm operation, number of workers, budget, and capacity of the farm owner.**  **What has been described are largely short-to-medium term solutions, but for the long-term, each agricultural sector needs to consider the development of a holistic workforce development strategy. In rural areas, there is often a short supply of skilled labor resulting in the employment marketplace being highly competitive. If agriculture is viewed by youth as a dead-end job, one where they are worked hard, used up, paid very little, and tossed aside, this will be their last choice for a career. Work in agriculture has steadily been declining as a career choice, especially when competing with other sectors that are perceived by youth as urban oasis of opportunities when compared with their rural homebase. The paths that youth choose are often ill informed and little is done to help them envision a future employment path in agriculture that will result in a viable opportunity for employment.**  **A targeted group of youth are those that are out of school and have no desire to return to school. Understanding what motivates learning within children is critical. IIECL’s PAVE methodology focuses its attention in practice on what’s of and in the best interest of the youth.** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Access to funding that is for a longer-term (5 to 10 years) and that allows for a developmental and holistic approach to addressing the issue is needed. Too often, funding is piecemeal, focused singularly on only one aspect of the issue and too short-term. Just when the project has reached a key precipice, the momentum is lost as there is no funding to continue to support the actions that need to follow. Trained local staff and community-based organizations move on to other paying projects. They take with them the skills and knowledge learned, but have no resources to continue the work started. As a result, the focus needs to shift to working to build the capacity of the producers’ themselves to address their internal risks and ensure that the producers’ are engaged with other key stakeholders so that their voice can be part of the efforts to develop solutions. Rural development has lagged behind for too long and because of this has been a contributing factor to urban problems as well (rural flight to urban areas). Inherent in the lagging rural development are the roots of the external risks that contribute to the cause of child labor. A focus that is holistic and inclusive to address the internal and external risks and with a well-informed strategy with defined achievable goals and benchmarks developed in an inclusive way including the voices of youth, workers, producers, and key stakeholders is needed. A holistic agricultural workforce development strategy is needed and that includes short, medium, and long-term achieveable goals with sufficient long-term funding.** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| **Be inclusive of all voices, even the dissenting ones to ensure a well-informed strategy.**  **Every agricultural business, regardless of size, can take steps to reduce their risks of child labor. Too often it is perceived that medium and smaller producers are unable to do anything to address child labor. However, that simply is not the case. There are simple, low-cost steps that can be undertaken by even the smallest producer to address their internal risks of child labor and make improvements in areas of risk related to recruitment, remuneration, health and safety, and social dialogue.**  **A clear definition of size of farms need to be agreed upon. While it is clear that micro and small farms should have some special considerations and/or exemptions from some rules and regulations, these should not be enjoyed by the larger farming operators who clearly hire more workers and can afford to meeting legal and regulatory requirements. This means that there needs to be greater transparency within some country’s large agricultural employer associations regarding the composition of their membership. Having a clear and uniform definition means that when exemptions to laws and regulation are put in place to help the micro and small producers survive and grow, these same exemptions should not be contributing to aid the medium and large producers to overtake the micro and small farmers.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| **Each stakeholder has a unique role to play in addressing the drivers of child labor in agriculture. The key is to have the right person being involved, one who can commit moving from words to taking action.**  **Farmers need technical assistance and training that is specifically focused on helping them to be able to assess their internal risks and how to reduce the risks of child labor in areas related to recruitment, remuneration, health and safety, and social dialogue.**  **Ambiguities related to what is safe work and unsafe work for youth, within the context of the regulations of the country, need to be clarified and agreed to by all key stakeholders. The definitions of what is hazardous needs to be above political posturing and be grounded on practical understanding of process and practices used at the farm level. Tasks that are defined as legal in one country, may not be legal in another. This creates particular challenges when producers are relying on migrant workers who do not understand the differences when work is performed across country borders.**  **For labor, workers need avenues to have a voice, particularly in those cases where unions are not present and situations where migrant workers are recruited. Advance preparation before the harvest season to make necessary preparations, during season to address problems early should they occur, and post season to see what worked, what didn’t, why, and make plans for adjustment before the planning of the next harvest season cycle.**  **For labor inspectors, it would be advantageous if they were trained in TMRA so that when working with producers, while doing their inspections, they can take more of an technical advisory role at first to help educate the producers about what are considered safe and unsafe work tasks and conditions, and why youth should not be placed into those job tasks, which identifying other tasks that would be considered safe. Ultimately, the role of the inspector is to enforce the laws and regulations but coming from an informed and educated approach that helps the producer to better understand the requirements in practical on-the-job terms which can help producers move forward in reducing their risks. Further, if labor inspectors are trained and understand plans of action, then they can help support the producer by providing an independent review of their progress and discussing remediation in areas where needed. While fines and penalties have a role to play, it should be a last resort when a producer directly and repeatedly violates requirements under the law. At no times, should politics be involved in who gets inspected and based on political party affiliation.**  **Occupational safety and health within the agricultural sector needs greater promotion universally. While some countries are making progress, this is not being uniformly applied throughout all countries. Frameworks for occupational safety and health needs to not exclude the micro and small farms but give considerations for their ability to create a culture of safety on the farms for the producer, their family members, and all workers.**  **For educators, consider the youth’s interests, achievements, and aptitude. Formal schooling is not for all children. The current situation is that a majority of children will likely not be able to access education beyond primary, or in best cases, secondary education. Often, for those children who have dropped out of school, other than trying to push them back into the classroom, little is being done for out of school children and youth who comprise the majority of child labor in agriculture. An experiencial approach to learning skills while learning the vocabulary, math, science, history, geography, etc., is needed. A functional vocational literacy program that is geared for the predominant employment that supports the agricultural sector in their rural areas is largely absent in most countries. Some countries that have an agriculture school, often has minimum requirements that insist on a diploma. These out of school children and youth virtually have no access and live with the consequences of decisions made by parents or themselves to leave education or from lack of access to quality education in rural outlying communities. The lack of availability of functional literacy that is vocationally oriented to the interests of the youth and that is centered on the rural communities within which the youth lives contributes to the continuing cycle of child labor in agriculture. This cycle must be broken. Education for education’s sake will not stop the occurrence of child labor in agriculture unless concrete and holistic strategies are put in place and fully supported to carry them out.** |

## David Stephen, Ghana

Attached is my submission,

thanks

David Stephen

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **DAVID STEPHEN/MALE/INDEPENDENT** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **MULTIPLE PROPOSALS** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| **Research Independent** |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Africa/Ghana/Cape Coast** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Food Security** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **I have a multichannel approach to tapering child labor across Africa. I have been across a couple of countries in Central and West Africa. I have learned extensively about the situation, why it thrives and believe that it would take a combinational model – going at the issue from different sides to make it possible inhibit it. Child labor is tied to poverty, illiteracy, desperation, and lack of accountability – from the family and community.** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **Sound detection device – for intelligence on where children work.**  **Basic Literacy and numeracy platform through feature phones**  **Farm product exchange to pay school fees, health insurance and electricity.**  **Child Labor reporting app**  **Sands in plastics bottles for roads**  **Labor Capital**  **Ibogaine Research – as an alternative to tramadol and codeine, opioids used to tame kids hunger or let them work with less pain.**  **Food lottery – so that rural communities can play to win food items.** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Through models. Through setting up new systems that can hold and thrive in rural communities, so that there are alternatives seen against the absolute child labor. These models would be something workable for them in line with culture, nature, needs and wants, regardless of nation, language, orphans, or homeless children.** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| **To focus on automated models as means to end child labor.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| **Crackdown alone may not work but would go beyond it.** |

## Jose Mora N'Sum-Ne, Associação Nacional de Cadeia de Valor de Arroz, Raizes e Tuberculos da Guiné-Bissau, Guinea-Bissau

Bonjour FORUM

Recevez en annexe le formulaire de contribution pour le Forum 2021

Saluations

José Mora N'SUM-NE

**Auteur de la présentation** (nom/genre/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| **José Mora N’SUM-NE /Mr./Association National de Chaines de Valeur de Riz, Racines et Tubercules de la Guinée-Bissau (ANCVART-GB)** |

**Titre de votre présentation**

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| **President de ANCVART-GB** |

**Cochez votre catégorie de partie prenante/acteur agricole**

* Fonctionnaire gouvernemental (/ministères liés à l'agriculture)
* Organisation patronale
* Établissement d'enseignement/de recherche
* Secteur privé
* Organisation d'agriculteurs / coopérative / organisation de producteurs
* Organisation de travailleurs ou syndicat
* Société civile ou ONG
* Oganisation internationale (ONU, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banque de développement

**Si vous n'êtes dans aucune de ces situations, veuillez indiquer la catégorie d'acteur ou le secteur auquel vous appartenez (par exemple, le travail, l'éducation ou le social).**

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**Région/Pays/Lieu**

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| **SAB/Guinée-Bissau/Bissau** |

**Sous-secteur agricole** (production végétale, pêche et aquaculture, élevage ou foresterie).

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| **Production du riz, racines et tubercules** |

1. Veuillez décrire le **contexte** de votre contribution et de votre proposition :
   * Quel est l'aspect du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture qui vous préoccupe ? Quelles sont les causes principales? Et quelles conséquences ? Quel est l'impact direct/indirect ou intentionnel/non intentionnel de votre travail sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ?
   * La pandémie de COVID-19 a-t-elle eu un effet (in)direct sur le travail des enfants dans le système agro-alimentaire de votre pays ?
   * Veuillez décrire, si applicable, les activités et les projets, précédemment mis en œuvre ou en cours, destinés à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture, ainsi que leur impact/résultat.

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| **Est dehors à notre connaissances.** |

1. **Veuillez décrire les** mesures que vous ou votre organisation pouvez ou pourriez adopter pour aborder ou accroître les efforts en faveur de l'élimination du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture. Si cette option n'est pas applicable, veuillez expliquer dans les sections suivantes les défis que vous ou votre organisation rencontrez dans la lutte contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture et présenter des recommandations pour que les acteurs du secteur agricole et d'autres parties prenantes puissent intensifier leur action.

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| **Pour qui travail des enfants soit éliminés dans l’agriculture-il que le gouvernement avec l’organisation international de politique agricole et de défense des enfants cherche les disponibilités de moyen d’appui à l’agriculture familiers.** |

1. **Défis:** Quels sont les principaux obstacles rencontrés par vous, ou par les acteurs du secteur agricole en général, pour lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ? Comment surmonter ou aborder ces difficultés (par exemple, par la politique, la législation, le renforcement des capacités, etc.)

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| **Obstacles c’est la manque de moyen financier ou bien appui financier pour les agriculteurs familiers.** |

1. **Recommandations destinées aux acteurs du secteur agricole :** Quelles recommandations donneriez-vous aux acteurs du secteur agricole pour aborder la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture que vous venez de présenter ?

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| **Le gouvernement avec l’organisation international de politique agricole et de défense des enfants doivent chercher les disponibilités de moyen d’appui à l’agriculture familière.** |

1. **Recommandations destinées à d’autres parties prenantes :** Que recommanderiez-vous aux autres parties prenantes concernées par la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture (parties prenantes du secteur du travail, de l'éducation, de la protection de l'enfance ou du secteur social, notamment les ministères du travail, les inspecteurs, les éducateurs, les intervenants des services sociaux) ?

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| **Parties prenantes doit chercher aussi le moyen favorable pour soutenir les scolarités des enfants et alimentations.** |

## Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan

Please kindly find attached the completed template on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture.

**Инициатор** (имя / пол / учреждение)

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| Федерация профсоюзов Узбекистана |

**Название вашего вклада**

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| Масштабная совместная работа с социальными партнёрами по вопросу искоренения детского и принудительного труда |

**Отметьте вашу категорию заинтересованных сторон / участников в сельском хозяйстве**

* Государственный служащий (/ отраслевые министерства сельского хозяйства)
* Организация работодателя
* Академическое / исследовательское учреждение
* Частный сектор
* Фермерская организация / кооператив / организация производителей
* Организация или профсоюз работников
* Гражданское общество или НПО
* Международная организация (ООН, IUF, IFPRI и др.)
* Банк Развития

**Если ничего из вышеперечисленного не подходит, укажите, к какой категории участников или секторов вы относитесь (например, трудовые, образовательные или социальные).**

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**Регион / Страна / Местоположение**

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| Узбекистан |

**Подсектор сельского хозяйства (сельское хозяйство, рыболовство и рыбоводство, животноводство или лесное хозяйство)**

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| **сельское хозяйство** |

**1.** Предоставьте **предысторию** вашего участия и предложения:

• Какая проблема детского труда в сельском хозяйстве вас беспокоит? Каковы основные причины? А последствия? Как вы думаете, какое прямое / косвенное или предполагаемое / непреднамеренное влияние ваша работа оказывает на детский труд в сельском хозяйстве?

• Оказал ли COVID-19 (не)прямое влияние на детский труд в агропродовольственной системе вашей страны?

• Если возможно, опишите ранее реализованные или текущие мероприятия и проекты, направленные на решение проблемы детского труда в сельском хозяйстве, а также их влияние / результаты:

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| Узбекистан является полноправным членом Международной организации труда с 1992 года. За годы сотрудничества страна присоединилась к 17 конвенциям МОТ, в том числе ко всем 8 основополагающим документам.  В том числе, ратифицированы конвенции МОТ «О принудительном или обязательном труде» (№29) и «Об упразднении принудительного труда» (№105), «О минимальном возрасте для приема на работу» (№138) и «О запрещении и немедленных мерах по искоренению наихудших форм детского труда» (№182).  Республика Узбекистан, являясь членом Международной организации труда, осуществляет многогранное сотрудничество с этой организацией в вопросах продвижения международных трудовых стандартов.  Если говорить о предыстории деятельности Федерации профсоюзов Узбекистана в работе искоренения детского и принудительного труда, то необходимо отметить, что данная работа начата в 2013 году.  В 2010-2013 годах на ежегодных сессиях Международной конференции труда Республика Узбекистан рассматривалась в Комитете по международным стандартам как страна, в которой имеются проблемы в реализации требований Конвенции МОТ №182 о наихудших формах детского труда и выставлялось требование о направлении в республику миссии высокого уровня МОТ для мониторинга ситуации.  В результате 17-18 июля 2013 года в г. Ташкенте был проведен круглый стол «Перспективы технического сотрудничества по имплементации международных обязательств Узбекистана в рамках МОТ», инициированный Секретариатом МОТ и трехсторонними партнерами Узбекистана – Министерством труда и социальной защиты населения, Советом Федерации профсоюзов, Торгово-промышленной палатой.  Участниками круглого стола был предложен вариант, согласно которому в Узбекистане осенью 2013 года в период хлопкоуборочных работ необходимо провести национальный мониторинг детского труда по методологии ИПЕК и с участием экспертов МОТ.  Учитывая, что мониторинг детского труда на сборе хлопка является частью работы по программе МОТ-ИПЕК, в качестве общественного органа образован Координационный совет по вопросам детского труда в Республике Узбекистан во главе руководителей Совета Федерации профсоюзов и Министерства труда и социальной защиты населения.  В состав Координационного совета также включены представители министерств внутренних дел, иностранных дел, народного образования, здравоохранения, Национального центра по правам человека, Комитета женщин, Фонда «Махалла», Центра среднего специального профессионального образования, Общественного движения молодежи «Камолот», Совета фермеров.  Основной **целью** Координационного совета являлась координация мер и объединение усилий государственных органов и институтов гражданского общества, направленных на искоренение наихудших форм детского труда.  Основные **задачи** Координационного совета:  **а) проведение информационно-разъяснительной работы по недопущению использования детского труда**  *Ежегодно в период подготовки к хлопкоуборочной кампании во всех областях и районах проводятся семинары-совещания для должностных лиц администраций, органов государственного и хозяйственного управления, банков, Советов фермеров, образовательных учреждений, общественных объединений по вопросам неукоснительного соблюдения в период сбора хлопка требований конвенций МОТ по принудительному и детскому труду.*  *Координационный совет принимал активное участие в работе круглых столов и семинаров, посвященных вопросам детского и принудительного труда, а также в реализации Страновой программы достойного труда.*  *12 июня 2015 года на республиканском и местном уровнях при содействии МОТ проведены Круглые столы, посвященные Всемирному дню борьбы против детского труда под лозунгом: «Нет детскому труду – Да качественному образованию».*  *Для распространения среди заинтересованных министерств, ведомств, а также Территориальных советов объединений профсоюзных организаций изданы буклеты «О Конвенциях МОТ №138 и № 182» и брошюры* ***«Ота-оналар! Болаларингизга бахтли васоғлом болалик инъом этинг!»****.*  *В 2014 году при содействии Всемирного банка изготовлены, доведены до мест и размещены по всей республике информационные материалы по недопущению детского и принудительного труда, включающие 52664 плаката и 772 баннера.*  *Совместно с Национальной телерадиокомпанией, Торгово-промышленной палатой, Советом фермеров реализуется Совместный план подготовки и выпуска теле- и радиопередач по вопросам соблюдения и реализации основных положений конвенций МОТ, ратифицированных Узбекистаном.*  *В 2013 году опубликовано более 50 статей, информаций, сюжетов, форумов по данной тематике в таких изданиях, как «Халксузи», «Народное слово», «Правда Востока», «UzbekistanToday», «Ишонч», «Ишонч-Доверие», «Инсонваконун», «Тошкентокшоми», «На досуге».*  **б) организация учебной деятельности по вопросам детского труда**  *Ежегодно проводится курс лекций по глубокому изучению требований конвенций МОТ в ходе обучения заместителей хокимов областей, районов и городов в Академии государственного управления при Президенте Республики Узбекистан.*  *Аналогичные занятия проводятся на курсах повышения квалификации и обучения руководящих работников министерств, ведомств, общественных объединений, работодателей и фермеров. К примеру, в 2015 году проведено обучение более 38  тысяч фермеров, около 1000 должностных лиц министерств, ведомств, организаций.*  *Для учащихся 3-курсов академических лицеев и профессиональных колледжей внедрены курсы по трудовому праву, включающие основополагающие Конвенции МОТ.*  **в) руководство проведением выборочного мониторинга с участием национальных и международных экспертов**  *В 2013 году впервые был проведен мониторинг детского труда в хлопководстве с участием экспертов МОТ.*  *Данный мониторинг выявил приверженность Правительства Узбекистана своим международным обязательствам в сфере труда. Отмечена высокая информированность по конвенциям МОТ о недопущении детского и принудительного труда не только среди должностных лиц администраций, фермеров, работников образовательных и медицинских учреждений, но и среди населения и детей.*  **г) разработка предложений по совершенствованию государственной политики, стратегии и законодательства в области труда**  *На основе предложения Координационного совета по результатам обсуждения на Круглом столе 10 ноября итогов МТС детского и принудительного труда при сборе хлопка 2015 года, Распоряжением Кабинетом Министров №909-ф от 16  ноября 2015 года утверждена «Программа действий по вопросам совершенствования условий труда, занятости и социальной защиты работников в сельском хозяйстве на 2016-2018 годы».*  *Также Министерством труда и социальной защиты населения и Координационным советом совместно с заинтересованными министерствами и ведомствами разработано детальный «План мероприятий по вопросам совершенствования условий труда, занятости и социальной защиты работников в сельском хозяйстве на 2016-2018 годы».*  Координационный совет сыграл решающую роль в организации и проведении мониторинга по вопросу детского и принудительного труда в хлопководстве, организованного Узбекистаном и МОТ в 2013-2018 годах.  Несмотря на это, на протяжении долгих лет Узбекистан имел весьма непростые отношения с МОТ, вызванные, прежде всего недопониманием и недооценкой проблем, связанных с рисками детского и принудительного труда, особенно в сельском хозяйстве.  Ситуация кардинально изменилась в 2016 году, когда об этих проблемах стали говорить открыто на самом высоком уровне и была проявлена политическая воля к их преодолению.  Совершенно новые горизонты во взаимоотношениях между МОТ и Узбекистаном обозначились после исторического доклада Президента Ш.М.Мирзиёева на 72-сессии Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН.  По указанию Президента страны, в период хлопкоуборочных кампаний 2017-2018 годов был открыт широкий доступ на хлопковые поля для представителей международных организаций и местных правозащитников, которые сделали однозначный вывод о полном искоренении детского труда и принятии действенных и жестких мер против принудительного труда при сборе хлопка.  Федерация профсоюзов Узбекистана играет ключевую роль в борьбе против детского и принудительного труда в республике, которая взаимодействует с МОТ по следующим направлениям:  повышение потенциала работников министерств, ведомств, ННО и фермеров;  информационно-разъяснительная кампания;  международный мониторинг реализации конвенций по детскому и принудительному труду;  национальный мониторинг детского и принудительного труда в хлопководстве;  механизм обратной связи с населением;  доведение до сведения мировой общественности результатов работы по искоренению детского и принудительного труда;  взаимодействие с местными правозащитниками.  В результате принятых мер в сентябре 2018 года Департамент труда США исключил хлопок Узбекистана из «Списка товаров, произведенных с использованием детского труда».  Указанное также дополнило серию других решений, в частности по повышению уровня Узбекистана с 3-й категории на 2-ю в докладе Госдепартамента о торговле людьми, а также улучшению позиции страны в предыдущем докладе Департамент труда о наихудших формах детского труда.  Департамент труда США 25 марта 2019 года принял окончательное решение по выводу узбекского хлопка из перечня, запрещающего госзакупки в США товаров, изготовленных с использованием принудительного детского труда. |

**2.** **Опишите действия**, которые вы или ваша организация можете или могли бы предпринять, чтобы направить или активизировать усилия по искоренению детского труда в сельском хозяйстве. Если это не применимо, пожалуйста, объясните в следующих разделах проблемы, с которыми вы или ваша организация сталкиваетесь при решении проблемы детского труда в сельском хозяйстве, и представьте рекомендации для сельскохозяйственных и других заинтересованных сторон по расширению масштабов действий.

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| В Республике Узбекистан систематически принимаются национальные планы действий по реализации конвенций Международной организации труда, включающие конкретные мероприятия по следующим направлениям:  совершенствование национального законодательства в соответствии с ратифицированными конвенциями МОТ;  выполнение ратифицированных конвенций МОТ по вопросам принудительного и детского труда;  взаимодействие, разработка и реализация программ сотрудничества с МОТ;  наращивание потенциала социальных партнеров МОТ в Республике Узбекистан;  информационно-разъяснительная работа по вопросам реализации ратифицированных конвенций МОТ.  Между Федерацией профсоюзов Узбекистана и Международной организацией труда, Международной конфедерацией профсоюзов, ПРООН, Всемирным банком, ЮНИСЕФ, ОБСЕ, Международной финансовой корпорацией также налажено взаимовыгодное сотрудничество.  Одним из приоритетных направлений деятельности Федерации профсоюзов Узбекистана является организация работы по неукоснительному выполнению задач по реализации Конвенций МОТ, ратифицированных Республикой Узбекистан и нормативно- правовых документов, приведенных в соответствии с ними.  25 апреля 2014 года был подписан Меморандум о взаимопонимании между Республикой Узбекистан и Международной организацией труда, с прилагаемой к нему «Программой по достойному труду в Республике Узбекистан на 2014-2016 годы» (в дальнейшем именуется: «Страновая программа достойного труда» - СПДТ).  Данная программа включает в себя три раздела, касающиеся:  а) укрепления социального партнерства в Узбекистане в целях реализации основополагающих принципов и прав в сфере труда;  б) расширения возможностей достойной занятости;  в) улучшения условий труда и социальной защиты.  28 февраля 2017 года действие СПДТ было продлено до 2020 года.  **Мониторинги детского и принудительного труда  на сборе хлопка**  Начиная с 2013 года Национальный мониторинг детского труда при сборе хлопка проводится ежегодно при методической, консультативной и экспертной поддержке МОТ.  **В 2013 году**, в соответствии с договоренностью между Узбекистаном и МОТ с участием международных экспертов был проведен мониторинг использования детского труда при сборе хлопка под эгидой созданного Координационного совета по вопросам детского труда.  **В 2014 году** впервые в процесс мониторинга были привлечены представители региональных самоинициативных ННО.  **В 2015 году** Всемирный банк вышел с предложением о проведении в Узбекистане Мониторинга третьей стороной (МТС) детского и принудительного труда в районах, где реализуются проекты по кредитам Всемирного банка.  Таким образом, с 2015 года ежегодно проводятся **два параллельных мониторинга** детского и принудительного труда в хлопководстве:  **1)** Мониторинг третьей стороной (МТС) с участием международных экспертов и местных правозащитников;  **2)** Узбекский национальный мониторинг (УНМ) с участием национальных экспертов Федерации профсоюзов, Торгово-промышленной палаты и Национальной ассоциации негосударственных некоммерческих организаций (НАННОУз).  **В 2017 году Международная организация труда признала, что детский труд не используется в сборе хлопка в Узбекистане.**  **В 2018-2020 годы** Национальный мониторинг недопущения детского и принудительного труда при сборе хлопка, создания благоприятных условий труда для сборщиков в хлопкоуборочном сезоне проводился **по собственной методологии**.  Согласно результатам Мониторинга третьей стороной привлечение сборщиков к принудительному труду в Узбекистане в 2015 году составило **33 процента**, в 2016 году - **14 процентов**, в 2017 году - **13 процентов**, в 2018 году - **6,8 процента**, в 2019 году - **5,9 процента** и в 2020 году - **4 процента**.  Согласно результатам **Национального мониторинга**, уровень добровольного участия граждан в сборе хлопка урожая 2020 года оценен в **98,5 %,** что выше прошлогодних показателей.  Если сравнивать, в 2020 году участие сотрудников государственных структур, предприятий и медицинских учреждений в сборе хлопка снизилось на **70,2%** по сравнению с 2018 годом и на **76%** по сравнению с 2019 годом.  Не зафиксировано ни одного случая привлечения сотрудников образовательных и медицинских учреждений, студентов к сбору хлопка.  По результатам Национального мониторинга в 2016 году на хлопковых полях выявлено **62 детей**, в 2014 году **49 детей**, в 2015 году **2 детей,** в 2016 году **5 детей,** в 2017 году **18 детей,** в 2018 году **33 детей и** в 2019 году **9 детей.**  **Следует отметить, что во время сбора хлопка в 2020 году несовершеннолетних на хлопковых полях не наблюдалось.**  По всем выявленным фактам приняты оперативные меры по их устранению, взяты объяснительные от должностных лиц и сообщены в местные органы государственной власти и управления.  **В период хлопкоуборочного сезона вновь созданные инспекции труда профсоюзов также осуществляли общественный контроль в рамках поддержки Механизма обратной связи и Национального мониторинга.**  За весь период хлопкоуборочного сезона инспекции профсоюзов осуществили общественный контроль в общей сложности на 1285 объектах в 132 районах. Инспекторы внесли 58 представлений для устранения выявленных недостатков.  В результате принятых мер в общей сложности в пользу 614  сборщиков было взыскано более 1 миллиарда 188 миллионов сумов заработной платы.  **В настоящее время в Узбекистане существует 4 вида мониторинга детского и принудительного труда во время сбора хлопка:**   * мониторинг третьей стороной МОТ; * национальный мониторинг ФПУ; * общественный мониторинг сенаторов, депутатов, журналистов и блогеров; * мониторинг государственных инспекторов труда.   Кроме того, согласно решению Национальной комиссии по борьбе с торговлей людьми и принудительным трудом, начиная с 2021 года, помимо хлопководства, мониторинг будет проводиться и в других сферах экономики, таких как шелководство, строительство, общее питание и др.  **Механизм обратной связи Федерации профсоюзов также усилил свою работу в период сбора урожая хлопка.**  Механизм обратной связи при Юридической клинике Федерации профсоюзов Узбекистана осуществляет свою деятельность с 2015 года. Он был создан при поддержки Всемирного банка. Основной целью Механизма обратной связи является получение оперативной и объективной информации, оценки и рассмотрения обращений (заявлений, предложений, жалоб, запросов, позитивных отзывов).  В качестве инструмента **общественного контроля** МОС в  2015-2020 годах показал положительные результаты в сфере обеспечения беспрепятственного доступа граждан, оперативного выявления и эффективного решения системных проблем правоприменения, улучшения уровня принимаемых мер правовой защиты и других.  Доступ к МОС обеспечен для всех граждан по различным каналам доступа (приём физических и юридических лиц, рассмотрение письменных обращений, рассмотрение обращений, поступивших посредством веб-сайтов и электронных почт Федерации профсоюзов, рассмотрение обращений, поступивших в «CALL CENTER» по короткому номеру 1092 по всей территории республики, который функционирует круглосуточно).  С 2017 года одним из новшеств был созданный бот в телеграмм и в силу его популярности среди населения в 2018-2020 годах он стал **одним из основных каналов** получения информации и сигналов о нарушенных правах граждан Республики Узбекистан. К примеру, в 2019 году в период сбора хлопка в Телеграмм канале (@kasaba\_bot) было зарегистрировано 3642 пользователей, от которых поступило более 3000 сообщений. Основная часть сообщений заключается в вопросах и ответах, связанных с ценой собранного хлопка, о возможности отказаться собирать хлопок, о нормативах по минимальным условиям проживания.  В Юридической клинике при Федерации профсоюзов поставлена работа по вовлечению правозащитников в работу. К примеру, в хлопкоуборочный сезон 2017-2018 годов от правозащитников было получено **76 сообщений** по нарушениям в сфере принудительного труда, которые были изучены незамедлительно с выездом на место. По результатам подтвердившихся сообщений граждане собиравшие хлопок не по своей воле были выведены с полей, другим были выплачены заработные платы тем кому их задержали и т.д..  В Юридическую клинику с ознакомительным визитом посещал правозащитник Международной организации по защите прав человека «Хюман Райтс Вотч" Стив Сверлоу. После чего у Стива Сверлоу на твитере была опубликована статья о возможностях и результатах деятельности Юридической клиники при Федерации профсоюзов Узбекистана.  А также были организованы встречи с такими правозащитниками как Елена Урлаева, Шухрат Ганиев, Уктам Пардаев, Хайитбой Якубов и Арслонбой Утепов. В ходе встречи правозащитники были ознакомлены с деятельностью и итогами работы Юридической клиники (проекты Юридической клиникой, проводимые мероприятия, семинары, тренинги, а также были уведомлены о процессе принятия, регистрации и рассмотрений обращений, поступаемые в Федерацию профсоюзов Узбекистана и работе онлайн программы с обращениями).  **В 2020 году** в сезон сбора хлопка зарегистрировано всего 1517 обращений физических и юридических лиц в профсоюзы, из них 469 зафиксировано в письменной форме, 86 в устной и 137-в электронной форме, 825 обращений по “телефону доверия”.  180 обращений непосредственно касаются вопросов, связанных с уборкой хлопка.  По содержанию вопросов, отраженных в обращениях:  30 случаев привлечения к сбору хлопка путем применения принудительного труда;  102 о невыплате заработной платы;  34 о плохих бытовых условиях.  Обращений о принудительном труде детей не поступало.  По результатам рассмотрения всех обращений восстановлены права в общей сложности 779 человек, им выплачено 349 млн. 318 тыс. 519 сум заработной платы.  Для сравнения, в 2019 году в Федерацию профсоюзов Узбекистана за хлопковый сезон поступило 286 обращений. Из них 81 обращение было связано с принудительным трудом.  В целом, количество обращений в хлопкоуборочный период 2020 года снизилось на 40% по сравнению с прошлым годом.  **Повышение потенциала работников министерств, ведомств, ННО и фермеров**  С 2013 года в рамках повышения потенциала национальными и международными экспертами проведены **около 2600 семинаров с охватом около 100 тысяч участников**, включая работников органов государственной власти, отделов внутренних дел, финансов, сельского хозяйства, здравоохранения, народного образования, дошкольного образования, Торгово-промышленной палаты, советов фермеров, Союза молодежи, Комитета женщин, фонда «Махалла», общеобразовательных школ, образовательных учреждений профессионального образования и др.  Координационным советом по вопросам детского труда при поддержке Правительства был проведен курс лекций по глубокому изучению положений конвенций МОТ и определению задач по их реализации в условиях Узбекистана в ходе обучения заместителей хокимов областей, районов и городов в Академии государственного управления при Президенте Республики Узбекистан.  Аналогичные занятия были проведены на курсах повышения квалификации и обучения руководящих работников министерств, ведомств, общественных объединений, работодателей и фермеров.  В целях обучения должностных лиц администраций, государственных органов и общественных объединений на местном уровне по направлению «Актуальные задачи по реализации конвенций МОТ, ратифицированных Республикой Узбекистан», **подготовлено 56 тренеров** со всех регионов республики.  Разработано методическое пособие **«Предотвращение принудительного труда».**  **Информационно-разъяснительная кампания**  **В 2017 году** Координационным советом по вопросам детского и принудительного труда при поддержке Всемирного банка разработана «Концепция информационно-разъяснительной кампании по повышению осведомленности населения республики Узбекистан по национальным и международным трудовым стандартам».  В соответствии с данной Концепцией **ежегодно** во всех районах и городах установлено **баннеров и растяжек** о свободном найме (публичная оферта) сборщиков на хлопкоуборочные работы.  В местах скопления населения во всех районах и городах установлено **баннеров**, на предприятиях и в организациях размещено **плакатов** о недопущении детского и принудительного труда, среди работодателей и фермеров распространено **флаеров** об административной ответственности за принуждение к труду и использование детского труда.  **Подготовлены короткометражные видеоролики** из серии “Достойный труд”,о недопущении детского и принудительного труда и о механизме обратной связи с указанием **телефонов «горячей линии»** Федерации профсоюзов, ряда министерств, ведомств и общественных организаций.  Эти ролики ежедневно по национальному телевидению **демонстрируется** во время хлопкоуборочного сезона.  По инициативе Федерации профсоюзов Узбекистана **книга «Конвенции МОТ, ратифицированные Республикой Узбекистан»** тиражом **3 тысячи экземпляров** была издана и распространена во всех министерствах, ведомствах, во всех областных управлениях, районных медицинских объединениях, отделах народного образования, вузах и т.д.  Федерацией профсоюзов Узбекистана ежегодно организовываются **пресс-конференции** с участием представителей национальных и зарубежных ИА и СМИ, в рамках которых особое внимание уделяется предоставлению подробной информации о работах, проводимых по внедрению национальных и международных трудовых стандартов, конвенций МОТ.  За 2013-2020 годах в печатных изданиях опубликовано около **800 статей, информаций,** сюжетов по вопросам соблюдения и реализации основных положений ратифицированных конвенций МОТ.  На интернет- сайтах опубликовано **более 1000**, а в социальной сети “Фейсбук” – **более 500** **материалов** о проводимой работе по обеспечению достойного труда и по реализации ратифицированных конвенций МОТ.  **Мероприятия**  Стало доброй традицией организация и проведение "круглых столов" с участием представителей международных организаций:  **28 апреля - Всемирный день охраны труда;**  **12 июня - Всемирный день борьбы против детского труда;**  **7 октября - Всемирный день достойного труда.**  В рамках этих событий ежегодно Федерацией профсоюзов Узбекистана совместно с международными организациями и социальными партнерами организуется семинары, круглые столы и другие разные мероприятии. |

**3.** **Проблемы**: с какими основными препятствиями сталкиваетесь вы или заинтересованные стороны в сельском хозяйстве в решении проблемы детского труда в сельском хозяйстве? Как можно преодолеть или решить эти проблемы (например, с помощью политики, законодательства, наращивания потенциала и т. д.)?

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| На сегодняшний день нет препятствий в решении проблемы детского труда в сельском хозяйстве. |

**4.** **Рекомендации для заинтересованных сторон в сельском хозяйстве**: Какие рекомендации вы дали бы заинтересованным сторонам в сельском хозяйстве для решения проблемы детского труда в сельском хозяйстве, которую вы представили?

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| Учитывая проделанную работу, тренинги и поступившие жалобы, следующие рекомендации должны быть учтены в следующем хлопкоуборочном сезоне:  - наладить тесное взаимодействие с МОТ по вопросам детского труда в сельском хозяйстве;  - наладить сотрудничество всех ННО внутри страны в решении проблемы детского труда в сельском хозяйстве;  - должна быть выработан механизм координации МОС ФПУз и других ННО Узбекистана для более продуктивной и оперативной работы (например, МОС ТПП, ННО Эзрлик Йулида и т.д.)  - необходимо организовать зимние и летние школы для сотрудников ФПУз, ответственные за деятельность мониторинга и МОС  - существует острая необходимость в проведении серии тренингов, а также разработке учебных и раздаточных материалов для дальнейшего их применения в работе сотрудниками  - информационная кампания должна начать свою работу с первого квартала года для большего информирования населения о запрете детского и принудительного труда  - в хлопковый период необходимо обнародовать свод данных о проделанной работе каждые 14 дней.  - подготовить мини-интерактивные ролики не только для государственных учреждений, но и для образовательных учреждений; |

**5.** **Рекомендации для других заинтересованных сторон**: что бы вы порекомендовали другим заинтересованным сторонам, занимающимся проблемой детского труда в сельском хозяйстве (труд, образование, защита детей, или заинтересованным сторонам социального сектора, включая министерства труда, инспекторов, педагогов, специалистов по социальным услугам и т. д.)?

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| Совершенствование законодательства, полная интеграция в него норм Конвенции о правах ребенка и Конвенций МОТ о детском труде.  Увеличить инвестиции в сфере образования, чтобы увеличить охват детей внешкольным образованием, физкультурой и спортом.  Политические обязательства, принятые правительством и социальными партнерами необходимо исполнять так как, они оказали положительное влияние на борьбу с использованием детского и принудительного труда во время сбора хлопка.  Правительство и гражданское общество должно продолжать свои усилия по обеспечению эффективного осуществления национального законодательства, запрещающего принудительный и опасный труд для детей в возрасте до 18 лет.  Правительство и гражданское общество должно продолжать свои меры по мониторингу урожая хлопка, укрепление ведения учета в образовательных учреждениях, применять санкции в отношении лиц, которые причастны к участию детей в сборе урожая хлопка, а также дальнейшего повышения уровня информированности общественности по этому вопросу.  А также, при разработке мер по повышению эффективности дальнейшего продвижения необходимо уделять особое внимание:  повышению роли трудовых стандартов как средства решения всех задач МОТ;  более рациональному использованию страновых программ достойного труда;  наращиванию исследовательского, информационного и технического потенциала национальных институтов в целях дальнейшего оперативного применения комплексного подхода к достойному труду. |

## William Mallya, Ministry of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania

Kindly find here attached the submission form from Tanzania.

Regards,

William Mallya

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Ministry of Agriculture, TANZANIA** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **CROP BOARDS : STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONS IN ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Tanzania** |

**Agricultural sub-sector**(farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the maincauses? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **Background**  Child labour in Tanzania has been reported in tobacco, coffee, sisal, tea, timber, sugarcane, cloves, green algae, pyrethrum, rubber, cotton, and wheat production. While much research has focused on plantations and commercial value chains, the majority of children in agriculture do work in family based commercial or subsistence agriculture. According to the Analytical Report of the Tanzania National Child Labour Survey ( NBS:2016), it is estimated that, 4.2 million children aged 5–17 years are engaged in child labour, which is equivalent to 28.8 per cent of the entire children’s population. ***The problem of child labour is more profound in low income households where children are often compelled to work to supplement household’s income. Agriculture is the leading sector associated with a high incidence of child labour (21% of the children in child labour according to the survey report.( NBS 2016))***  Apart from macro-economic issues of supply and demand of child labour, poverty is the greatest single cause behind child labour, given the fact that for impoverished households, income from a child's work is usually crucial for his or her own survival and that of the household. Generally weak basic education systems is another major factor driving children to harmful labour. In most rural communities, where between 60–70% of child labour is prevalent, ( NBS 2016) there are inadequate school facilities, and even where available, they are often either too far away or the quality of education is so poor that parents find it not worthy the effort. Other causal factors include socio-cultural norms and traditions, encompassing situations where certain cultural beliefs and practices have rationalized and even encouraged child labour.  **COVID-19:** The limited incidence of Covid-19 in Tanzania has been confined to the urban areas with no apparent impact on the rural communities and the agriculture sector in general  **Recent interventions, progress and impact:**   * Prior to and following the National Sustainability Conference (2015), and through the National Agriculture Policy of 2013 the Ministry of Agriculture has been involved in interventions around raising awareness on the benefits of productive youth employment and prevention of Child Labour in agriculture, along with efforts to mainstream employment and decent work in agriculture. * Employment and decent work aspects have been integrated in the agriculture sector development strategies and programmes. Child labour components have featured in projects implemented under the current Agriculture Sector Development Programmes Phase 2 (ASDP 2). * The Outcome Document (OD) of the Conference ( 2015) did foresee role of Trade Unions, Employers Organizations and Cooperatives in strengthening their efforts to eliminate child labour . With ECLT support agriculture co-operative societies have itegrated child labour in their routine work and operations. * The Tanzania Plantations Agriculture Workers Union has formulated and implemented Action Plans on child labour in the framework of the National Strategy on chilkd labour, and are progressively integrating child labour in their routine programmes and plans. * There are continuing efforts on the part of national stakeholders to mainstream child labour in the child protection system through their involvement and participation in the district child protection teams’ meetings. The efforts towards mainstreaming child labour in the plans and programmes of individual agencies/institutions’ have been presented and validated at various forums. * Labour officers have in recent months received orientation, along with sensitization on the linkages between the strategy and the National Action Plan on violence against women and children, and how child labour interventions need to be synchronized with the co-ordination and reporting arrangements provided for in the plan. Senior labour officers in charge of the administrative regions have been acquainted with the outputs and indicators of the National Strategy and how these feed into the objectives of the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and children.   The aforementioned progress has been achieved through the collaborative efforts of national stakeholders, including the Ministry of labour, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government and regional Administration, the Association of Tanzania Employers, the Tanzania plantations Agriculture and Allied Workers Union, as well as the crop boards for coffee, cotton, tobacco, sisal and tea.  Development partners namely the ILO, USDOL, Winrock and ECLT have extended varied support to these initiatives, working with local partners. |

1. **Please describe the action** youor your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| * The Outcome Document ( OD) of the National Sustainability Conference (2015) has provisions including support to formalization of groups, enterprises and organizations of the social economy from rural areas in particular the crop boards ( tea coffee sisal, tobacco, cotton)being among the strategic actors in addressing child labour in agriculture. Crop boards, did subsequently receive orientation on the Outcome Document with the aim of enhancing their awareness and “buy-in” so that they are guided by the OD in the planning and formulation of interventions on child labour in their respective sectors. * The crop boards have committed themselves to continued action to end child labour in agriculture through the implementation of the provisions of the “Code of Practice on Child labour”. The provisions are built around six interventions areas which are **a)** Policy integration and mainstreaming child labour, **b**) Research and Information, **c**) Awareness raising and community mobilization**, d)** Networking and Collaboration, **e**) Co-ordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, **f)** Internal capacity building and **g**) Budget- resource allocation. * The continuing implementation of the Code of Practice remains primarily an undertaking by individual boards, in the light of the aforementioned voluntary commitment by the boards and the mandatory obligations they each have under the national laws and policies regarding child labour. Each board is progressively incorporating in its action plans, and implementing at its own pace, provisions of the code based on the realistic circumstances of their capacity and resources, utilizing as much as possible any opportunities for mainstreaming child labour in routine programmes and plans. * There are regular forums at which all boards meet to review progress of implementation and share lessons, experiences and emerging “good practices”. Activities being implemented under the provisions of the code of practice by individual boards are consistent with the general objectives of the national policy frameworks including the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Children, the national Strategy on Child labour as well as the Agriculture Sector Development Plan 2. The Ministry of Agriculture is providing overall administrative and technical oversight to the implementation of the Code of Practice.   **Actions that could be taken to enhance and promote the implementation of the provisions of the Crop boards’ Code of Practice and in the agriculture sector in general include:**   1. Further technical capacity building of the crop boards around    1. policy advocacy dissemination and mobilization on child labour;    2. sector-based research/rapid assessments on child labour;    3. policy integration and dissemination    4. networking/collaboration and mainstreaming with local government on child protection/leveraging of resources 2. Support for the organization of crop boards forums for sharing of lessons/experiences and “good practices” in the implementation of the code of practice 3. Support for outreach/fieldwork by crop boards for advocacy and sensitization of farmers/growers’ associations, plantations/estate owners and agriculture companies on child labour on the one hand and monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress in the implementation of the provisions of the code of practice on the other. 4. General support to the Ministry of Agriculture for work around policy implementation and integration, extension work, farmers education and sensitization on child labour, monitoring and reporting systems on child labour 5. Technical support for further capacity building of agriculture trade unions, agriculture co-operative societies and growers unions on child labour. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Challenges/main obstacles**   * **Limited data and information on the nature and extent of child labour in the agriculture sector in general and in the individual sectors** * **Inadequate enforcement of labour legislation especially in the agriculture sector, marked by limited Labour inspection** * **Inadequate institutional measures for improving OHS conditions in the product value chains towards the creation of decent work for children ( 15-17 age bracket)** * **Weak policy coordination and inter-institutional collaboration around child labour in agriculture and other sectors** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| **Recommendations for all agriculture stakeholders**   * **Actively monitor incidences of child labour in all farming operations and throughout the supply chains in the individual crop sectors** * **Promote and ensure access to occupational safety and Health (OSH) and other vocational training for children of legal working age ( 15 -17 years)** * **Engage in positive labour relations with the concerned trade union organizations to promote decent work through bilateral social dialogue.** * **Mainstreaming child labour monitoring systems into program activities** * **Increase the capacity of local governments to identify and integrate child labour issues into their district child protection plans and budgets** * **Increase the capacity of local governments to develop and enforce district child protection by-laws on child labour** * **Promote the integration of child labour, child and youth rights issues into agricultural policies** * **Promote inter-agency collaboration and networking involving coordination with cooperatives, trade unions, companies and non-governmental organizations, to design and implement activities under the objectives of the National Strategy on child labour** * **Provide technical capacity training to existing Child Protection Committees at the local levels, so as to ensure the integration of child labour in child protection interventions.** * **Facilitate field inspection visits by labour inspectorate and agriculture extension workers to monitor child labour practices and enforce legislation on child labour.** * **Support the undertaking of situation assessment or sector-level rapid assessment to determine the nature and incidence of child labour in agriculture** * **Strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of labour and Ministry of Community Development to promote the dissemination and popularization of the National Strategy on child labour and NAP-Violence Against Women and children respectively.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| * **Extend continuing support to the implementation process of the national Strategy on child labour** * **Participate in stakeholders’ consultative forums on child labour** * **Provide continuing support to the local government authorities in efforts to integrate child labour in child protection initiatives** |

## Paschal Ajongba Kaba, General Agricultural Workers Union, Ghana

Child labour and forced labour affect the most vulnerable and least protected people, perpetuating a vicious cycle in which poverty drives a continued lack of social and economic insecurity, which reinforces poverty and social injustice. Such a situation must not continue. Freedom from child labour and all forms of forced labour – as well as freedom from discrimination and freedom to organize and bargain collectively - are fundamental principles and rights at work and the keystones of social justice and peace. The global community has clearly acknowledged that the persistence of child labour and forced labour in the 21st century is unacceptable and renewed its commitment in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025 and forced labour by 2030.

These ambitious targets can be achieved if the right conditions are established to tackle the root causes of child labour and forced labour, as well as their consequences. Strong political will, better designed and integrated policies and more concerted action have already led to a marked acceleration of progress against child labour, especially from 2008-2012. But the pace of change must be faster still if the global community is to live up to these commitments. Today’s hard question is: How will we do this? The IPEC+ Flagship seeks to ensure ILO leadership in global efforts - in partnership with others to achieve this goal

Not withstanding the above, harnessing the rural economy’s potential to create decent and productive jobs and shared prosperity is imperative to achieving sustainable development and equitable economic growth. However, rural areas in many economies and in all regions are characterized by significant decent work deficits. Unions therefore cannot pretent not to notice what is happening. It is therefore important to note that the employment of children deprives adults of employment and once children cannot be unionised the union membership is reduced. GAWU as a Union is therefore committed to the tenants of decent work and has an objective of creating and operating within child labour free zones.

GAWU has been invited under the Auspices of the ILO, East Africa Trade Union Confederation (EATUC), the ELCT Geneva, the UN Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Forced, the University of Durham DEMAT project, the Global March Against Child Labour to share her experience with the ILO, UN and also provide guidance support for replication by Trade Unions from East and Southern African Countries on its efforts at eliminating child labour. Other Universities from Denmark have also made Kpando Torkor project site an international centre of learning for their students who want to get better understanding of GAWU operations of promoting decent work within the Agricultural Value Chain in Ghana

Meeting the global challenge of eradicating child labour and modern slavery requires tackling the root causes of social injustice - which are almost always related to violations of other fundamental rights at work and are most prevalent in the rural and informal economy. It is against this backdrop GAWU initiated various child labour strategies using an integrated area based approach to eliminate child labour and create child labour free zones, as well as the Torkor model, which seeks to address the key components of SDG target 8.7, on forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and migration. The model thus uses Torkor as an entry point to address the endemic nature of child labour on the volta lake by applying its three (3) components; (1) Organization of informal workers, (2) Social mobilization through capacity building and sensitization and (3) Knowledge sharing.

Attachment: <http://assets.fsnforum.fao.org.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/public/discussions/contributions/GAWU%20and%20Child%20Labour_0.docx>

## Philemon Lotubokal, Safari Agriculture Youth Initiative Project, Kenya

Child labour in Kenya is one of the common things that happen both in towns and villages, the community has perceved it has normal thing. This situation is infact getting more stronger due to outbreak of COVID-19 where parents/guardians lack money to buy basic things like food,clothing and shelter.This as a result forced a child to go and hustle to make the ends meet thus leading to more negative activities.We the learned youths have taken the initiative of revolutionising the farming sector by employing both minds and machines. 50% of our output from the farm goes to vulnerable childrens through schools, churches and orphanages and addressing the matter openly both at grassroots level and through social media handles thus bringing a sustainable future that is free from child labour.

## Dr. Amanullah, Department of Agronomy, The University of Agriculture Peshawar, Pakistan

Child labour is a huge problem in Pakistan. Poor families in this part of the world generally having more children than rich families. Due to the very high costs of food, education and clothes, the poor families are not able to send their children to schools. Unfortunately here schools for poor and rich peoples are different. Because of the food security issue and no financial support to poor families by the government, child labour is imporant for poor families. Here the elder labour (2-3 elders per family) is not sufficient to feed their big families because of the higher food (items) prices. Therefore, for the sustainbility point of view child labour is must for the support of poor & joint family system.

Moreover, the high cost of agriculture inputs (tractor, chemicals etc.) the child labour is also dominant in agriculture sector. The childs are mostly involved in weeding, grass cutting for animals, and grazing livestock etc. in villages, But due to the COVID the number of child beggers has increased significnatly in towns.

The UN organizations must help and support the poor families to stop child labour and send their children to schools in low income countries. Poor policies or no policies regarding the child labour is also a big issue. The policies regarding child labour must be designed according to the need of each country.

As their is huge gap in crop yield, in my opinion best agronomic practices (including high yielding varites etc, ) could increase crop productivity per unit area will definetely reduce the food security issue. Reduction in food insecurity could reduce the costs of foods items and will definitely reduce the child labour in agriculture sector, thanks.

## Lal Manavado, Independent analyst/synthesist, Norway (second contribution)

Supplementary Comments on Addressing Child Labour in Food Systems

Often, it has been pointed out that child labour occurs in several areas closely connected with agriculture. Therefore, it would be reasonable to include those in the current discussion. However, addressing the problem of child labour in agriculture and related pursuits requires one to look at the challenge from a food system perspective. This would enable one to approach the problem in an inclusive and holistic way.

These comments outline some of the difficulties that would have to be overcome before the successful field implementation of any programme/project could be carried out. Unless this is done, it is difficult to envisage how one may make significant inroads into a social inequity that has blighted many a young life. The following are the sub-systems constitutive of a food system in order of their emergence; their diversity arises purely from the technological differences among them.

* Yielder; the actual source of food, agriculture and environment.
* Harvesting; reaping, fishing etc.
* Transport; on a man’s back, refrigerated cargo vessles etc.
* Storage; family larder, grain silos etc.
* Preservation; any process intended to extend the period of safe usability of food.
* Preparation; process of making food items fit for an end-user’s consumption.
* Supplementation; restoration of depleted ecosystems services through the use of fertilisers, weeding, biocides, irrigation etc.
* Selling; retail or wholesale vending, also includes that of prepared food as in cafes and restaurants. This sub-system may include one or more of its own sub-systems:
  + Sorting.
  + Packing/packaging.
  + Promotion using audio/visual propaganda.
  + Speculation; commodity futures, withholding the release of surplus items to keep up the prices etc.

Observation reveals that child-labour occurs in every sub-system except in IV above. In affluent countries, children appear in advertisements included in III, which some may claim to be a benign form of child-labour to promote items less than benign to their consumers. Many contributors have described child-labour as it is found in those sub-systems of a food system.

Here, addressing the present problem faces two distinct challenges:

Could one succeed in solving the problem in a country by undertaking a variety of appropriate local actions?

If not, what other steps ought to be taken to ensure success?

It may seem easy to answer the first question by limiting oneself to food systems. Meanwhile, the justifiable purpose of a food system is to enable the end-users to procure a sustainable supply of affordable and wholesome food needed for a balanced diet. Should one avoid emotional reactions to the phenomenon, exclusion of child-labour from food systems is a question of ethics and social equity, and as such calls for the intervention of other domains.

Some may argue that food and agriculture authorities could ban child-labour in food systems. But, the legislation required to make this law of the land calls for a majority in a country’s legislature which does not seem to be the easiest of tasks, for it involves protracted negotiations among diverse interests. These include political groupings representing trade and industry, transportation etc.

Moreover, confining one’s efforts to agriculture could not deal with child-labour, because it occurs in most sub-systems in a food system. In addition to poverty and hunger, the unscrupulous prefer child-labour in food systems in order to increase their profits. This requires unequivocal and prompt legal action. Although not exhaustive, these are some of the difficulties associated with the first challenge.

As for the second, the necessity of involving the judiciary has already been mentioned. Dealing with poverty among the employees of a food system calls for a devolved and cooperative operation of food systems while it would also ameliorate hunger and inappropriate nutrition. But such a change in food systems can hardly be undertaken without the involvement of the domains like trade and industry, finance etc.

These comments must not be construed as a prediction of futility; they merely point out some crucial aspects of the problem that would repay careful attention. In his first contribution to this discussion, the present writer has described them in greater detail. It differs from other suggestions in that it provides a template into which all elements of a food system may seamlessly fit at national, regional and most importantly, at local level.

Best wishes!

Lal Manavado.

## Jessie Rivera Fagan, FAO, Italy

As mentioned in the background note, addressing child labour in agriculture and in rural areas requires a multi-sectoral approach. Although child labour exists in agricultural plantations as well as more formal rural employment arrangements, a large percentage can be found within informal employment arrangements and within family based agriculture. Therefore, the nature of support to address the issue should look into its root push and pull causes. More often than not, the root causes in agriculture stem from household poverty along with the lack of awareness of the problem. Support to rural households in addressing their economic dependence on their children’s labour is essential. Support in the form of social protection can assist families with this dependency. Moreover, interventions should seek to support the livelihoods of marginalized famers who are vulnerable to the economic dependence of child labour.

FAO has the ability to support livelihoods through [numerous mechanisms](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9502en/). This includes social protection (school feeding, cash transfers, access to insurance and other financial services), various employment initiatives (support towards entrepreneurial agri-business or public employment programmes), support towards the organization (including expansion of membership) and strengthening of producer based organizations (for example, through the [Forest and Farm Facility](http://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/)) along with additional capacity development opportunities to improve production, sustainability and diversify income opportunities. FAO can upscale these programmes and ensure that more vulnerable households are being targeted.

Awareness raising is also a key part of the puzzle. Many families and agriculture stakeholder are simply not aware of the dangers of child labour and tendency to perpetuate cycles of poverty. It can be seen as tradition or the norm. Of course, child labour can take many form. Children could are missing school to work (occasionally, seasonally or entirely) or we may refer a 15 year old who is spraying pesticides after school to make some extra pocket monkey for neighboring farmers. Nevertheless, supporting agriculture stakeholders of all kinds, and most importantly farming community members, on the importance of education for children in order to eventually effectively contribute towards rural livelihoods and sustainability along with information on occupational safety and health and what tasks are appropriate at which ages, remain crucial.

While working in rural Uganda (among several countries), FAO has supported capacity development for agriculture stakeholders, including through use of its Facilitator’s Guide ‘[Protect Children from Pesticides](http://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1260531/#:~:text=Protect%20children%20from%20pesticides!%2C%20FAO,home%20and%20on%20the%20farm.)!’. The tool has had a powerful impact at community level when school teachers began showing the tool to children and parents. Previously, farmers in the community were simply not aware of the risks related to pesticide use and had often involved older children in spraying activities. However, the tool had helped shift their mindset and thus practices. Therefore, awareness raising activities on the impact of child labour, including appropriate tasks for children on different ages, can be mainstreamed in larger FAO projects requiring limited resources but with an ability to scale important knowledge for sustainability and poverty reduction.

Many thanks,

Jessie

## United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth

**MGCY INPUTS TO Call for action: ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders**

**Facilitated and Compiled by SDG 2 Youth Constituency:**

Pramisha Thapaliya, Global Focal Point

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**Background:**

The UN General Assembly has declared 2021 as **International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour**, inviting all relevant agricultural actors to raise awareness and share good practices on the importance to eradicate child labour. Already before COVID-19, 71% of all child labourers worldwide were found in agriculture, making it impossible to eliminate all forms of child labour (SDG 8.7) without a breakthrough in agriculture.

For the International Year, FAO is hosting a Call for Action from 21 April to 31 May on: **Ending Child Labour in Agriculture with the Help of Agricultural Stakeholders**. Given that local and national agricultural actors have the potential to be the key game changers, we would very much appreciate an active participation and contributions of the ***Major Group for Children and Youth*** to the Call for Action.

The Call will give you the opportunity to indicate on behalf of your organization what challenges you are facing in addressing child labour through your work, what actions you are willing to take and what kind of recommendations you would give. We would also like to invite you to share good practices that your organization might have undertaken to reduce child labour in agriculture. The most impactful, innovative and relevant contributions will feed FAO regional consultation in September (tbc), the recommendations of which will likewise feed **FAO’s High-Level Global Event on Eliminating Child Labour in Agriculture on 2-3 November**.

INPUTS BELOW:

1. **Please provide some background context to your contribution and proposal:**   
     
   *What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?*
   1. Agriculture is one of the three most dangerous sectors in terms of work-related fatalities, non-fatal accidents and occupational diseases. About 59 percent of all children in hazardous work aged 5–17 are in agriculture.   
        
      Poverty is the main cause of child labour in agriculture, together with limited access to quality education, inadequate agricultural technology and access to adult labour, high hazards and risks, and traditional attitudes towards children’s participation in agricultural activities.

*Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?*

1. We see COVID-19 impacting child labour in three ways : (1) increasing the involvement of children in work ; (2) increasing the risk of involvement or relapse for those removed from child labour ; (3) increasing working poverty among youth (15-17 years) in decent work. (4) Gender based violence to the workers.

*If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:*

1. Presently we are making progress to use innovative solutions to help reduce the pressure on the systems that contribute to child labour.
2. Community awareness has been a key component of our organization’s day-to-day operations. We have reached out to eight communities to educate them about the effect of child labour.
3. Impact/results 2 communities have agreed to use our proposed innovative solutions.
4. **Please describe the action you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture.**   
   *If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.*
   1. Implement diverse country programmes and support governments to develop and implement agricultural policies and programmes addressing child labour in agriculture.
   2. Strengthen the capacities of agriculture and labour stakeholders and their collaboration.
   3. Raise awareness and knowledge at all levels, from communities, to nation-wide campaigns, regional interventions, and global action.
   4. Secure better livelihood options for rural households and enable increased productivity.
   5. Identify and provide alternative and safe agricultural practices and technologies to reduce economic and functional dependencies of households on child labour in crop production, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock.
   6. Advise agricultural stakeholders and investment programmes on how to be child-labour responsive and mainstream child labour prevention in their areas of work.
   7. Work with agricultural stakeholders to reduce the barriers in preparing and accessing decent work for rural youth aged 14-17 who are below 18, but above the minimum age for employment.
5. **Challenges: What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, facein addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?**
   1. Community engagement
   2. Unsustainable farming practices and land degradation i.e. monoculture.
   3. Bureaucracy and systemic corruption
   4. Policy enforcement and institutions to prosecute violations.
   5. Child labor in agriculture is often invisible because of limited data, because farming remains largely unregulated in many countries.
   6. In addition, children working in small-scale agricultural activities remain neglected as organizations focus on battling child labor in global supply chains

*How can they be addressed?*

1. Addressing the problem of child labor will require further coordinated research and policy efforts.
2. Focus attention on addressing child labor in local food supply chains and in subsistence farming,
3. Raise awareness and knowledge at all levels, from communities, to nation-wide campaigns, regional interventions, and global action.
4. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders: What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?**
   1. Divest from organisations that are involved in child labour.
   2. Gender-responsive: Boys and girls are impacted differently in child labour with girls expeced to take on ‘care’ work, while boys are more likely to get into manual labour.
   3. Promote community gardens as means for ensuring food and a sense of ownership for people involved to cut down on unethical supply chains (eg. community reforestation projects and/or smallholder farming).
   4. Upskilling young people - not children - to be better farmers as a means for agribusiness.
   5. Include child labour issues in agricultural and labour regulations and policies.
   6. Make child labour a cross-cutting issue by increasing awareness on child labour in agriculture at all levels of government and promote policy coherence, within and between ministries.
   7. Promote agricultural development policies with the potential to reduce child labour through Good Agricultural Practices, such as conservation agriculture, IPPM, labour saving technologies, and rural youth employment through approaches such as Junior Farmer Field Schools.
   8. Mainstream child labour issues in all agricultural development projects and programmes.
   9. Promote training and awareness raising activities on child labour issues in agriculture to governments.
   10. Support awareness raising and the changing of attitudes, as required, with regard to child labour in agriculture.
5. **Recommendations for other stakeholders: What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?**
   1. Increase access to quality education to get children to stay in school.
   2. Facilitate discussions/ collect testimonies of children involved as a means on qualitative data around child labour.
   3. Develop capacity-building workshops for teaching about sustainability and regenerative agriculture as means of empowering people and developing skills.

***In addition to answering the above questions as part of the Call to Action, MGCY SDG 2 Youth Constituency’s stakeholders compiled the contributions below:***

**Addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture:** We cannot deny that child labour is involved in many areas. Children all over the world are being exploited, prevented from going to school, or pushed into work that endangers their health and normal development. In many regions, child labour is found mainly in agricultural contexts, where fatalities, severe accidents, and diseases are common.

**To reduce child labour, we can take below steps:**

1. A main contributor to child labour is poverty. We have to reduce poverty, especially in developing and poor countries.
2. We need to conduct massive awareness campaign in rural and slum areas, as child labour is high in these areas.
3. We need to engage youth-led organizations with all types of social activity.
4. We need to create more employment opportunities in rural areas.
5. We need to design specialized programmes aimed at reducing child labour.
6. Increase access to quality education, including by providing free and accessible schooling with curricula relevant to farming communities with school hours adapted to local needs.
7. Introduce school feeding programmes or other incentives to attract children to school.
8. Hold the people and/or organizations who participate in child labour , such as work on the field, accountable through means such as being arrested or fined.
9. Include child labour issues in agricultural and labour censuses to provide a clear picture of the areas of greatest concentration, and most hazardous child labour
10. Actively collaborate with governments and their development partners to find practical solutions to prevent and abolish child labour in agriculture.
11. Engage in awareness raising campaigns.
12. Curate technologies that may prevent child labour given geographical location

**Development partners should assist governments in implementing all the above defined actions, including:**

1. Support development of educational facilities and schools in rural communities as well as school feeding programmes and other incentive mechanisms.
2. Support awareness raising and the changing of attitudes, as required, with regard to child labour in agriculture.
3. Assist in organizational capacity building at the local level.

## Malin Liljert, The Centre for Child Rights and Business

The Centre for Child Rights and Business has worked for more than 10 years on preventing and remediating child labour in global supply chains, including agriculture. Our submission highlights recent work we have been carrying out together with Save the Children Germany in hazelnut and rose gardens in Turkey. Our submission focus on how we work with local stakeholders such as farm owners, intermediaries and other suppliers to create low-cost sustainable and scalable practical solutions to prevent child labour in agriculture. We’d be pleased to showcase and share our approach and impact during your regional consultations and at your Global Event in September 2021. We look forward to your feedback and any questions you may have.

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| The Centre for Child Rights and Business (The Centre) |

**Title of your contribution**

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| How child friendly spaces, parenting training and support can prevent child labour in hazelnut farming and rose gardens. |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| **Social enterprise** |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Turkey** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming and horticulture** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| The Centre for Child Rights and Business together with Save the Children Germany have carried out recent child rights and child labour risk assessments in hazelnut farming and rose gardens in Turkey. These assessments were carried out on behalf of international buyers sourcing hazelnut and roses from various regions in Turkey during September 2020 and May 2021.  Our assessments, which included worker surveys, focus group discussions with children and their parents and walkthrough of farming areas, highlighted many instances of child labour as well as a lack of general awareness on child rights and child labour from garden owners, labour agents and 1st tier suppliers/middlemen. In addition to national legislation, international buyers have polices and procedures in place for the prevention and remediation of child labour but these policies have not trickled down to neither hazelnut nor rose gardens and are not being enforced.  The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the risk for child labour, as many migrant workers have lost other jobs and have turned to agriculture and seasonal work where they have also brought their children along.  **Our child labour assessments found that:**   * Many underage workers (as young as 6 years old) are working alongside their family on the farms. Their working hours, which can be 12 hrs/day, are the same as their parents. The work is carried out in hazardous working conditions and the children are exposed to strong sun, have no protective clothes, equipment nor proper shoes (either barefooted or with slippers) * Many children have never been in schools or they are being pulled out from school during harvest and some are travelling with parents throughout the year to harvest various crops at various locations. Many children interviewed did not know their age, what a color is, could not say any numbers, didn’t know what “school” is or could explain where they are coming from * Most workers are seasonal migrant workers and are living in camps. A large number of children are left unattended at the camp by their parents while the parents work on the farm/in the gardens. * Living conditions at some of the camps are dire, no clean drinking water, no proper WASH facilities including no soap, no menstrual pads etc. At some camps there are no toilets and especially female workers expressed that they were scared when trying to find a latrine. * There is a high risk of violence, sexual harassment and abuse due to lawless situations at worker camps including rivalries between worker groups   **The identified causes of child labour include:**   * Poverty among the minority groups and Syrian refugees that make up the majority workforce. * Most workers are seasonal migrant workers which may not be aware of their rights including labour rights, minimum wages, access to education for their children etc * Low awareness around child labour and how this is harmful for children by most stakeholders at farm level including business partners (farm owners and labour intermediaries, parents and caregivers * Cultural norms which promote work over education   **Our actions to mitigate and prevent child labour at hazelnut and rose gardens:**  The report from the assessment, including our suggested next steps and activities to mitigate the child labour risks, was shared with the international buyers immediately upon finalizing the on-site assessment. Following our recommendations some mitigating and preventing activities were implemented immediately:  1. Establishment of child friendly spaces (CFS) in the camps. The CFS are a form of low threshold childcare facility that can be established in rural and remote communities and camps. The purpose of CFS is to i) create safe spaces for children that are left behind in the camp when their parents are working in the gardens, ii) encourage parents of working children to send their children to the CFS, instead of working in the gardens.  2. Trainings for parents and supply chain stakeholders including tier 1 supplier and farmers on child rights and child labour. The trainings are interactive, easy to understand and contextualized to the situation as to facilitate the understanding and uptake of illiterate participants.  In addition, support programmes for young and juvenile workers are being planned to facilitate decent work for youth and prevent hazardous work. The youth development program includes the identification of non-hazardous working stations, onboarding training for young workers, training on young worker management for their supervisors and managers and training on life skills and technical skills for the young workers.  **The impact of CFS and child labour trainings**:   * Increase the awareness around child rights and child labour and why this is harmful for children * Unattended children have a safe place to play and learn while their parents are at work. * Both activities will in short and long term reduce the number of working children or working time of the working children |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| The Centre for Child Rights and Business has developed an action pledge that we have submitted to Alliance 8.7/ILO for the International Year of the Child Labour we have identified four main areas which will take action on together with our business partners in manufacturing, agriculture, forestry and other sectors. Our pledge which has thirteen international business as signatories, includes the following:   1. **EXTENDING CHILD LABOUR DUE DILIGENCE, REMEDIATION AND MONITORING**   Many of the worst forms of child labour and hazardous work are found beyond tier one. We will extend child labour due diligence, remediation and monitoring activities beyond first tier suppliers.  **POTENTIAL ACTIONS**   * Review policies and management system on child labour prevention and remediation (CLPR) * Conduct a child rights risk assessment at key supplier(s) in high-risk countries to identify child labour (CL) risks and hotspots * Set clear requirements for staff to follow when CL cases are identified * Organise training for staff and suppliers on CLPR * Build CLPR capabilities and cascade measures down our supply chain * Ensure that all actors are aware of CLPR policies and processes to enable swift actions when CL is detected * Review and strengthen CL remediation process * Strengthen grievance mechanisms to facilitate reporting on CL and related issues  1. **MAKING YOUNG WORKERS A STRATEGIC PRIORITY**   Young workers are routinely excluded from formal work and are forced to find work in informal, hazardous work settings. We will focus on creating decent opportunities for young workers in our supply chains.  **POTENTIAL ACTIONS**   * Review policies and management systems to ensure these include provisions to prevent hazardous work for young people * Create new, decent work opportunities for young workers by piloting skills training for young workers at factories/farms in your supply chain. Consider extending existing skills training sessions to cover additional suppliers in 2021 * Pilot young workers programmes in our supply chain, or extending our existing programme to cover more workers/factory sites  1. **STRENGTHENING CAPABILITY TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOUR**   We will strengthen internal training, skills and knowledge to cascade strong child labour prevention and remediation measures down our supply chains.  **POTENTIAL ACTIONS**   * Review our supply chain and ensure that the children of your workers have access to education and childcare * Pilot (or expand) support structures where the children of workers in our supply chain have limited access to childcare and/or schools * Work with our key suppliers to pilot family-friendly policies with a strong emphasis on access to childcare and education  1. **REVIEWING WAGES AND PAYMENT MECHANISMS IN OUR SUPPLY CHAIN TO HELP ENSURE THESE ARE NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE INCREASE OF CHILD LABOUR**   Insufficient wages, delayed payments, wage fluctuations and a lack of social security protections can lead to heightened child labour risks. We will review wages, payment mechanisms and buying practices in our supply chain to help ensure that these do not contribute to child labour.  **POTENTIAL ACTIONS**   * Review any risk areas in our supply chain where we suspect challenges around wages (e.g. piece rates in homeworkers, delayed wages) and pilot wage programs * Explore options to increase financial inclusion of low-income workers in global supply chains, e.g. through Wage Digitization * Pilot social security programs for lower-tier supply chain workers to strengthen resilience * Consider other programs to strengthen the resilience and well-being of low-income families in our supply chain |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| In this particular context, which also applies to pepper and coffee farming , we have identified a few challenges:   * Low traceability, opaque and complicated supply chains with low transparency. In addition, many agricultural products are bought on the open spot market or from intermediaries or middlemen. This structure provides little or no incentives from 1st tier suppliers/middle men to invest in responsible sourcing programs and transparent supply chains. * Low interest from international buyers to assess and prevent child labour risks in the lower end of the supply chain, eg small-holder farmers and family owned plantations. * High degree of seasonal workers with little or no protection, low awareness of their rights including grievance mechanisms. * Farming practices and situations producing low and fluctuating yields which leads to low income for farming families and children thus need to support the income generation by working on the family farm or on another location/sector * Cultural norms where children are considered being an asset that can bring income to the family and it is thus acceptable for children to work * Breaking the vicious and generational cycle of poverty-child labour-no school is difficult and call for action from a range of stakeholders including providing access to education, higher wages for working parents, decent work opportunities for juvenile and young workers etc.   **Possible solutions to eliminate hazardous child labour are many and range from immediate/low resource need to long term/high resource need, below are a few suggestions:**   * Need for clear and robust policy on child labour for agricultural buyers and stakeholders on how to prevent and remediate child labour. * Increased transparency in agricultural supply chains * Training on child labour prevention and remediation for all stakeholders in the supply chain including farm owners, labour agents, parents, different tier suppliers and also children * Parent training modules to educate parenting workers on key issues, including developmental needs of their children, dangers related to hazardous work for children, etc * Establish temporary, or permanent child care solutions * Implement young worker development programs to identify non-hazardous working stations for juvenile and young workers * Establish multistakeholder solutions and collaboration which includes local government, multiple business sourcing from same region and farm owners |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| See our suggestions above, this applies to all stakeholders including in agricultural supply chains |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| Establish both long- and short-term programs to eliminate child labour in agriculture. It will take time to change buying practices, wages, educational opportunities for migrant children etc. In the meantime, implement low threshold, scalable and impactful solutions that ensure child protection and the protection from the worst forms of child labour, exploitative working conditions for youth etc  Contextualize services and support programs to be suitable for vulnerable stakeholders such as seasonal migrant workers and their children, refugees and minorities.  If you would like to know more on how we work on prevention and remediation of child labour in agricultural supply chains, please contact:  Malin Liljert, The Centre for Child Rights and Business  [Malin.liljert@childrights-business.org](mailto:Malin.liljert@childrights-business.org)  [www.childrights-business.org](http://www.childrights-business.org)  Anna Thinius, Save the Children Germany  [anna.thinius@savethechildren.de](mailto:anna.thinius@savethechildren.de)  <https://www.savethechildren.de> |

## Dhananjaya Poudyal, Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition (CSANN), Nepal

**Ending Child Labour in Agriculture with the Help of Agricultural Stakeholders**

Childhood, simply the stage between birth and puberty, is not the condition of well developed physically as well as mentally. They are physically weak with developing the organs of their bodies slowly. The fragile organs are not ready to perform the hard works inside or outside of the home. On the other hand the stage of childhood is inclined to playing and entertaining with their parents, friends or with their kin. They want to enjoy in playing the games that give good results ultimately for the overall development of the children. Accordingly, doing formal study in the pedagogies or in the homes according to the ages is another task of the children.

With this background of the childhood it has to be justified to eliminate the child labour from the agriculture sector at this moment. Actually, the authorized agencies are trying to prohibit or to ending the involvement of the child from any sector may be agriculture, industry, transportation, or even the sexualities. In this regard, agriculture is one of the highly sensitive sector where the possibilities of child labour seems to be high. They have been mobilised in this sector voluntarily as well as obligatorily too. It could be happened actually due to three reasons. The first one is - by voluntarily where the family members do not deny the involvement of the children in the pretext of enjoying by their children in the agricultural activities together with them. The second one is that the family members automatically mobilized their children in agriculture farming because of lacking of needed labourers for the work. The third one is that child labour is comparatively cheaper than the labour of the seniors may be man or woman. It should not be paid full wages to them as paid to their seniors including fathers / mothers. Therefore, the community people or any other organizations / companies want to mobilize the children in some soft type of activities which could be performed by them without hard labour.

Now we have to identify the actual stakeholders of the agriculture before going to discuss about their roles regarding the child labour. First of all family members or the households are the prime stakeholders of agriculture followed by neighbouring / farmers, private or public organizations / companies (food producing / supplier, distributors, and marketing of the products ), NGOs/ CBOs, political parties, and the government formed at different levels depending upon the country.

Following measures are recommended to eliminate or to ending the child labour with the help of those stakeholders of the agriculture as mentioned above:

1. **Government:** The ruling government has hole sole authority for execution of law and order in the country. It can address the issues of child labour in the process of ending it from the country. In this respect the government, in coordination with other stakeholders of the country, has to incorporate the provision of ending of child labour in the constitution or acts of the country, and to be implemented the rule and regulations regarding the child labour accordingly.

2. **Political parties:** Political parties and the parliamentarians are considered as the stakeholders of the agriculture sector since they can make the plan and policy of the country as per the needs of the people. Hence, they can support to prepare the plan and policy about the ending of the child labour of the country with a consensus among the political parties / parliamentarians / government and none government agencies, and any other sectors as needed.

3. **Private and Public Organizations /Companies:** It should be prohibited for the participation of the children as the labourers in the private or public companies involved in the process of farming of the crops, or producing different types of foods with the purpose of marketing. Eventually, they want to hire more and more children for some soft type of activities in the companies because of low rate of wages for the children. It is recommended to stop the deployment of children in such organizations or companies by the authorized agencies of the country.

4. **NGOs / CBOs:** The non government or community based organizations working in agriculture sector should be very conscious of child labour. Therefore, they should ask and follow up of their clients / stakeholders for not accepting the child labour in their works.

5. **Neighbouring / Relatives:** There is high possibilities of involvement of the children in agricultural works mobilizing by the neighbours or relatives who are very close to the households specially in the rural areas of developing countries from Asia and Africa. It could be happened due to two reasons. The first one is that some of the children do not go to school because of lacking of money with their guardians. So the children are spending their days in vain in the households. The second one is that the children are not allowed to go to school in the pretext of caring of the children as well as of the livestock in the households. Therefore, the neighbours or the relatives request to the households to send their children specially at the time of cultivation as well as harvesting or even at the time of weeding of the crops.

Therefore, it is recommended to make aware to the households about the drawbacks of the child labour. Accordingly, there should be established a common understanding among the households and neighbours for not mobilizing the children in agricultural jobs.

Besides, the other important recommendation is that there should be applied the practice of exchanging of labour (known as Parma in Nepali ) at the time of farming from one household to another household in the settlement which is very popular in some parts of Nepal.

6. **Family / Household:** Actually the child labour is originated from the family / households. They do not allow their children to go to schools rather send to the jobs either in agriculture farming or in any other jobs to earn money for their subsistence. It is a very miserable fact that thousands of families / households do not have money to send to the children in the schools. In this respect, ending of the child labour has become only publicity for the policy makers or for the researchers. The agriculture sector including the livestock is considered as one of the highest sectors of exploitation of the children in various countries mainly in the third world.

To address the alarming situation of such households in respect of child labour it is recommended to provide some incentives by the government to the households having the potential children for labour works. They can be awarded by cash, or kinds like school dress, books and copies or even to provide some material supports to those parents who send their children to the school. In this respect, cash transfer is one of the supportive tools for ending the child labour.

## Robert Kibaya, Kikandwa Rural Communities Development Organization, Uganda

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Regards the subject, attached is my contribution on ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders.

Yours,

Kibaya Robert

Executive Director/ Founder

Kikandwa Rural Communities Development Organization

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| Robert Kibaya/Male/Kikandwa Rural Communities Development Organization |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| Rural Child Education Support |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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|  |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| East Africa/ Uganda/ Nabuti Village, Mukono Municipality |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| Farming and Livestock |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| According to Uganda’s 2012 PLE results a total of 565,663 pupils registered to sit Primary Leaving Examination (PLE), up from 535,933 in 2011 but only 543,071 showed up for the exams, indicating that 20,989 (3.7 percent) were absent, and according to statistics from the Ministry Of Education 1,598,636 pupils enrolled in 2006 for Primary one in government-aided schools but only 463,332 pupils sat for the PLE (which is only 29% of those who enrolled in 2006).  The African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Uganda Chapter carried out study in 25 public and private primary schools, and noted that the lack of meals, lead to low concentration and poor school performance. Also, though children are sent to school, others resort to intensive child labor in order to get what to eat for they are starved at school (no break tea or lunches provided). According to the International Labour organization (ILO) approximately 2.7 million children in Uganda are engaged in heavy labor-intensive activity such sugar cane cutting, fishing during the whole night, carrying heavy luggage from ferries to markets and stores, digging, working as housemaids, selling foods and drinks at market places or kiosks, making bricks, brewing alcohol, collecting and selling fire woods, washing clothes and keeping cattle. At home some of the students hardly get what to eat given the economic challenges especially in rural communities, with households spending more than 60% of their income on accessing food.  Further, lack of school fees and scholastic materials by majority of children attending school in rural communities have prevented many from continuing with their education.  Rural Child Education support programs will help to attract many children into schools and prevent them from engaging into agricultural labor-intensive activities during school time. Supporting poor rural school-going children with school fees, free meals and scholastic materials is good enough to help keep them in schools. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| In 2019 we consulted with children and parents in one of the sub-counties (Ntenjeru in Mukono District, Uganda) on the issue of many children not in school and yet they are seen in gardens digging, on the lake fishing, in markets selling agricultural products, etc during school time. We discovered that, most of the households were engaged in farming and fishing but they were not earning enough to help sustain their children in schools and providing them with all the basic needs in life.  Our intervention to help with the situation was to mobilize parents and some teachers to start up a community school called Mother Erinah Junior School (<https://www.facebook.com/Mother-Erinah-Junior-School-112160490602838>) to make sure that poor children have access to education. The enrollment was bigger than we can handle because we didn’t have classrooms, enough food, etc. We started on constructing a four-classroom block and when COVID19 came, everything remained at standstill up to date as per this blogpost reports (<https://bit.ly/3fKsc8L>)  Despite the fact that we don’t have classrooms, children continue to report back in bigger numbers. This has indicated to us that if poor rural children are supported in schools with school fees, meals and scholastic material, then they can surely keep at school and away from gardens, markets and lakes during class hours. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| We all know that 90% of agriculture in Africa is done in rural communities. We also know that most of the poor in Africa live in rural communities and their main economic activity is Agriculture. So, when we talk of child labour in Agriculture, then need to look into the situation in rural communities in regard to rural child education. It is well known to us that education in rural communities in Africa especially here in Uganda is very poor due to lack of school infrastructures, competent teachers who are willing to serve in rural schools, etc.  There is a need to enable rural education systems work by:  -Investing in rural education infrastructures.  -Support organizations and individuals who are supporting rural education.  -Supporting and promoting rural child education programs. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| There is a need to form Community Agricultural Stakeholder groups to help in monitoring, advocating, and sensitizing rural farmers on the usefulness of education and their responsibility towards supporting their children in schools. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| -Make education more accessible and affordable to poor rural children.  -Make education more attractive to rural children.  -Invest more in rural education infrastructures.  -Build capacities of small-scale rural farmers in less-labour demanding climate-smart profitable agriculture.  -Build capacities of small-scale rural farmers in digital marketing technologies to help in marketing their agricultural products and services.  -Support local organizations who are trying to promote education in rural communities.  -Introduce new incentives for teachers in rural communities.  -Authorities must create and maintain community databases for all children in rural communities to help in monitoring their education progress. |

## Hassanein Hawi Kadum, Ministry of Agriculture, Iraq

Child labor under the age of 17 is one of the most significant problems in the agricultural sector in Iraq, and one of the most important causes this problem is the poor financial situation of families who live in the countryside and the lack of job opportunities. Therefore, these families employ their children in agricultural work. The reluctance to go to schools to receive education, despite the fact that education is free in Iraq in public schools, so poor families cannot send their children to schools, as most children work in the field of clearing weeds in agricultural lands, harvesting, grazing animals and marketing agricultural products, whether animal or vegetable, which exposes them to many risks and thus not exercise their rights as children.

The most important right is to receive education in the right way which will benefit them in the future. Unfortunately, although education is free in Iraq, there are some obstacles for children to go to school, including the small number of schools in rural areas and the distance and unpaved roads that make it difficult for children to reach schools, especially in rainy days, as well as schools are small and unqualified to accommodate a large number of students, forcing some students to leave education and go to work in agriculture helping their families in making a living, as well as the lack of financial support for poor families by the government to meet their needs, so these families needed child labor.

Child labor has increased considering the Corona 19 COVID pandemic, the interruption of attendance and the trend for e-learning, which some students and their families are ignorant of.

It is necessary to put some proposals to find solutions to get rid of this difficult problem, even if the solution requires a long time, but it is necessary to try working for these children to enjoy their most basic rights, which is education and a decent living. Governments must establish laws regarding child labor under the age of 17 years for both males and females, and help and support poor families financially to stop child labor and make sure that their children are sent to schools to receive education. Governments should also raise awareness among rural families in terms of the importance of their children to continue to receive education because of its importance in improving their lives in the future. At the same time, they should provide them with information about occupational safety and health and what are the appropriate tasks for children that they can perform at any age and inform them of the risks that children face during their work. Furthermore, they should support food prices for these families and build a number of schools or rehabilitate existing schools and provide them with teaching staff while providing the necessary study supplies free of charge and paving the roads leading to schools are also important, as well as taking advantage of the summer vacation by engaging them in educational courses to develop their abilities, including teaching children. Using the computer in e-learning and other applications after equipping them with it and sewing courses for girls and other cottage industries in return for material wages, even if they are few, to motivate them to participate in such important courses, as well as paying attention to agricultural marketing operations, both plants and animals, to facilitate the families working in marketing bossiness helping them marketing products to local markets and give up the need employ their children.

The United Nations organizations, the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization must play an important and effective role in assisting low-income countries in the proposed solutions that were referred to in order to achieve the desired goals in reducing or eliminating the phenomenon of child labor and advancing their human and social rights.

## Ghaffar Paras, National Rural Support Programme, Pakistan

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to “Call for action: ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders”.

Please find enclosed a submission from our organization.

Kind Regards

Ghaffar Paras (Deputy Programme Manager)

Monitoring, Evaluation and Research; National Rural Support Programme

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| --- |
| **Ghaffar Paras/Male/National Rural Support Programme** |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| **Combatting child labour by addressing livelihoods** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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|  |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **Asia/Pakistan/Islamabad** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

|  |
| --- |
| **Farming and Livestock** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| * *Issue of child labour in agriculture:* People engage their children in child labour so that child can support earn additional income for the family; besides in most of the cases whole family including children are engaged in farming. * *Main causes:* Poverty is the main cause which drive people engage their children into labour. * *Impact of organizational work on addressing child labour:* NRSP has implemented different projects to address child labour in agriculture and other sectors. The main strategy we worked on is that we educate and make parents aware about harms of child labour and importance of educating their children; besides we also offer parents/family for additional livelihood support for the family with a condition to keep the child away from the labour activities. This strategy has been very successful. In some cases, people practice/engage in family farming activities in which everyone part of the family including children work on the family farm. In this case, organizations like us cannot force them to keep their children away from labour but what we offer includes (i) introduction of precautionary measures for children working on the farm, (ii) access to safety agri-tools to protect children and family, (iii) arrangement/organization of village level recreational activities like games, puppet shows, tournaments, festivals etc to attract children, (iv) health screening of children etc. * *Impact of COVID:* Yes, COVID has directly impacted the child labour as increase in child labour in agriculture is being observed. * *NRSP’s related Programmes and activities:* * The Social and Human Protection (SHP) section was initiated by NRSP in 2008. The programme focuses on marginalised and neglected groups such as women, the destitute and the disabled who often unable to participate in mainstream activities and face barriers in terms of skills, education, social networks and finance. Protecting children from child labour, bonded labour, abuse etc has also been focused by NRSP; as part of its child protection initiatives implemented across Pakistan. Some of the major child labour project implemented by NRSP with technical and financial support of different national and international funding agencies are explained below: * *Relevant Experience related to combating child labour* * As mentioned NRSP has been activity involved in Social and Human, Child Protection activities since many years. Following the major projects related to the said sub-thematic area; implemented and/or being implemented by National Rural Support Programme: * Socio-Economic Development of Destitute and Neglected Children Families in Punjab * Combating Abusive Child Labour Project in Sindh * Combating worst forms of child labour in Punjab * UNICEF Child Rights Project in Balochistan and Punjab * Technical assistance for the Child Labour surveys * Youth Development Project in Islamabad * Protective Learning and Community Emergency Services (PLaCES) Project in Sindh * The major work of the NRSP was carried out in conjunction with the Government of Punjab under the Socioeconomic Development of Destitute and Neglected Children's Families Project (SDDNCF) been implemented in 5 districts (Multan, Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala and Islamabad/Rawalpindi) of Punjab from period of 2008-2011. This work has enabled the NRSP to develop effective strategies for both targeting and implementation. The project aimed at creating employment and diversifying the income sources of 10,250 poor and destitute families of Street Children. Identification, rescue and registration of street children, provision of skills training, income generating grants and access to services including microfinance were part of the said intervention.   NRSP is implementing a Combating Child Labour Project in Sukkur (Sindh) with the finding of International Labour Organization (ILO). Under this intervention, children involved in the worst forms of child labour were engaged in education and skills building activities. Their families were assisted through access to credit, vocational training and business management skills training. Communities were supported, motivated and engaged in activities to make the work environment safer for children. One of the key aims of this intervention was to reduce the working hours of children (aged 15-17 years), improve literacy levels and to provide skills for better employment opportunities. Younger children were enrolled in non-formal education centres and later mainstreamed into formal schools. This Project has successfully enrolled 2,412 children in non-formal schools. The provision of vocational skills for the children families was also part of this project. This four years project is successfully completed and now NRSP is replicating the learnings into other related projects being planned for other areas. * Government of Punjab has funded a project to eliminate 34 worst forms of child labor, which were identified during a baseline survey in District Jhelum. Under this project 30 Non-Formal Education Centers (NFECs) have been established, in which 1,217 children between the age group of 5-14 were enrolled and facilitated with books/suppliers etc. These Children were previously engaged in child labor and after counseling their parents they were enrolled into NFECs. These children have been graduated/enrolled into local government schools to continue their education. In addition to this, 40 literacy-cumtraining centers have also been established for providing vocational training to the identified youth that could potentially lead to self-employment. 1,000 children between the age group of 15-17 were enrolled in these centers and were facilitated with vocational skills trainings and books. Moreover, 40 youth were facilitated with the job placement opportunities. Health screening of children is also an important component of this project in which 1,050 children were screened. Furthermore, 40 Mother Groups were formed to raise awareness regarding negative impacts of child labor and to motivate parents to keep their children away from child labor. NRSP successfully completed this 3 years project in 2017. With same approach and methodologies, another project of this kind was implemented for Dera Ghazi Khan, where 204 Non-Formal Basic Education Schools (NFBES) have been established in which 7,140 rescued children have been enrolled and facilitated with learning materials, books and stationary. Teachers in all established centers have also been trained. 204 Parents and Center Management Committees have been formed whose role is to encourage the parents and communities to retain their children into NFBES. Furthermore, all the children enrolled in NFBES gone through different rounds of medical screening and children were mainstreamed into formal schools. * Objectives of the UNICEF funded project (Promoting Child Rights) was to eliminate hazardous forms of child labor in cotton farming areas. The project focused on creating better livelihood opportunities for parents, so they will be able to withdraw their children from working in the fields. Comprehensive efforts were made to improve children’s and adults’ health and to enhance the learning environment in Government schools. Community Institutions and Child Protection Committees were formed and Community Resource Persons were recruited for raising awareness for the mas/public on Child Protection, water and sanitation activities. Awareness-raising sessions on health and hygiene, child protection and gender issues are also part of the said intervention. Project was initiated in 2012 in some UCs of Lasbella (Balochistan) and was expanded into other parts of Lasbella. Same project was replicated in three districts of Punjab including Bahawalpur, Rajanpur and Rahim Yar Khan with the financial support of RSPN. * NRSP has been engaged by UNICEF as local partner of C4ED, Germany to provide technical assistance to the Provincial Governments to carry out first ever provincial level Child Labour Survey in Pakistan. NRSP is providing technical assistance to the Provincial Bureau of Statistics and Labour Departments of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and AJK. This includes consultative workshops to finalize the roll out plan, survey tools, finalize manuals for enumerators, supervisors, guidelines for monitoring and conducting Training of Trainers. Child Labour survey was completed in GB, pilots completed in Punjab and Sindh and are expected to be completed in three remaining province during the 2022. * NRSP implemented a project on Enhancement of Vocational Skills and Linkages Development activities focusing on families whose children were engaged in Abusive Child Labour. This was a one year project implemented in 2008 with the financial support of Plant International and Islamabad slum being the main focus area. Through this intervention NRSP intended to address the structural causes and consequences of household poverty which ultimately puts children at risk i.e child dropout, they are forced into child labour to support their family’s income, gets vulnerable for sexual abuses etc. * Since October 2011, NRSP has been implementing Protective Learning and Community Emergency Services Project under the funding of United Nation Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and setup more than 200 Protective centres for flood affected communities in Badin, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Jacobabad, Kashmore and Kandhkot districts of Sindh Province. These centers provided a safe environment for learning and recreational activities, for child protection, such as puppet shows, sports, games, theatre and role-plays; and kept them away from child abuse and child labour. Social Protection Committees were set up in flood affected villages, used to identify and register 70,999 vulnerable children and 15,989 women and at these centers. Registered Women and children were linked to various protection services. This project is still on going in three districts of Sindh and UNICEF is planning to promote these interventions in other programme areas of NRSP nationwide. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| NRSP is a national organization, has excellent capacity and experience of implementing projects of this kind, so offers to implement projects on addressing child labour nationwide. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| * Some of them are as under: * Convincing parents to keep their children away from labour work; this is usually addressed by attracting parents towards livelihood opportunities as a trade to keep their children away from work and enrolling them into educational institutions * Sustainability of interventions is sometimes a big issue. Once a project is over, child is again engaged into labour activities. NRSP has a strategy to address this through community monitoring through its community institutions and activities. But this also require financial resources. Another important role which can be played to sustain is by the public sector/government departments; which should take over the activities/ projects as part of the routine government programmes. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| * Explained above |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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## Bernd Seiffert, facilitator of the call

Dear participants, the new ILO-UNICEF Global Estimates on Child Labour have been released. With four years left before the 2025 deadline for achieving [SDG 8.7](http://newsletters.fao.org/c/16xHRCwilF2a612sEuBckSqG), numbers are alarming. In early 2020, 112 million child labourers were found in agriculture, marking an increase of 4 million since 2016. In relative terms, the agricultural sector is still accounting for more than 70% of all child labour. In addition, a new analysis suggests that a further 8.9 million children will be in child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of rising poverty driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. To put action to end child labour on track, we urgently need a breakthrough in agriculture. All agricultural actors can make a difference. Join our efforts and share with us your thoughts by Monday!

## Uganda National Farmers Federation, Uganda

**Small Holder Farmers burden in tackling child labour in rural farming Communities.**

**1.0 Introduction**

While 152 Million children aged 5 to 17 years are in child labour, 70 % of these work in agriculture due to the laborious nature of the sector, low technology development for some farming communities and also the social norms of the community set many of the small holder farmers are. In the recent survey, 3 out of 10 children (29%) were engaged in hazardous work, or worked for longer hours, while the child labour cases on farm arose to 18% still indicating high cases in the agricultural sector (UBOS 2021).

Since the last 15 years I have been working with Small Holder Farmers in the different parts of the country, mostly in the rural farming set up in crop, animal, and the several general activities of the farmers. It is possible that more that 80% of the Small Holder farmers I have engaged with before have very little or no knowledge of the challenges associated with child labour, and also less information about children rights.

As the global efforts and momentum in eliminating child labour is getting warm, through the efforts through international year of elimination of Child labor , we need to focus on the rural and farming communities getting to understand the dangers of child labour, and its implication on the social - economic development since we cannot engage and solve what the farmers do not understand fully, unless the small holder farmers understand the magnitude of the problem, they will minimally support the efforts of ending child labour especially the 70% children that are still marred in practice- child labour in agriculture.

Child labour being the work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and more so that harms children mentally, physically, socially and morally (ILO 2021) most cases, the enforcers in the developing countries have little or no knowledge at all on the challenges of child labour and sometimes the laws that protect children from such dangerous practices associated with. If law makers and enforcers have good prior knowledge on the proper goals and understanding its implication, and the goals of ending child labour would make a good combination of support for the rural communities in following up children that are imprisoned in the child labour practices.

More so majority of the children lack awareness on their rights in regard to protection from child labour, mostly some of them feel not comfortable but lack awareness on the provision the legal instruments that would move in to stand for the truth of what they know to be able to enjoy their rights.

Truly we commend the government of Uganda that has established several law reforms to promote the rights of children like ending child labour through laws like the Employment Act 2006 that introduced an offence in relating to child labour, for children under 12 years, but light labour for children under 14 years. More so proposals to amend Children’s Act have also been made to specify and end hazardous work and child labour. This is an indication that we have some good legal reforms to protect children however there are some gaps in its knowledge by the communities, enforcers and the general implementation process. Therefore actions geared to sensitise the communities about the possible dangers of child labour and more so the legal provisions in child labour would be some of the good steps in ending child labour.

Whereas child labour is more pronounced in agricultural sector, majority of the workers in the sector that is mainly informal in operations of farm work, which and when makes it difficult to map the compliance, enforcement and follow-up on the child labour cases.

In reality most of the developing and middle income countries have several challenges they are grappling with which make the point of emphasizing ending child labour not a top priority in enforcement and implementation of laws, policies, and frameworks aimed at ending child labour. For example if we talk about issues of natural calamities, famine, wars, COVID 19 it is matter of life and death that the several governments are considering and thus ending child labour may appear not first priority. In countries where there is increase in crime, like defilement, rape, trafficking of children, and other deeper seemingly urgent challenges than the cases in relation to child labour may not easily attract a lot of urgency as it deserves.

**2.0 Background**

While the year 2020 was a year full of many calamities in Ugandan agriculture sector, full of rise in water levels on the lake Victoria, COVID 19 outbreak that pushed several families into poverty, floods in some parts of the country, and locust invasion, it increased a lot of pressure on the small holder farmers who were pushed to the wall on accessing critical farm inputs like labor, seeds, finance and markets as ideally should have been. This did not leave the farm workers the same, and the farm worker pressure could have amounted than ever before with the changes and waves of challenges that had toll on the sector.

In the recent survey conducted by Uganda National Bureau of Statistics, Child labour cases in the country increased by 26% in the two districts of Hoima and Kikube – 74,000 children (UBOS 2021). This is much higher than 15% as of 20/17 national labour survey that was 15%. When house hold chores were added, it rose to 31% increase in child labour cases in the mentioned Districts. This indeed is very alarming and needs urgent attention from the government, farming households, development partners and more.

While the COVID 19 outbreak restrictions and SOP enforcement came into play, majority of the children were confined in particular villages as confined for more than previously when they are engaged in school and other education related activities. The 1st lock down that called for schools to close 18th March 2020 until June 2021 that has culminated added into a second lock down before some of the learners could attend school has forced many of them to stay with limited alternatives other than attend to the agricultural work with their families and communities which they live in that has pushed several of the numbers of child labour higher that the usual.

In most local communities the children still belong to a bigger communities not only to their families and sometimes the extended families that have more members that attract a lot of work the children could be exposed to both domestic and farm activities. For example rearing animals for more than one family, fetching water, clearing land and many more beyond the demands in the families where they have always been contributing to family labour.

Uganda’s agricultural sector is mainly characterized by Small Holder Farmers comprising of 75% of the agricultural workers, who are mainly aging on average 54 years and may not easily contribute effectively to the laborious nature of agriculture that require a lot of energy in contributing to farm labour. And the few young people that are still working in the agricultural sector are there because they haven’t found better opportunities with limited concentration on supporting the farm activities. For example , nearly 76% of the farmers aged 15 - 29 years currently working in agriculture would leave the carrier for a better work opportunities elsewhere, thus leaving a gap in provision of farm labour. The increase in the aging population on farm has pulled a lot on increase in the demand for labour on the farm that could easily be topped with child labour.

While Uganda is favorable for wide range of agricultural production enterprises, the National Development Plan III (2020-2025) with agro industrialization agenda has priotised 9 major enterprises for the transformation of the Uganda economy. In order to realize agro industrialization agenda in the country, the programme has selected majorly this nine commodities including coffee, tea, fisheries, cotton, vegetable oil, beef by- products, maize and dairy because of their impact on exports earnings. This in itself exerts pressure on the agricultural sector which has to provide solutions to food security, increase in export earnings and also the raw materials for the agro related industries as suggested by the development plan.

The national Development Plan III is a clear reflection that the engine of growth for the economy will be mainly agriculture in the coming 5 years. The pressure and demands of the agriculture sector is most likely going to double if we are to realize the targets of the development plan 2020- 2025. If there is no deliberate action to pay attention to eliminating child labour on agricultural farms it is at this time that the government of Uganda pays keen attention to social and economic development factors of growth with clearer strategies of ending child labour in Uganda.

**3.0 Situation analysis.**

Majority of these Small Holder Farmers are still struggling to break through from subsistence to commercial farming that still has a smaller percentage of the farming fraternity. The social construct in the rural farming communities composed mainly of Small Holder Farmers has for some time posed difficulty in accessing finances, critical inputs, labor on farm and are faced with several pests and diseases which have limited them to break even with several alternatives on their farms other than use of available labour in their communities that has culminated into many cases of child labour in the country and other developing economies.

In most of the farming rural communities, the agricultural activities are labour intensive and require a lot of support from the majority of the community members including child workers. This has further created more room for the child labour on farm in relation to the huge demand of labour by the agricultural activities of the small Holder farmers.

Socially the children belong not only to one family but also to the bigger surrounding community composed of several other families which emphasizes some obligations especially in helping on both domestic and farm labour supply. Since majority of the aging population is embedded in our grass root farming system, most often they require support on farm and house hold labour which any of the several child in the community has an obligation to support the bulging work activities that demand effort of the children and sometimes denies them an opportunity to enjoy their rights as children.

This in actual sense is combined with mentorship into working labour but to greater extent it is intertwined with child labour since most of the times children engaged in this community work for long, miss out on their education, some do not find time to play and enjoy other rights as children deserve. It would be easier to regulate cases of child labour well known by the homesteads they reside in, however since there are many stakeholders that engage these children in extra and excessive work, it is a little difficult to have them regulated.

I would not say that this should totally stop, since it supports the livelihood of some of the farming communities that without out such support, some would not get a chance of reaching the next day but I believe if well regulated and monitored the mentorship into work for the children would blend better with minimum violation of the children rights in their involvement in child labour.

While the infrastructure that support farm lands in most rural areas are not fully developed some times it is difficult to apply better techniques in farming, for example some productive farm lands in several communities are located in wetlands that have a poor road infrastructure and thus reaching out to harvesting, majorly manual labour is suitable, and manual transportation which in tandem demands excessive labour that encroaches on the child labourers to fill up the labour deficit created by lack of efficient technology on farm.

Agricultural activities are not the only vessels demanding the big magnitudes of child labour, however also domestic gender oriented roles have taken toll of draining children on their rights. For example in several rural farming communities, when the mother in a home is attending to the farm, it is usually a responsibility of the younger girls to tend the babies in a home, cook, fetch firewood to supplement the labour of their mothers in a home stead. This in most cases have also denied some of the young female children to attend fully they school, engage with other children in enjoying their child hood games and other privileges.

This usually has been more vigorous in some particular seasons like planting seasons, land clearing, weeding, harvesting which mostly are more labour intensive than other activities than other farm activities and more so they are time bound. Below are some of the quick reasons that child labour has persisted in the agricultural farm activities.

We cannot eliminate child labour in the agriculture sector with ease especially in the set up of the small Holder Environment if we do not know where it starts or ends.

**4.0 Why has child labour in agriculture persisted?**

***Structure of agricultural value chain activities***

While looking into the different, urgent and labour intensive activities on the farm, it is important to note that sometimes it is hard for some Small Holder and emerging farms cannot easily do away with child labour in reality, even when policy directs.

The following are some of the major activities on the farm that require urgent attention of the youth, elderly, children that if they do not activitly support the food systems, food security, and other demands of food production would collapse thus ending in the child labour increase.

1. **Limited access to financial resources**

There is increasingly limited agricultural financing to help improve subsistence to commercial agricultural in farming systems. Most of the emerging small Holder farmers have limited finances and as a key factor of production to help them access the decent farm labour as may be required from time to time. The labour on the farm involving land clearing, planting, weeding, harvesting, transportation and other activities which is not easy to cope with its demand if finances to pay for labour on the farm. Due to the labour intensive nature of most of these farms, the finances to pay for required labour are not readily available and thus may end into accessing the cheapest labour available through Child labour.

**Recommendation**

Government and partners could consider supporting Small Holder Farmers with labour saving technologies to like tractors, planters, weeding equipment, driers that require less labour than manual that has sought more demand for child labourers.

Farmers could learn from best practices and home grown approaches like Village Savings and Loans Associations to be able to access the funds to help them in the activities of the value chain as they require different form of labour.

More so opportunities like pool of digging cooperatives if well organized could plan and support one another in the different demands of farm labour. This has worked sustainably for some communities with some group of people combining into a labour gang that concentrates on one farm to clear the land, and next day to another farm which in the end provides a sooth in the quench for child laborers.

1. **Poor and undeveloped technology on some farms:**

Majority of the smaller farmers still use some tools that add laborious nature of farm activities. 95.8% use hoes on their farm UBOS (2010) and less than 10% of the farms have mechanized, due to high costs of farm inputs that the farmers can barely afford thus leaving farmers to still utilize the rudimentary tools of pangas, hoes, cycles, and more to clear the land plant, prunning and do several activities on the farm. Due to the use of rudimentary tools on the farm the demand, there is a lot of inefficiency at some point in achieving some farm targets in terms of labour which is sometimes too overwhelming that some farmers end up in soliciting for child labor to fill the gap.

**Recommendations:**

The private sector investors could look at producing the farm equipment for clearing, planters, weeding, and harvesting that are less costly especially for the farmers through affordability.

Governments could establish strategies and policies that look into subsidizing the farm equipment to make it affordable for the farmers in order to reduce the intensity of labour demand on farm that sometimes tempts several of them to look around for labour back through child labour.

Financiers and Finance institutions should deliberately consider approaches of financing and finance products that enable the farmers to accessing agricultural equipment through shared costs to reduce on the ever increasing burden of farm labour.

1. **Poor agricultural practices and technology employed on farm**

Poor agricultural practices and technology including among others like using mouth planting, broad casting seed, lack of proper weed control, and other agricultural practices consistently generate a lot of the demand for labour which makes work difficult with agriculture and increase demand for labour on the farm. This also attracted to some extent child labour solicit to fill the labour deficit on the farm.

**Recommendation**

Proper and efficient agriculture extension services should be extended to the farmers to enable them use good agricultural practices that would reduce on the hustling with increased demand for labour that is a result of poor agricultural practices. Both governments, private sector extension services could combine efforts of reaching out to guide the farmers on properly managing their farms with efficiency that would enable them smoothly use labour intensive techniques may not end in demand for extra labour attracted through child labourers.

1. **Lack of school requirements**

In some cases some children are not in school because of lack of scholastic requirements in the rural areas thus they are available to provide farm labour when “an opportunity” arrises. Attending school has several school requirements like school fees, uniforms, books, pens and other scholastic materials that which and when they do not have they are regularly chased from school with no other option other that providing labour – child labour since they have no other alternatives. Majority of the householders are still faced with challenges of poverty with lack of ability to meet basic needs for their homes.

While most of the scholastic materials required for a child to be at school seems not very costly on average at about 50 dollars in the rural areas, more than 41% of the population live on less than 2 dollars per day (Opportunity International 2020). When the ends do not meet in other basic needs, education – the basic right of children is shelved and pushes the majority of the children to attend to other available opportunities on farm through providing labour for the livelihood.

**Recommendation:**

There is need to subsidize education services for the children to enable attainment of basic education level to reduce on the increasing margins of income inequality, and achievements on of the Sustainable Development Goals. If children are not provided with alternatives of basic education attainment at such level they will be involved even in the worst forms of child labour and vicious circle of poverty that attracts “seasonal and generational” forms of child labour.

1. **Mindset , training and education background of the parents and care takers:**

Majority of the parents and care takers still have no clarity of the challenges associated with child labour and as a result they have not taken any of the serious initiatives to help redeem children out of the monster of the child labour. For many years the perception of agriculture in rural areas has been one of working hard and earning less, which discourages the young people who have seen their parents struggling and the livelihoods of their parents have largely remained unchanged. Thus attracting labour for the young energetic may not be easy. As a result some parents also force their children to look for survival through labour by themselves since they would find nothing much to loose through the initiative. Some parents have always been caught in the idealogies of considering themselves heroes through child labour, while the others in conversations like “did I die when I did not go to school” , aren’t they people that do not go to school “ which has continually denied children a chance of several other alternatives of living their dream other than child labour.

**Recommendation**

Continuous sensitization of the parents and local communities on the rights of children and the dangers of child labour would help the parents give up on facilitating platforms that increase chances of child labour.

Exposure visits, and scenarios would help some of the parents learn more about the opportunities of proper parental guidance that cubs down the hunger of using child labour for short term benefits.

1. **Increased challenges paused by climate changes**

Agriculture sector is mainly rain fed up to more than 85%, which is affected by the current weather changes that have become un predictable. When there are no rains, children are the major source of labour to fetch water for farm work, like watering crops, watering animals, and even house hold chores. Traditionally in most of the rural set communities, fetching water communally understood to be the job of children which sometimes overrides their rights and benefits as children. The pressure caused by unreliable weather conditions have made it hard for the some children to escape the routine responsibility which at the end has pushed them sometimes to miss school especially in the dry seasons, for them to fetch water, move with animals for longer distances in search of good pastures, and water for animals.

**Recommendation**

Affordable water harvesting technology and irrigation systems could be extended to the farmers and and several struggling households as to offer a better alternative for replacing the child labour related activities in the growing of crops and animals.

1. **Seasonality of some cropping seasons.**

In several cropping systems like at weeding season in most agricultural communities the children do not go to school instead they offer labour to the farms since there are limited alternatives of labour. This is more common in the cereals like rice, millet, sorghum, beans, not only in weeding but also harvesting.

Managing pests and birds to help in chasing pests in the pre-harvest to ensure that the crop is not lost to the pests and wilder eaters. This is predominantly a job for the children, to chase for animals and eaters of the harvest.

**Recommendation.**

Robust sensitization of the communities on the implications of child labour in the long and short term would help them think of the better on the other innovative options to fill up the labour demands.

1. **Limited alternatives on required hazardous activities on farm.**

In tropical Africa, there has been an increase in pests and diseases because of one reason or another which has caused a lot of demand to deal with them through spraying with pesticides. In some communities, children have been gazetted to do this work since sometimes they are ignorant about dangers of application of pesticides, fungicides accaricides. Spraying is done by the children because of its risky nature they are not aware about; mainly children can offer this service, which they have sometimes done professionally, no clear procedures like praying not against the wind, when they lack personal protection . More so the adult workers demand for more money for such jobs which some farmers may not break if utilised thus end up using child labour.

**Recommendation**

Monitors, enforcers and other compliance in charge should look out for such hazardous engagement with children by the culprits that need to be criminalized. It is unfortunate though that some parents send their children on such assignments on farm with ignorance of the would be impact from the children applying dangerous agro chemicals with still the majority of the parents and /or children that cannot read and apply with the instructions and guide to chemical application.

Professional spray men with adequate knowledge on the application could be made available and accessible to offer such support to the farmers that require this instead of the children. This has been used before though not scaled up to different regions for replication though successful.

Agricultural extension workers need to get closer to the farmers to offer guidance and support on proper handling and use of pesticides.

1. **Laborious nature of harvesting**

Agriculture activities generally as earlier mentioned are labour intensive but there are also some crops and enterprises that require more labour than others in particular phases of their growth. Such crops include mainly cereals like millet, wheat, rice, sorghum that usually require strict way and timing of planting, weeding, harvesting, and drying. In some cases, one has to harvest for example like 10-15 acres within one week manually , that requires urgent labour on harvesting with limited tools which situation could has been encountered with mainly child labour that they opt for since they are usually cheaper.

More so in some scenarios of like such type of crops including rice, millet, sorghum they attract several pests like birds, monkeys, that mostly may cause a lot of losses on the garden. In such seasons like these, the farmers have always given the job of guarding the crop to children who miss out on school, timely meals and other children benefits while attending to the crop to protect them from the un planned wild eaters.

**Recommendation**

Affordable harvesting equipment could be availed to the farmers to ease on the laborious nature of the harvesting.

Innovations of scare crows and technologies to replace the child labour, could offer solutions and alternatives on the farm to reduce on the pest monitoring activities by the children.

1. **Difficulty of Transportation**

Usually on local farms of the Smaller Holder Farmers, there have been consistent challenges of transportation of the produce from the garden to the home, drying areas and sometimes to the markets. Since majority of the farms are owned and managed by the elderly, it is still difficult for them to transport such produce from one area to another manually. For example carrying a 60Kg bag from one place to another on the head or sometimes bicycles since the community access roads are not readily available to work for them. It is at this point that majority of the farmers utilize the child laborers to offer labour on the farm. In most cases, such good harvests grow better in prime lands, surrounded by shrubs and bushes and sometimes are in wetlands where the alternative source of labour for transport could be obtained from and physical /manual transportation that sometimes is got from the cheaper alternatives like child labour.

**Recommendation**

Government and partners should support the establishment of farm and community access roads (feeder roads) to help connect with relevant transporting servicers nearer to the farmer to reduce on the intensity of labour demands.

Government could help the farmer’s access better motorcycles, tricycles and vans to transport their produce from one area to another to help ease the nature of transport that attracts the farmers.

1. **Small Holder Farmers mostly have no proper storage**, driers and general post harvest equipment. This has had pressures on the majority of the farmers who have to struggle and innovate proper drying grounds for their crop especially cereals that require consistent drying demand if proper quality is to be realized. At some point the farmers have also to dry only when there is sunshine or proper heat conditions from the natural weather and when the weather changes, there is need for the capacity to rush and withdraw the produce from harsh weather. In the nature such work, is mainly the youth and children that still have the capacity to support such activities. This amounts also pressure on some farmers in some seasons to hook child labour to transition them in this process that requires almost 12 hour monitoring and labour reinforcement.

**Recommendation**

Farmers could be supported with establishment of recommended and efficient drying areas that could help in saving the farmers the hustle of running up and down for some emergency situation.

Modern equipment and storage facilities could be extended to the farmers to help them maintain good quality of the produce to fetch better prices but also reduce on the hustle of finding labour among the child workers.

1. **Marketing of agricultural produce** is not organized and structured to help so need a lot of attention from the watchers of the markets and transporters to the markets which sometimes are weekly or monthly. While in such markets, it is also probability ahalf to sell or not sell demanding on the demands of the market. It they buy from the market it is the best but if they do not buy all it is a requirement that such produce is taken back home which these children provide labour in on the bicycles of head.

**Recommendation**

Collective bulking and bargaining is one of the key tools and approaches that could organize farmers for the proper and organized markets, that would reduce the burden on the children and allow them to concrete on the matters that concern them or even would attract better moneys from the sales that would provide the farmers with several alternatives of finances for them to match their increasing needs on farm other than child labour.

It is very key to note as previously mentioned that child labour has not been only in the crop but also in animal enterprises like poultry, piggery, dairy. In these enterprises they are also considered high value enterprises and so they always call for urgent attention on the labour supply that has engulfed the children on several occasions to give in to child labour..

In poultry, most of the times children have been involved in the construction of chicken, rabbit, houses, with affordable materials though risky for children to find such materials eg going to the forests to cut poles for construction, the child may be bitten by snakes, may get serious injuries, that may affect the future of such children.

This is also coupled with activities such as preparing to receive chicks of a day old is another activity that may from time to time require a lot of labour in preparing husks and the entire houses of the chicken, local heating system which the heat has to be rotated round the poultry houses to reach all the chicks which sometimes is done in the middle of the cold night. This mostly is the job of the children on the farm to follow up that sometimes denies them some time a chance to acquire good sleep and rest.

Feeding the chicken is also quite some good amount of work that mostly is found of being provided by children. Feeding the animals require children move some distance to look for green leafy vegetables that sometimes are not in the safe environments which could also expose them to some bigger risks that may end their lives or get exposed to harmful activities on the farm forever.

Livestock care activities including cows, sheep , goats and more is one of the other common activities that have consistently attracted the urgent need of children. In some regions like Karamoja where there is nomadic pastoralism, it is the children aged between 7-15 that move with the animals from one place to another in search of good pasture, and water for the animals. As a result such children are found of moving more 15 to 70 kilometers from the homes in such of the above which sometimes has caused them to be victims of cattle raids that sometimes has injured them or even ended their lives because of lack of proper decision making in case of the attacks away from home.

While children attend to such in their communities there is minimum time for them to attend school and other child development activities which has not allowed a hoped better future.

More so, away from the nomadic pasoralism, there are some gazetted responsibilities of children in dairy that they have to fulfil especially activities like watering animals which sometimes the children may fall in the unprotected water wells, milking, transporting milk, chasing flies insects that interfere with milking activities and several other curtails of activities. Children sometimes are charged with the responsibility of cleaning the animal houses regularly which is hazardous in most cases if not well protected with PPE at the time of engagement in the cleaning activities.

There are also some other activities such as hawking of milk for smaller farms especially farms that produce like less than 15 Liters of milk who are the majority that may not easily qualify for the opportunities from milk collection centre. This milk cannot be taken by any other a parties with ease from the children through door to door sales. Transporting milk to the milk collection centers is another urgent job mainly for children mostly on bicycles or on the head carrying.

There are mainly other activities like the sell for the animals in the weekly/monthly markets which require the children and farmers to walk several miles, which and when not sold they have to be taken back home of 10 -15 kilometers from the home another risk affecting children not only on child labor, and their lives at risk.

**5.0 Key lessons learnt**

Technology advancement on farm could reduce on the laborious nature of farm activities and this would reduce on child labour increasing cases in the agriculture sector.

Follow up on the improvement of agronomic practices such as mulching and other climate smart agricultural activities that could facilitate proper growth and management of crop and limited infestation pests and disease, which will reduce on the child labour.

Professional spray men could be interested and more to support the work of the Small Holder Farmers in the value chain activities which would be key in elimination of hazardous practices in the child labour from some activities such as the weeding and spraying activities.

Collective bargaining could be facilitated and emphasized among the small Holder farmers to help the farmers tap into better and organized markets that would offer facilities like transport, storage and better prices to help them get proper access to the required financing.

There should be deliberate efforts by financial service providers to come to the rescue of the small holder farmers to reduce on the pressure amounting from limited finances on the farm that will in tandem contribute to elimination of child labour.

Provision of affordable and accessible extension services is key in helping to guide the farmers on proper and professional methods of work on farm.

Provision of good quality inputs would provide better returns on the farmers’ outputs that can also raise and save money to hire labour, relevant, or other PPEs to help on farm.

Building the capacity of farmers in financial literacy, like savings practices, debt management, record keeping insurance would help the farmers move an extra mile in manage the agricultural related risks that have been attracting the use of child labour.

Facilitating innovation on farms like in areas of value addition would attract recycling and interdependence on integrated farm systems the farm activities like maize, for maize brands, or cotton seed cake for animals, manure to the crop farms coffee husks for the animal houses which would ease work on the farm.

There is need to establish emergency funds to support farmers in the areas where there is total loss of crops or animals for example floods, drought, epidemics and crop diseases to shield the shock of the farmers whenever they it may be hard for them to cope.

**6.0 Conclusion**

Most of the activities they do on farm is educative in nature in helping them continue farming, and develop alternative livelihood in future, from taking on from their parents, however most of the young labourers lack protection like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), gums boots, overalls, gloves, glasses on spreading, protection from cold weather when spraying, face masks, huts when on tough weather, protected wells, on watering animals.

If the environment of operation for these children, regulated and monitored by responsible persons, it is a good foundation to build on and transmission the younger farmers into the other responsible young famers to transform the communication. The year of elimination of child labour is not enough could be organized interventions and activities of in a decade of family farming.

It is also key to note that relevant approaches like technological advancement, sensitization of the agricultural sector stakeholder, collective bargaining, enforcement and compliance to set laws and guidelines would deliver us an extra mile in eliminating child labour in agriculture.

We believe a international year of elimination of child labour 2021 is not enough in helping us realize the desired results instead adding years up even to the a decade focusing on elimination of child labour would support the situation and enable us deliver on the recommendations geared towards elimination of child labour.

Above all income security for small holder farmers is paramount to quicken elimination of child labour in combination of other strategies of course since most of the factors for its persistence are poverty related among the smaller holder farms.

## Frantz Seide, CARE USA, United States of America

Dear all,

Please find the attached submission regarding CARE's integrated approach to tackle the incidence of child labor in the agri-food sector, at the household,community, and market levels. Thank you.

Best regards,

Frantz Seide

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| **Frantz Seide, Technical Advisor Youth and Livelihoods | CARE USA** |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| **An integrated approach against Child Labor in the agriculture and food sector** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

|  |
| --- |
| International Development |

**Region/Country/Location**

|  |
| --- |
| USA |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labor in agriculture that concerns you?
   * What are the main causes? And consequences?
   * What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labor in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labor in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labor in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

|  |
| --- |
| **Background**  The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labor as any” work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity and that is harmful to their physical and mental development.” In the context of rural livelihoods, the phenomenon of premature children participation in on-farm and off-farm labor activities stand out as one of the most upsetting signs of poverty and child exploitation in developing countries. Based on recent statistics, nearly 160 million children aged 5-14 years old are subjected to child labor worldwide at the beginning of 2020 [[32]](#footnote-32). By 2025, an estimated 121 million children will still be in child labour, with 52 million involved in hazardous work. [[33]](#footnote-33)The International Labour Organization estimated that over 165 million the number of children and adolescents between the ages of 5 and 14 years old are involved in various forms of child labor. As a persistent feature of rural poverty, such practice continues to account for a significant share of the rural labor force. Child labor is concentrated primarily in the agriculture sector and accounts for 71 per cent of the children enrolled in agriculture operations which include livestock rearing, fishing, forestry and all forms off-farm activities in the agri-food sector. (ILO, 2017) [[34]](#footnote-34)  Despite decades of advocacy efforts and legislative measures, a large of children and young adolescents are involved in productive activities as unpaid helpers or low wage workers in subsistence farming and large-scale agriculture operations. The incidence of child labor has prevailed in many countries due to misguided customs and social norms, shortage of community-based schools and quality education, poor labor standards, and the lack of commitment in the agri-food sector to tackle the issue. As a result of hopeless economic constraints, rural households often bail out of their obligations to prioritize the well-being and education of their school-age children in favor of their contribution to labor-intensive farming chores and local jobs. In poor households with high adult illiteracy rate, many children who are either unschooled or early school drop-outs become involved in different forms of agriculture-based child labor. They are often required to work in farming tasks beyond their physical abilities, toiling away hungry during long work shifts, in poor health, under exploitative and hazardous working conditions.  While the causes of child labor are often probed in regards of the enabling roles parental choice and socio-cultural norms play, in fact, the phenomenon is mostly derived from and sustained by complex poverty contexts and constrained choice that rural households face to survive and sustain their livelihoods. More than a just a parenting custom, or the optimal choice from a selfish calculation, the incidence of child labor in agriculture is essentially a clear example of externalities in the agri-food system[[35]](#footnote-35). The causes of child labor are traced back to the difficult choices poor rural households are facing to provide for their basic needs and take care of their children with their meager farm-based livelihoods. Because of increasingly low yields and low margins of return in subsistence farming activities, poor rural families often weigh carefully the costs of children care and education against the potential “cost savings” of leaving them out-of-school, or the benefits of using their relative workforce contribution. In times of severe livelihoods constraints, it’s common practice among poor rural households to resort to child labor practices either to mitigate loss of income, to cut on farming cost through their free labor, or to supplement household income with their earnings from better-off farming households, or large agriculture employers.  The risks of child labor become even higher in poor rural communities where members of poor rural households view their children’s idleness and enrollment in school as a luxury they cannot afford, nor a privilege that their children should enjoy, given their dire livelihood conditions. If families can’t afford the costs of schooling or simply resent losing on the labor savings and the loss of productivity associated with giving up on their children’s labor, they often opt them out of both learning and leisure activities. That calculated arrangement often prevails even in communities where school availability, distance, and tuition fees are no longer the problems. It is worth noting that most of the rural parents have also been victims of child labor in one form or another, and tend to perpetuate the practice with their own children. The pattern of child labor practices among poor rural families corroborates Basu and Van’s luxury axiom on child labor by which “a family will send the children to the labor market only if the family’s income from non-child labor sources drops very low” (Basu and Van, 1998). As part of the livelihood’s strategy of financially distressed rural households, child labor is often a cost-saving and sweat equity arrangement most parents will settle for on the back of their children. This is done in disregard of their lack of agency and the compounded consequences of that misguided choice on their immediate needs and long-term ramifications on their quality of life. While the practice starts at the household level, the large presence of children working in non-family agriculture labor indicates that the demand for cheap child labor is very much alive and well in the agriculture sector, especially in poor agrarian economies.  As economic conditions worsen in rural areas, labor participation of school-age children often stretches beyond the household’s farming plots to become a market-wide labor practices among local agriculture operators and employers in the agri-food sector. Through that extraction mindset, children are seen as a source of additional and cheap labor force as they are thrust prematurely into agriculture employment to provide for themselves by supplementing their family’s income. The labor force of rural children and young adolescent boys and girls is therefore co-opted by a local agricultural labor market in ways that are exploitative and harmful. Even in some countries where child labor is banned in most productive industries, the agriculture sector is often exempt of the regulations[[36]](#footnote-36) and scrutiny over child labor practices which result in considerable externalities for rural children, households and communities. Research on the historical use of child labor during the industrial revolution provides clear indication of economic conditions that explain why child labor currently accounts for a significant share of agriculture labor in many developing countries” *It was demand, not supply, which dramatically increased the employment of children and youth in certain leading industries”* (Tutte, 1999). As more children and youth become engaged at an early age in agriculture activities, their increased productivity has resulted in rising demand for a large number of them to provide their services in agriculture activities, both on-farm and off-farm. In many countries, the applicability and effectiveness of child protection legislation are often challenged by industry demand for cheap labor, the lack of employment alternatives and social safety nets, including the specter of even worst forms of child exploitation that loom over poor children from rural households. In such a context, the widespread use of children for their labor by agriculture operators confirms the labor substitution axiom by which child labour and adults labour are substitutes from a firm point of view (Basu and Van, 1998). Despite technological advances, on-farm and off-farm activities are still highly dependent on child labor in developing countries either for short-sighted economic gains, or simply by necessity given the supply and demand aspects of the labor market dynamics in rural communities. The privileged view of economic actors that often rationalize or simply dismiss the harmful effects of such child labor needs to be addressed at a systemic level way to interrupt such harmful labor practices among powerful market actors that perpetuate a transgenerational cycle of poverty and inequality in rural communities.  Regardless of the circumstances, child labor has immediate and long-term consequences of the development and well-being of children who only live to work their way to adulthood. Even when child labor is compensated by either wages or in-kind resources (food, clothes, shelter), the immediate harm to children and long-term repercussions are incalculable given the consequences of this violation of children rights including the long-term human capital crisis this practice creates at a community and country levels. In all its forms, child labor in agriculture carries a range of negative impacts that overshoot the meager income children and families may gain for their subsistence. The drastic decision of discounting the value of a children education in favor of their labor force will continue to do more damages to children’s rights and agency, their education, health, including their socioeconomic prospects and quality-of-life outcomes in the future.  **CARE’s key issues and domains of change on child labor**  Both as a household’s constrained choice and a labor market substitution practice, the phenomenon of child labor is derived from adject conditions of poverty and inequality in rural communities. For many years, CARE ‘s areas of programming and key interventions intentionally address the various causes and determinants of child labor practices in developing and rural communities. As livelihood coping mechanism, the issue is at the forefront of CARE livelihoods programming, with a focus on building the resilience of rural small-scale farming households including women, girls, and youth. The vision of CARE 2030 agenda places a priority on building the agency of the most vulnerable groups particularly women and girls, changing the relations that nurture social and economic exclusion, and transforming the structures that generate unequal and unjust conditions, such as child labor practice. As a champion of equitable and resilient rural livelihoods programming, CARE works with rural communities and agriculture stakeholders to accelerate the realization of high-level conditions and lasting changes that will keep children out of child labor in the agri-food system, particularly.  CARE's introduction of the sustainable livelihoods approach stood out as a cornerstone of the organization’s anti-poverty and women-empowering programming across the world. In that respect, the rights-based programming to economic empowerment pays greater attention to child labor practices and tackle the most dominant causes and manifestations of poverty and inequality women are facing, including their children. By focusing on women and girls through a whole-household approach, CARE’s guiding frameworks and areas of programming include intentional efforts and transformative approaches that target the extremely poor and vulnerable households. Key areas of programming address the issues of food insecurity and the needs for diversified and sustainable livelihoods in rural communities to prevent economic hardship that create the despairing conditions leading to child labor. CARE’s work integrates innovative approaches and interventions to strengthen the resilience of poor households to withstand economic shocks and stresses which also contribute to dismantle child labor apparatus in its worst forms in rural communities and the agriculture sector particularly.  Of greater impact are the gender equality framework and rights-based approaches that ensure women rights and that of their children are protected and promoted in the fight against poverty. Key priority areas include considerations and actions on adolescent and youth that address the issues of education, food security, health and nutrition, decent employment in line with the 2030 Rights to Food Water and Nutrition impact area strategy.  Through its humanitarian and development programming in the agriculture sector, the issue of child labor is addressed by identifying the key determinants of such practice in rural communities. In that respect, CARE’s work contributed to address the problem at its roots by working in critical areas of change, with key actors and stakeholders in order to score some wins on the issue. Key issues of concern are the following:  **Rural poverty and access to basic services:** It is estimated that at least 90% of economically active children in rural areas in developing countries are employed in agriculture.[[37]](#footnote-37) Child labor is likely to be more pronounced among poor smallholder farming households that are highly dependent on agriculture for their survival and their livelihoods. Due to low levels of public services, rural communities face the worst forms of poverty and precarity as they experience conditions of de facto disenfranchisement in light of widespread rural illiteracy, lack of basic services and infrastructures including water, education, health services, and social safety nets in time of food insecurity and crisis. Left to their own devices, most poor rural families often resort to the desperate practices of child labor to cope with the risks and losses associated with farming activities. Smallholder farmers often rely on free or cheap labor, farmer solidarity to cut on farming investment and costs in the hope of securing a meager profit margin. The overall context of poverty makes child labor a livelihood option which cause growing number of children to become engaged labor force across all the value chains of the agri-food sector. Lack of access to schools and basic commodity such as water and food are contributing factors to using children time for water supply chores and for farming activities. Where basic water infrastructure as inexistent, children walk hours on a daily basis as water carriers for household use, for livestock rearing and farming activities. The lack of community schools often become the main excuse and discourages both parents and children to prioritize education by embracing such trade-off as their second-best option for their survival and to support their livelihood.  The mere signing of child labor conventions will not be effective at reducing of child labour absent a common engagement and concerted efforts to invest in rural infrastructures in order to reduce the impact of poverty and hardship on children, women and youth. The role of all levels of governments and well-informed communities is paramount in creating the conditions in rural areas that ameliorate the ways of life of rural communities. Improvement in public infrastructure and basic services will free up time for children to enroll in schools for their education and pursue other forms of learning and productive opportunities.  CARE works with government and private sector to create rural infrastructure that guarantee access to clean water and the smart use of ground, surface and rainwater for catchment areas and irrigation infrastructure to satisfy water demand and agriculture production. Public investments in such interventions will pave the way to create basic public services systems that eliminate the needs for child labor to supply basic commodities and create much-needed public services for rural households and farming communities. At the policy level, ongoing projects with the departments of labor, ministries and communities help increase awareness and policy advocacy efforts on the issue of child labor.  **Education, children’s rights, and gender:**  School infrastructure and quality education are the best ways of keeping children out of conditions of illiteracy, idleness and negative endeavors such as child labor. About 258 million children and youth are out of school for the school year ending in 2018, according to data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics data.[[38]](#footnote-38) The total includes 59 million children of primary school age, 62 million of lower secondary school age and 138 million of upper secondary age. In many developing countries, many children, mostly young boys forgo school to spend their days herding goats, sheep, and other high value livestock as they view their on-farm and off-farm occupations too important for their family basic needs and economic survival (Fields, 2012). A gender focus on the reality of child labour takes into account the girls’ and boys’ vulnerabilities and needs in rural areas to address the root causes of this practice. Because of the prevailing gender division of labor and access to education, child labor in agriculture activities include key gender features that tend to vary by country and labor markets. In fact, more boys than girls are involved in child labor in rural areas. 34 million boys are involved in child labor compared to girls according to a report by the UN and ILO[[39]](#footnote-39) . That reality does not mean that girls are better off given their own heavy workload and time burden as they are involved in year-round household shores and unpaid on- and off-farm labor. The larger involvement of boys in agriculture often comes at the expense of a much larger involvement of girls in unpaid household services. Girls spend 160 million more hours than boys doing household chores every day. (UNICEF,2016). On average, 92% of girls in child labor in the age group 5-14 years also perform household chores, as compared with 67% of boys (Worldbank,2012).  The consequences of household decision-making on which child will have to work as opposed to which one will receive an education are often more damaging for girls, in spite of major progress in girls’ access to education. While the lack of community schools is often raised as a main cause of child labor, the non-attendance of children particularly girls in existing schools indicate the perceived irrelevance of education for girls among poor parents, including among the working children who often view their hardworking conditions as the only way for survival.  Even in instances where working children may use their residual time to enroll in formal or informal schooling, girls often suffer discrimination in access to education. The facts may differ in some contexts where on average, boys make up 63% of child labour in agriculture and girls 37% in the age group 5-17 years. Moreover, girls are more likely to be economically active in agriculture and food services in African countries such as Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana (Grootaert and Patrinos 1999; Blunch and Verner 2000). Such realities reinforce the issues of gender and rights to education in CARE’s commitment to strengthen the agency of women and girls by integrating gender sensitive and transformative approaches in tackling women poverty, and consequentially, child labour. Children’s economic participation become an issue in light of the high opportunity cost they bear at the expense of their education, well-being including their social and economic prospects in the future.  Higher household income is associated with higher enrolment and attendance among children in school as opposed to youth idleness or child labor. CARE’s programming in education and gender transformative approaches are instrumental to ensure school-age girls and boys stay out of the labor force to benefit of quality education for a better future. In addition to provide access to schools and quality education, school feeding activity is a strong incentive for families to send children to school and keep them enrolled. CARE’s gender tools help identify the different forms, contexts and causes of premature children participation to agriculture employment and forced labor to address them in an integrated approach and effective mitigation interventions and basic services. Other outcome areas of CARE programming include livelihoods enhancement support to help rural households secure supplemental income and diversified livelihoods. CARE adopt a multisector approach to support rural livelihoods of vulnerable households and multiply programming and advocacy efforts to provide affordable and comprehensive quality education to prevent child labor in agriculture. Programming strategies and interventions aim to reduce the costs of education to households by supporting their livelihoods in the prevention of child illiteracy and their premature participation to economic activities in the agri-food sector.  **Hunger and malnutrition:**  In both development and humanitarian contexts, CARE has been focused on the role hunger play in forcing poor families and children at resorting to child labor practices to meet their food consumption needs. “*If I don’t work, I don’t eat*” is a common self-rationalizing quote among many children and young adolescents involved in agriculture-based child labour. The role food insecurity and malnutrition play in high incidence of child labour is undeniable as the majority of children and young adolescents are pushed into paid or unpaid labor to secure their daily food rations including for dependent siblings, and relatives, in some cases. The overall context of poverty in rural areas causes many children and youth to embrace the agriculture work as a no-brainer choice for their daily survival. In light of the clear linkages between rural poverty, poor access to schools, food insecurity and child labour, CARE food security and nutrition programming contributes to improve access to food, health and nutrition services. Key priority actions on these issues aims to build the resilience of extremely poor and vulnerable parents who will otherwise be tempted to opt for child labour as a coping arrangement in case of economic distress. CARE’s decades of experience in maternal and child nutrition programs are instrumental in building the resilience of rural households to tackle the negative effects of food insecurity in perpetuating child labor as a livelihood coping strategy.  The issues of extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition among rural households is at the center of CARE’s work in advocating for and working towards the end of child labour. Key nutrition indicators such as poor food consumption scores and food expenditures and rations attest of the role hunger play in pushing children into child labor including the damaging consequences on their nutritional and developmental outcomes. Nobel Laureate Satyarthi states that «hunger and child labour are closely interlinked”[[40]](#footnote-40).  In addition, CARE’s Right to Food, Water and Nutrition Impact Area Strategy goal is to ensure the fulfilment of the right to adequate and nutritious food and clean water for all by promoting sustainable, productive, equitable and resilient food and water systems, while ensuring equitable, livable incomes and dignified livelihoods. Such approach is essential to fully address the problem of child labor in that one sector that is also instrumental in solving the problem of hunger and malnutrition. CARE programming resources transfer (cash and in-kind transfer) to support vulnerable households  As part of the She Feeds the World CARE’s flagship Food and Nutrition program, CARE follows a six-part integrated approach to transforming livelihoods of small-scale producers to ensure equal access to agricultural inputs, clear water, access to land to grow food.Furthermore, CARE has been involved in the UN Food Systems Summit Action as Lead organization of Track 4 focusing on promoting game changer solutions equitable food systems which include the issue of child labor and inequitable labor practices within the agri-food system.  **Women’s agency and economic empowerment**. At the household decision-making level, CARE is committed to building the agency of women and girls to make their voices heard in household’s decision-making on resources allocation and livelihoods. Agency is defined as an individual’s ability to act on behalf of what the individual values and has reason to value (Sen,1989). The role of women in preventing child labor will happen only if women are empowered socially and economically to stand for themselves, for their choices and values at the household level in the protection of children rights. Children should have the freedom of living through their childhood away from the hardship of hard and mandatory labor. Empowered women are the best allies to ending the incidence of child labor at the household and community-wide levels. When women do well, their children experience better outcomes.  Through the She Feeds the World and Gender equality framework, CARE works with rural communities to ensure programming interventions are well integrated to address harmful social norms, structural barriers and power imbalance that may contribute child labor, especially for girls. The commitment to gender equality and the focus on women and girls has led to transformative models and proven approaches to place gender-sensitive and transformative policies, practices and uplifting norms at the forefront of programming that will foster thriving and caring communities. Those programming principles will improve the chances of addressing the gender-based causes of poverty and their contributions to child labor in rural communities. When women have a say in household decision-making on family matters and livelihoods, the choices will likely contribute to better outcomes for their children. The importance of women participation in gainful economic activities and their access to productive assets in the agri-food sector is important in combating the economic deprivation of women[[41]](#footnote-41). With improved livelihoods and financial security, women can afford to provide for their children and play an important in the prevention of child labor.  CARE also makes a commitment to addressing the unique challenges that girls face in the fight against the worst forms of and hazardous child labor. The interventions recognize that girls face unique gender-specific obstacles due to economic, cultural and social factors that often place them at greater risk within the labor market. CARE’s work builds on women economic empowerment and encourage the creation of employment and livelihood opportunities to reduce family dependency on child labour, to address the demand and supply sides of the problem. Other integrated interventions and partnerships aim to provide opportunities for adolescents and youth for decent rural employment, and reduce rural poverty that creates child labour in agriculture.  **Climate change and environmental degradation:** The effects of climate change on natural resources and agriculture productivity often pose an implacable risk for the livelihoods of poor rural households, causing families to resort to drastic measures including child labor. Ongoing environmental degradation and poor soil quality increase the economic vulnerability of rural households as natural catastrophes, plants diseases, and subpar yields turn their hard labor and investment into hopeless losses due in part to the absence of farming insurance and subsidies. The impact of climate change on agriculture productivity cause most rural household to struggle to feed their families and deprioritize the well-being of their children. The impact of climate changes also affect access to vital resources such as water, which increase women and children time burden as they are assigned water supply chores for household consumption and for subsistence farming.  In addition to causing stress on water sources, less productivity, less nutritious crops, and greater incidence of plants diseases and pests, climate impacts will also affect the availability of agriculture workers causing a substitution effect that may result on a greater demand for child labor in subsistence farming. As a result of recurrent shocks and losses, households diversify their livelihood causing male out-migration in urban economies or cross-border on-farm and non-farm employment. In sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls take over a greater share of farming activities to escape famine as young and adult male labor force become scarce. The increasing role of women in agriculture of agriculture is becoming even more challenging in the context of climate change and shortage of adult labor force. This has significant implications in combating child labour while promoting women’s economic prospect in agriculture.  CARE’s gender equality and women empowerment frameworks prioritize livelihoods diversification approaches to improve the resilience of rural households and prevent child labour as a fallback strategy among vulnerable households. CARE’s work promotes integrated water resources management and ecosystem protection and climate smart agriculture techniques to ensure the resilience of rural livelihoods. Water scarcity and insecurity, caused by poor water resources management and exacerbated by climate change, drive cycles of drought and food insecurity, migration, and chronic emergencies. CARE ensures the protection, restoration and management of ecosystems that supply water resources as a critical path to ensuring food security, nutrition and livelihoods, reducing forced migration and humanitarian emergencies, mitigating potential for conflict, and promoting wider economic and social wellbeing.  CARE also build on decades of experience in landscape approaches and inclusive governance to support integrated water resources management, climate change adaptation and water-smart agriculture models to ensure that communities and governments are addressing risks to the ecosystems upon which they depend. Key interventions include the engagement of women and youth in the development and scaling-up innovations and models for improved water resource management and protection by engaging with partners at all levels in driving better practice and policy.  **Agricultural investment programs:**  Although the majority of children involved in child labor work on family plots as helpers of their relatives, the demand for their labor exists on large agriculture exploitation. That includes labor-intensive tasks for land preparation, planting, plantation maintenance, harvesting and post-harvest operations. Child labor can be tackled at higher levels of the agri-food system by engaging key actors on effective policies, regulations, and incentives to address the externalities this cause children and rural communities. By promoting a widespread commitment to a “*do-no-harm principle*” across the agriculture sector and key actors of the food value chains, a sustained level of awareness and policymaking will contribute to address exploitative and harmful labor practices. Key prevention measures and disincentives mechanisms will be instrumental to nudge agriculture operators away from the practice of substituting adult labor with child labor as a cost-cutting arrangement. CARE builds partnerships with the public sector and industry leaders in the agri-food systems to instill transformative principles, accountability and sustained engagement in the prevention and eradication of child labor. These interventions aim to create lasting changes at the industry level by advocating on and promoting effective measures at all levels for the prevention and risk mitigation of child labor in the agriculture and food supply chains.  CARE is attentive and intentional at advancing women empowerment and gender transformative approaches start to protect children rights and build the agency of women and young girls and boys. Advocacy efforts include national and community-level action plans to combat the practice and counter privileged assumptions and misguided economic priorities that tend to rationalize and downplay the severity of child labor for rural communities and impoverished groups. To help transform system that generate child labor, CARE focuses on strengthening community responses mechanisms to address child labor by reinforcing access to education, learning opportunities for children, and community-based social protection against child labor. Absent sustained advocacy efforts and commitment among all stakeholders, effective oversight and adequate resources, the impacts of child labor will continue to affect generations of children. As leading organization of Action Track 4 of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) on Sustainable Livelihoods, CARE advocates for the promotion full and productive employment and decent work for all actors along the food value chain, reducing risks for the world poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources and distribution of value. UNFSS Action track 4 will improve resilience through social protection and seek to ensure food systems leave no one behind.  The absence of child protection laws or the lack of their enforcement and limited self-regulation among industry actors will contribute to the harm done to generations of poor and vulnerable children which will in turn perpetuate the cycle of intergenerational poverty of rural households and communities. The agri-food sector will need to embrace labor practices and higher standards that build on human and not the opposite in order to become a more inequitable sector that is fully engaged in combating the harmful and unsustainable practice of child labor.  **Occupational safety and health in agriculture (OSH):**  Most forms of agriculture work include physical hardships but also hazardous conditions causing injuries, diseases, accidents and even deaths. Children involved in agriculture labour work long hours, a very high proportion of them end up being injured at work or experience illnesses and hazardous incidents. Because health status and service level in rural areas are lower in most developing countries, children involved in agriculture work are expose to higher health risks and developmental deficits. Their daily exposure to various weather conditions and temperatures, hard labor, and carrying heavy loads has serious repercussions on their overall health and physical development, their cognitive skills, and their self-esteem and mental health. Most common physical injuries include cuts, eye infections, skin diseases fever, and headaches caused by excessive heat or by exposure to pesticides while working in agricultural fields.  Inspection on issues of occupational safety in agriculture and across the agri-food system is an important entry point to keeping children out of child labour and other dangerous farming activities. Also, the gender dimension of health and safety in the agriculture is an important aspect of CARE work in considered with the occupational safety and exposure of adults and children to harmful agrochemicals used for pesticides. In addition to preventing child labour, occupational safety and health can be achieved by providing rural households and workers including women and children with the basic services and means that ensure their safety and good health status. That include access to healthcare services, women and nutrition services to protect their health and welfare while promoting sustainable agriculture practices, and the protection of the environment.  CARE work with communities and government to promote public health and primary healthcare in rural communities to address the needs of rural communities exposed to the hardship of agriculture work. Other initiatives aim at promoting climate smart agriculture techniques and technologies that are labor-saving in the long run. Other efforts address environmental health for prevention of environmental degradation and protection of natural assets. In addition to those concerns, the COVID-19 pandemic also increases the risk of child labor, trafficking and harmful work as girls face pressure to support themselves and their families through income generating opportunities in the agri-food sector. CARE adopt a partnership building and integrated approach to ensure adequate attention and service delivery for rural household relying on agriculture for their livelihoods.  **Humanitarian context, conflicts, and migration:** The risk of child labour increases significantly in context of climate and natural disasters, conflicts and food insecurity. CARE programing on food and water systems in all countries focuses on directly saving lives and promoting long term development of rural households affected by droughts and famine, and climate risks to their agriculture-based livelihoods. In humanitarian and conflict contexts, CARE is committed to ensuring timely and effective emergency food and water security interventions that can save the lives of women, girls, men and boys; reduce suffering, protect livelihoods and enhance resilience. These interventions are critical at reducing negative coping mechanisms or desperate decision-making that may lead to child labour. In response to lack of services, CARE’s WASH in Emergencies team develops strategies in line with possibilities for long-term service delivery to decrease time burden on children and girls. Interventions with refugees, internally displaced populations and migrants aims to protect their rights and prevent all forms of exploitation and the abuse of vulnerable populations and children in the agri-food sector.  In that area, CARE provide interventions in disaster risk management, water resource management, and critical community resilience-building interventions. In emergency and fragile contexts, provision of food and water and nutrition interventions are critical to build the foundation for lasting change, rebuild livelihoods, and provide families with early recovery support, including agricultural production, cash for work and microfinance to foster resilient market systems, inject income, and build, protect, and improve community assets.  **Family farming and decent youth employment:** While child labour in agriculture is damaging to children health, education and poverty, the initiation of youth in age-appropriate activities and farming skills development will be beneficial for their livelihoods and survival in rural setting. The needs for youth employment have been a critical problem to tackle as growing number of youth population aged 15-24 face conditions of unemployment. In many communities that experience high incidence of school out-of-school youth and unemployment, the lack of opportunities for decent jobs poses a serious problem. Instead of relying on child labour, the agriculture sector has the potential to create more productive and gainful jobs for the rural youth to secure employment and safe work in the agri-food system. The practice itself contributes to rural unemployment, causing low wages and high unemployment among age-appropriate workers including adults and youth.  CARE supports the positive impact of working children’s contributions as members of the family unit through light work, seasonal or part-time employment in specific activities that are developmentally appropriate, that do not compromise the mental, physical, moral or spiritual development of the child and that do not interfere, impede or restrict a child’s right to a quality education. CARE recognizes the important role that youth can play in contributing to their families’ economic welfare and to create viable opportunities in the agri-food system for their livelihoods.  Through the Youth strategy of CARE’s Food and Water System interventions, priority actions include youth’s access to and control of productive assets, resources and opportunities to become productive participants and innovators in the agri-food systems. By targeting youth aged 15-29yrs, such initiatives facilitate youth access to training and land for demonstrations plots and extension services which are fundamental to build the skills of young women and men willing to engage in farming activities for their livelihood. These interventions bring youth at the forefront on issues of land tenure laws, customary laws and practices, and social norms favor older male inheritance and ownership of land. CARE’s work on capacity building and introduction of climate smart agriculture techniques to engage rural communities in investing in agricultural productivity growth to create new opportunities for youth in farming and generate the multiplier effects that expand the number  of job opportunities for youth in the broader non-farm and off-farm activities. Entrepreneurship is an important dimension of employment generation for both agro-entrepreneurs and youth they hire.  CARE’s economic empowerment models and approaches promote economic opportunities for youth, especially young girls through training opportunities, financial literacy and skill-building activities. Models such as Farmers Field Business Schools and Village Saving and Loans Associations are implemented to train youth in agro-enterprise management and operations, as well as other technical and business fields. Because poverty at the household level is a major root cause of child labor, CARE household level interventions contribute to provide services to rural families to help increase their livelihoods by including the role of women and youth in acceptable livelihoods strategy. Some the households and youth livelihoods services include livelihood education, technical and vocational training services, financial literacy including savings and credit, employment and market access services, adapted agricultural techniques and technologies, and access to social protection and safety nets.  **Direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact CARE’S work is having on child labor in agriculture?**  Over decades of work on the issues, CARE affirms its commitment to combating the abuses of children engaged in the worst forms of child labor and hazardous labor practices through our programming initiatives in the agri-food systems. In its Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)policy, CARE affirms its commitment to the welfare and protection from all forms of abuse of children. Ongoing project implementation and advocacy efforts contribute to raise public awareness and enact policy reform, enhance relevant quality educational opportunities, improve economic alternative to child labor and increase the capacity of rural communities to address and eradicate the worst form of and hazardous child labor.  **Some of the direct impacts of CARE interventions on child labour includes:**   * + - Increase of access to quality of basic education focusing on withdrawing children from child labour and keeping them in school;     - Increase in household income and sustainable livelihood alternatives in rural communities including women and age-appropriate youth;     - Greater community capacity and resources to monitor child labour and transform social and gender norms that perpetuate child labour. That includes designing a labor monitoring and mitigation system to protect against child labour and forced labour, including community hotline.     - Greater engagement of governments and agriculture industry systems for prevention of child labor and protection of children.     - Gender equality and greater participation of women in household decision-making and choice over productive assets.     - Quality and relevant education recognized by all stakeholders, including children, families, communities, government and non- governmental officials, as a human right;     - Relevant quality educational opportunities, including skills training, are viewed by the communities in which CARE works as beneficial alternatives to the worst forms and hazardous child labor;     - Greater understanding of the negative consequences associated with the worst forms and hazardous child labor among child labourers, children at risk of engaging in child labour, families, communities and society at large     - Community-wide capacity building efforts to target the abuses of the worst forms and hazardous child labor within their local context;     - Opportunities for families and communities improve their economic and cultural well-being in order to improve their overall quality of life, especially as it relates to a child’s participation and completion of an educational program; * Technical support to government and capacity building of local partners to monitor and combat the issues associated with the worst forms and hazardous child labor through the development of realistic enforceable initiatives.   **Indirect impacts on the incidence of child labor include:**  **Poverty Reduction:** Reduction in ruralPoverty Reduction based on the increase in rural household income, the number of project participants involved in Income Generating Activities and rise in households with savings.  **Food security**: Fewer rural households experience moderate or severe food insecurity based on the Food insecurity and Experience Scale.  **Gender and Women Economic Empowerment:** Greater inclusion of women in household decision-making has contributed to increased capacity of women to lead farming and income generating activities. Other positive impact or promising interventions include:   * Enrollment in literacy classes, village savings and loans associations **(VSLAs)** * Increasing awareness of women and girls about their labor rights; * Enhancing women and girls’ technical and business skills; * Engaging with men and boys within cocoa-growing communities to change local behavioral norms against women’s economic engagement; * Increasing women and girls’ opportunities for advancement through peer and business networking;   **Examples of COVID-19 impact on child labor in the agri-food system.**  Emerging evidence show that chronically poor and vulnerable people are hit the hardest by the economic consequences of the pandemic. The agri-food system is particularly under labor stress and shocks because of the stringent measures to curtail the spread of the virus resulting in loss of harvest and markets. Some of the early reports in the agri-food system included the severe impact on cocoa communities in Ghana and Ivory Coast.  **Impact of Covid-19 in Cocoa Communities:** The massive global disruption to education caused by confinement measures and the lack of distance-learning solutions in many countries could drive child labor numbers up. ​ Households may resort to child labour in order to cope with job loss and health shocks associated with COVID-19, especially if they are not in the education system.​ Children who are from marginalized minority groups, disabled, street-connected and homeless, or from single or child-headed households, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, or from conflict or disaster affected areas are more vulnerable to child labour and at particular risk in the current crisis.   A rapid analysis of data gathered - [Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS)](https://cocoainitiative.org/our-work/our-work/supply-chain/) in Côte d’Ivoire suggests a rise in hazardous child labour during the country’s partial lockdown that was implemented to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus. COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating measures, mostly instituted by governments, has had far-reaching consequences among cocoa farmers exacerbating the root causes of child labor including poverty, access to education and social services.​ Coping strategies for farmers include over-relying on their families, including their children – for help in agriculture activities. Immediate impacts of the pandemic identified from CARE rapid gender analysis across the West African region include:   * Reduced access to income and food as a result of reduced market, loss of employment/trade, reduced morbidity.​ * Reduced access to essential services particularly health, extension and sexual reproductive services​ * Changing gender roles in households and increased gender-based violence.​ * Women bearing the largest burden of caring for their families while also seeking to lead communities in prevention and adaptation. * Many families had to choose between providing food for the household and paying for hand washing and personal protection equipment (PPE), with the former being the clear choice. Increased risk of critical illness.​ * Increased household chores for children especially girls sometimes to the detriment of home schooling, which cause girls to fall behind educationally and are increasingly vulnerable to hazardous forms of child labor when economic activities resumed.   **If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labor in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:**  **Malawi - PROCLAIM Project**: CARE has been working in partnership with MicroLoan Foundation and Rays of Hope to implement the Protect the Future: Ending Child Labour in the Agriculture Industry in Malawi (PROCLAIM) project in the Mchinji and Ntchisi districts of Malawi. The project, funded by the Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco Growing (ECLT) Foundation, aims to support the Government of Malawi in their efforts to end child labour in the agriculture industry, particularly in the areas where tobacco is grown.  **Ghana:** This project draws on CARE’s experience in implementing the Cocoa Life Project and its components related to women’s empowerment and child labor/ child protection across Outcomes. The project Leverage its experience in developing VSLAs in the Cocoa Life Project and in Ethiopia and working with local communities in establishing and working with committees on child protection and labour. Key activities aim to reduce Child Labor - Over 70 communities sensitized on child labor and child protection issues and laws. - More than 70 community child protection committees formed/trained to spearhead issues on child labor, and child protection in collaboration with the government. ·  **Ghana - Adwuma-Pa project:**  The project is being implemented in Ghana. The phrase Adwuma Pa means “business ethics” in Akan language. The goal of the project is to reduce the risk of child labor, forced labor, & other violations of labor rights for vulnerable women & girls working within Ghana’s cocoa supply chain. The project aims to economically empower vulnerable women and girls within the cocoa supply chain in Ghana. Project aims to reduce the risk of child, forced, and exploitive labor practices of vulnerable women aged and girls aged within cocoa producing communities in Ghana. The project will reach direct beneficiaries in 80 communities across four districts where incidences of child labor are high. CARE is also improving business practices and gender-sensitivity of private and government partners to protect against child, forced, and exploitative labor practices. Adwuma-Pa project uses a strategic combination of CARE’s globally-recognized, evidence-based women’s economic empowerment interventions and local partners’ context-specific child-labor monitoring systems, curriculum, and training programs to improve the meaningful economic participation of women and girls in cocoa growing communities by doing the following:  **Ethiopia – Act With Her Project:** Act with Her (AWH) is delivered in partnership with Pathfinder Ethiopia and Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence (GAGE). It aims to reach adolescent boys and girls ages 10-17 and their parents in the Amhara, Oromia, Afar, and Tigray regions. The project addresses the conditions that make adolescent girls vulnerable to dropping out of school; child labour; child, early, and forced marriage and gender-based violence.  **Guatemala-Honduras, Nicaragua**: CARE-CARGYll’s Integrated Program for Vulnerable Children (EDUCAN), was a five-year program implemented in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, aimed to strengthen the livelihoods of farming families in the region to prevent and mitigate the incidence of child labor. EDUCAN also helped farmers to organize farmer collective groups, creating a farmer groups. CARE linked farmers to formal markets, including Cargill’s supply chain, and provided training in marketing, business and account management, record keeping, market literacy, strategic planning, as well as functional literacy and numeracy so that farmers could sustain their market linkages beyond the program.  **Prosperous Cocoa-Farming Communities** (PROCOCO) in Ghana sought to promote more prosperous, sustainable, and resilient cocoa farming communities through a community development approach that engages civil society to increase cocoa production, reduce child labor, ensure food and nutrition security, and promote education in some of the country’s most impoverished regions. PROCOCO built on a previous five years of investment by CARE and Cargill and was implemented from September 2013 to August 2016 in 110 communities across four of Ghana’s cocoa producing districts. The project is a testament to Cargill’s commitment to improving the lives of cocoa farmers and their communities, also known as the Cargill Cocoa Promise.  **Pathways to Empowerment** (Pathways) in India, funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, built on the vital roles women play in meeting their household food needs and contributing to sustainable development. Pathways India was implemented in remote rural villages in Odisha state where poverty levels are among the highest in the country. To address agricultural input supply system disparities, the program tested an innovation that brings affordable inputs closer to farmers— agricultural kiosks. With Cargill’s support, Pathways India sought to close the input supply gap, using agricultural kiosks as sustainable providers of inputs and market information to assist farmers. The program helped local farmers set up these small businesses to bring agricultural inputs closer to small-scale farmers in quantities that better meet those farmers’ needs and promote agricultural inputs that are environmentally sustainable. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **Community-wide awareness and mobilization on child labour**   * Development of Community Action Plans development and integration into the local government development plans​ * Training of child protection committees​ * PTAs and School Management Committees trained on child protection​ * Awareness raising of child rights, labor and child protection issues​ * Provision of school infrastructure, quality education and school feeding services * Skillful parenting: awareness-raising session with parents on child-education ​   **Community animation on child protection ​**   * Community diagnosis through rapid analysis of the environment in which the children live and risks of child labour practice * Facilitate awareness and make better use of existing potential in the locality​ * Child forum to raise awareness, mobilize and organize the community and members of cooperatives for greater child protection ​ * Establishment of protection committees to monitor and protect the rights of children within the community​ * Establishment of student-led child protection watchdog committee in the schools and communities   **Monitoring**​   * Direct observations, repeated regularly, to identify working children and determine the risks to which they are exposed.​ * Establishment of Community Monitoring Agents in farming communities ​ * Leverage commitment and resources for periodic supervisory visits to monitoring bodies   **Remediation**​   * Reduction of the risk of child labour and restoration of the rights of all child labor victims. ​ * Promotion of direct and indirect interventions for effective remediation in integrated ways​ |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| * Lack of community awareness and cynicism regarding lack of better alternatives to rural poverty and children rights​ * Insufficient political will, government roles and resources for advocacy and effective mitigation policies ​ * Lack of community-based schools’ infrastructure, water and sanitation facilities) ​ * Limited access to quality education.​ * Slow improvement or the lack of infrastructure development in communities by Governments (access to water, poor roads, environmental degradation, hunger) * Lack of decent work opportunities and Technical Vocational Education and * kills Training for age-appropriate adolescents and youth.​ * Limited access to targeted social protection, health and other social services.​ * Deforestation-environmental challenges associated with poverty.​ * Socio-cultural attitudes, customs and practices combined with poverty result in a reliance on child labor as a fallback option instead of hiring adult labor.​ * Lack of access to quality child protection services.​ * Lack of motivation of community volunteers to maintain community child protection activities * Lack of incentives like bicycles, cash payments to sustain volunteer’s engagement |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| * Set up partnerships between governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations, farmers and rural producers’ organizations and communities to develop policies and community engagement to raise public awareness about linkages between poverty and child labour. * Promote youth employment for children above minimum legal age, together with health and safety training on proper use of equipment, tools and substances. * Strengthen cooperation within governments (at various levels) do develop a good understanding of labour market realities and migration patterns are required to devise effective and corrective policies. * Advocacy to ratify and implement ILO child labour Conventions (C. 138, C. 182), and other conventions regulating agricultural work, such as C. 184 (Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention), C. 188 (Work in Fishing Convention), C. 141 (Rural Workers’ Organizations Convention), and C. 110 (Plantations Conventions) * Advocacy efforts to review labour legislation and exemptions that may apply to agriculture, including small scale and family farms and other informal rural and agricultural undertakings. * Encourage agriculture employers and operators of value chains to enforce socially responsible corporate policies and codes of conduct that respect core labour standards, including in sub-contracting arrangements. * Motivate private, public and foreign institutions to provide incentives such as long-term contracts with agriculture suppliers that respect minimum wages, and offer social protection to workers and children. * Develop child protection labels and certification on compliance of ILO child labour conventions and promote values consumption. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| * Reduce poverty in rural areas through targeted agricultural and rural development policies that specifically integrate decent work concerns and address risks to child employment. * Ensure that women and girls have the same access as boys and men to land, training, agriculture extension services, technologies and inputs, business development services and microfinance. Ensure that child-care facilities are accessible and at a safe distance from worksites. * Target parents/guardians of child labourers or children at risk in programs designed to generate rural incomes, including through skills and entrepreneurship training and access to microfinance. * Promote youth employment for children above minimum legal age, together with health and safety training on proper use of equipment, tools and substances. * Support safe migration of youth above the minimum age for employment, so they can obtain decent work and not fall victim to trafficking. * Migration awareness campaigns in rural areas, and also at destination in countries to allow cross border migration of agriculture workers which tend to ignore the incidence of child labour practices in their agriculture exploitation. * Engage with media and social media, influencers, youth groups and issue-based groups to maintain campaigns on hazardous forms of child labour in agriculture and across livestock, fisheries, agroforestry and all forms of on farm and off farm occupations which may not be age-appropriate. * Advocacy efforts to implement ILO child labour Conventions (C. 138, C. 182), and other conventions regulating agricultural work, such as C. 184 (Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention), C. 188 (Work in Fishing Convention), C. 141 (Rural Workers’ Organizations Convention), and C. 110 (Plantations Conventions) * Advocacy efforts to review labour legislation and exemptions that may apply to agriculture, including small scale and family farms and other informal rural and agricultural undertakings. * Monitoring of girls’ special vulnerabilities and also ensuring proper coverage of tasks and conditions in agriculture, including subsistence agriculture, family farms, livestock keeping and small-scale fisheries (as per Article 3 of C.138 and Article 4 of C. 182). * Encourage employers to enforce socially responsible corporate policies and codes of conduct that respect core labor standards, including in sub-contracting arrangements. * Support and resources for influencing policy, advocacy drive, engagement with social movements on child labor * Coordination with like-minded organizations for bigger voice on child labor elimination; * Promotion of intentional program designs and sustainability checks that incorporate child labor prevention ask a key considerations and remediation component in food systems programming |

## John Ede, Ohaha Family Foundation, Nigeria

First the rural farmer lacks knowledge about any legal instrument and committment to the definition of child labour, mostly children are engaged to support the Agriculture, in cultivation, for older children, and planting for younger children. Also in harvesting and processing usually is left for women and girls. Most of the farmers that engage children in Agricuture start with their children, and in some cases, children of relatives either staying with them or visiting. It is mostly believed that this is a form of traing and grooming, since agriculture is an age long tradition, and largely transmitted through inheritance to the next generation.

Sadly, these children should be in school, except that the parents don’t seem to understand the need for education, or the children are able to support production which in-turn translates to more money and food available to avert hunger and poverty. But that is one sided in the sense that if the children acquires and education, they can improve production, using less energy and more machines to produce food.

In especially conflict contexts, where children are either separated from their parents or are orphaned by the conflict, the older children takes responsibilities for catering for the younger ones who depend of agriculture for livelihood.

Here are the following recommendations to reduce child labour in Agriculture:

1. Raise awareness on the issue of child labour are national and community level, leveraging on the traditional and religious leaders to deliver greater outreach at grassroots.
2. Support basic education, and promote school enrollment of underserved and marginalized population
3. Put in place stronger more people centered monitoring system, that not just collect data but seeks to learn real challenges and proffer solutions to support small holding farmer,
4. Design a reward system that support increase school enrollment and completion of underserved children.
5. Design bottom up programs that capture the peoples input, through focused group discussion, with traditional, religious leaders, farmers groups, women’s groups, to criminalize and bring to book violators of the enjoyment to the full right of the child.
6. Promote the domestication of the child rights act at national level. In Nigeria for instance, most of the states in the North have not domesticated the law. (Making it fluid to manage, already a challenge then exasperated by Covid-19 pandemic, it is reported that out of school enrollment jumped to around 13 Million in Nigeria, with the greater portion in the north, regrettably, the recent abduction of school children, will push that figure higher.)
7. Increase outreach to non-sates armed groups on IHL, and international law, to promote protection of children in armed conflict.

## 45. Rauf Ahmad, Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations, Pakistan

Please find the attached details of contribution on "Ending child labour in agriculture with the help of Agricultural Stakeholders" for consideration.

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| Dr. Shakeel Khan and Team/Male/FAO Pakistan |

**Title of your contribution**

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| Eliminating Hazardous Child Labor/Exposure to Pesticides in Agriculture |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| NA |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| Asia/Pakistan/Islamabad |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| Farming/Livestock and Forestry |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| In the Asia and Paciﬁc region, nearly 36 million girls and boys are working in agriculture, and their exposure to pesticides is considered a form of hazardous child labour. Children are exposed to pesticides during their transportation, handling and application as well as bystanders and consumers of contaminated material. Pesticides exposure harm children's physical development and violates their rights. This means a future loss of rural communities and agricultural development. Pesticide exposure in the long run compromises children's potential as they become adults. The use of hazardous pesticides among small-scale farmers is unfortunately a worrisome reality in Pakistan. This causes serious health problems to the children. Therefore, for the sake of children health and wellbeing as well as in order to reduce rural poverty and ensuring food security, it is imperative to take action to transform the existing situation.  **Impacts of Covid 19 on Child Labour in the Country (Pakistan):**  According to a recent report by the ILO and UNICEF, the number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years, with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19. The report points to a significant rise in the number of children aged 5 to 11 years in child labour, who now account for just over half of the total global figure. The number of children aged 5 to 17 years in hazardous work has also risen by 6.5 million to 79 million since 2016. The increase in child labour has also been observed in Pakistan. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| FAO Pakistan in consultation with local stakeholders and International Labor Organization (ILO) has developed and adopted “Protect Children from Pesticides! Visual Facilitator’s Guide” in Pakistan context (Urdu language). This guide is aimed to prevent and reduce children’s and women’s exposure to pesticides. This guide’s adoption is imperative for protection of children and women from pesticide exposure and enable to achieve overarching goal of elimination of hazardous child labor (exposure to hazardous chemicals) in agriculture.  The efforts are also underway to support rural households/women in Income Generating Activities (IGAs) in order to eliminate child labour through their skill development and enhancing incomes in specific areas. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| * Awareness creation about issue of child labour in agriculture; * Low level of advocacy across the agriculture sector stakeholders to address the issue of child labour and creating enabling environment for wellbeing and enhancing children schooling; and * There is need to create awareness for addressing challenge of child labour in agriculture through appropriate policy support and capacity building of concerned public and private sector institutions. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| There is need to mainstream concept of child labour elimination among the agricultural stakeholders and technical capacity building to efficiently addressing issue of child labour. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| It is proposed that Ministry of National Food Security and Research should take a lead in mainstreaming the concept of child labour in agriculture sector and provide a platform for interaction and collaboration of concerned stakeholders to initiate appropriate actions for elimination of child labour in agriculture. |

## 46. Angeline Munzara, World Vision, South Africa

World Vision - Promoting the right to decent work addresses the root causes to child labor, forced labor, and other forms of exploitation

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **World Vision** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Promoting the right to decent work addresses the root causes to child labor, forced labor, and other forms of exploitation.** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| --- |
| N/A |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **Global** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in) direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| Workers’ rights include protecting the rights of children to be free from economic exploitation, hazardous work, or work that interferes with their education. When workers’ rights are not protected, the resulting low wages and economic conditions create a situation in which households must rely on additional income from children, putting them at risk for exploitation from employers and disrupting their development and well-being. The International Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly states children must be protected from economic exploitation and any work that interferes with the child’s education or disrupts their development.  Adolescents of legal working age and youth entering the workforce for the first time enhance their life trajectory when they are aware of, and can advocate for, their protected rights and age-appropriate opportunities to work. Adolescents and youth of legal working age represent some of the most vulnerable members of the workforce given their tendency to fill low wage, unskilled, and often dangerous jobs. They are exposed to potential abuse and exploitation in the workplace while often unaware of their rights. Conversely, where children’s rights are protected, including their right to education, their life expectancy increases, along with their improved livelihoods and social well-being.  The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the risk for child labour, as many migrant workers have lost other jobs and have turned to agriculture and seasonal work where they have also brought their children along. Millions of parents and caregivers have lost incomes and jobs due to COVID-19, forcing them to expose their children to harmful and dangerous circumstances such as begging or child marriage. World Vision has conducted rapid assessments in 24 countries across Latin America,  Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia confirming alarming predictions of increased child hunger, violence, and poverty due to the economic impact of COVID-19 (<https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Out%20of%20Time_Covid19%20Aftershocks%20-%20FINAL.pdf>]  **HOW WE ARE ADDRESSING CHILD LABOR IN AGRICULTURE**  **Campos de Esperanza - Mexico**  ***2016-2023, $11 million USD – US Department of Labor***  **Project Goal:** To reduce child labor in migrant agricultural communities in Oaxaca and Veracruz by increasing the promotion and protection of labor rights, and creating linkages for migrant children and their families to participate in existing education, training, and social protection programs.  **Project Achievements:**   * 1. Trained 1,359 government officials throughout Oaxaca and Veracruz in either child labor, OSH standards or labor rights in migrant agricultural communities.   2. Promoted and supported the reactivation of the state-level commission to prevent and eradicate child labor (CITI) in Veracruz.   3. Developed a certification for labor competency standards and responsible recruitment guidelines for the sugar cane sector.   4. Trained 4,503 sugarcane and coffee producers and other workers on the protocols for acceptable working conditions and child labor.   5. Established 20 community-based dialogues and 6 child well-being committees as social accountability mechanisms to address child labor and labor rights at the local level.   6. Vaccinated 2,414 sugarcane cutters against influenza and measles in Oaxaca (1,628) and Veracruz (786).   7. Provided education services to 1,493 children in child labor or at risk of being in child labor.   8. Delivered 9,348 kits with information on prevention of COVID-19 and care of those with the coronavirus.   **ABK3-LEAP (Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy, and Protection to Reduce Child Labor in Sugarcane Areas) - Philippines**  ***2011-2016, $19.4 million - US Department of Labor***  **Project Goal:** The aim of livelihoods, education, advocacy, and protection (LEAP) was to reduce hazardous child labor in sugarcane production across 11 provinces in the Philippines.  **Project Achievements:**   * Among the project’s 54,479 child beneficiaries, there was an 86% reduction in those who were participating in hazardous child labor connected to the sugarcane industry. * Over 30,300 households received livelihood services, of which 55% have sustained income greater than 6 months. * 97% of provinces, municipalities, and barangays covered by the project have passed new policies and funded programs to reduce child labor. * 73 sugar industry institutions or associations adopted policies and annual programs to reduce child labor. * 23 municipalities have implemented functional child labor monitoring systems. * 69% of 148 targeted communities adopted child labor ordinances that protect children from engaging in hazardous child labor.   **Cambodia (2012-2016)**  **EXCEL**  **4 years; $10 million**  Cambodians Eliminating Exploitative Child Labor through Education and Livelihoods (EXCEL) aimed to reduce  exploitative child labor in fishing, agriculture, and domestic service sectors in three target provinces.  **Results:**   * A 45% reduction in children engaged in child labor amongst project participants. * 29,755 children and youth supported to participate in formal and informal education and vocational activities, with * 66% of targeted schools increasing their enrollment rates. * 14,000 households of children and youth engaged in or at-risk of child labor provided with livelihood services, including the formation of 644 savings groups engaging 3,940 households. * Partnered with the government of Cambodia to develop national guidelines on elimination of child labor in the fishery sector, and a child friendly school manual on child labor. * Reactivated the provincial committee against child labor in the 3 target provinces.   **Honduras (2014-2018)**  **Futuros Brillantes**  **4 years; $7 million**  This project seeks to increase decent work for youth while reducing child labor in the agriculture, textile, and fishing industries, while improving labor rights in three targeted provinces within Honduras.  **Results:**   * Over 45 community child labor committees have been established to identify and refer at-risk children and children engaged in labor to critical services. * Over 2000 children have been provided access to formal education and/ or non-formal training services, including over 600 children currently engaged in child labor. * Means created to provide youth with training on entrepreneurial skills, adult literacy, information and community technologies for employment, technical and vocational skills training, links to employers, plus other valuable services. * Over 650 vulnerable households have received market-driven livelihood services, including financial literacy training, access to village savings groups, and entrepreneurship training. * 14 community-based alternative education programs established for secondary age children in regions where the educational system only covers up to primary school. * Over 45 worker rights centers created, which have provided legal services and advice to over 4,000 workers, employers and members of civil society   **Tanzania (2012-2016)**  **Wekeza**  **4 years; $3.2 million**  Wekeza (Swahili for “invested”) is a sub grant to the International Rescue Committee to combat child labor in  agriculture in two regions of Tanzania.  **Results:**   * Enrolled 3328 students at risk for child labor and 608 students in child labor into primary, secondary, and COBET (nonformal) schools. * Reduced number of students needing remedial education support in Tanga region by 92.3% over 1.5 years. * Reached 2937 households with agricultural based interventions as commercial producer groups (CPGs) and 2446 with non-agriculture income generating activities. * Households joined savings and loan groups in 163 target villages, generating a total of $392,544   **Cocoa Life Project in Ghana**  World Vision Ghana together with Mondelez International through the Cocoa life programme are implementing activities as efforts in eliminating child labor through nutrition programming. The project approach in eliminating child labor is in line with the Ghana strategy which is Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System(GCLMS). It focuses on 3 areas: Prevention, Monitoring and Remediation with key emphasis on addressing the root causes of child labor. This is done through a holistic and community-centric approach such as improving farmer livelihoods. Through Food Security and Nutrition interventions under the prevention strategy, the root cause of child labor such as poverty is addressed by increasing household incomes, empowering women economically, reducing Malnutrition etc.  **Strategies/Interventions**  The project integrated ending child labour objectives and financial inclusion to increase income of cocoa producers, particularly women. Kate has been one pf the beneficiaries, a cocoa farmer in the Sekyere East district. She is a single mother of five. She has been taking care of the children alone since her left with sales of her farm produce-cocoa and food crops- and, loans from the loan sharks in the community. Her children have been assisting her in the farm as she did not have money to hire labour for every farm activity. Their roles have been weeding, picking pods, planting, watering, breaking pods and carrying farm produce home. Loss of income to hire labor becomes the driving force exposing children to the risk of child labor.  In collaboration with the department of social welfare and the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE), World Vision Ghana educated all the communities on child labour issues. As part of the project, Community child protection committees (CCPC) were formed, trained and supported with materials (books, identification) to monitor child protection issues. Referral lines were established to enable reportage and mediation. The role of the committee is to ensure children attend school and not work on the farms. Children were also educated on child labor issues Child Rights Clubs in response to the findings during the community engagement that the children engage in labour without the consent of their guardians.  As a practical solution to reduce exposure of children to child labor resulting from lack of income, World Vision organized community based and managed savings for transformation groups to give farmers financial insurance (savings and loans).These groups have provided funds to farmers to hire labour for agronomical practices which hitherto would have been done by their children. In addition, community enterprise groups were formed, trained and equipped to produce products with available raw materials for sale thus increasing household income. Cassava processing, soap making and baking were the enterprises established. Furthermore, Mondelez International provided farmer groups with premium on the sales of the cocoa beans that was distributed to farmers to purchase farm inputs and meet basic household needs. To ensure children stay in school, bicycles were distributed to children in hard to reach communities to commute to school.  Household income have been increased as a result on the additional livelihood interventions. Smallholder farmers are able to hire labour for their farming activities thus children are retained in schools. The CCPCs in the communities have enacted by-laws to monitor and refer offender to the district child protection committees for further action. School attendance and retention by children in the hard to reach communities have increased as the commuting time and stress have been drastically reduced by the use of the bicycles received from the project. Moreover, parents are able to provide the school needs of the children even during cocoa off-season with savings and loans from the savings for transformation groups (S4T). Therefore the children do not have any excuse to be absent from school. Farmers and their children now understand the negative impact of child labour in their lives as a result have increased interest in the education and training for life.  Public-Private Investment in The Cocoa Sector In Ghana Towards Elimination Of Child Labour And Forced Labour: In Ghana, fishing and farming sectors are highly reckoned to be child labour hot spots, with about 21.8 per cent of children affected (National Plan of Action Phase II, 2017). Within the farming sector, cocoa farming in particular with its unique characteristics require diverse stakeholders to act intentionally to deal with child labour by tackling root causes. Among stakeholders in the public sphere, district level institutions usually rely heavily on District Assembly Common Fund and Internally Generated Funds. With the former usually disbursed in arrears and the later insufficient in rural districts where most cocoa farming families reside, major public institutional investment in child protection and child labour specific activities are limited.  Against this backdrop, the Social Welfare Department and Rural Enterprise Programme through the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty and rural enterprise development initiatives support most vulnerable cocoa growing families with direct cash transfers to cushion most vulnerable families with some skills training. The actual strength of public departments that has been harnessed by the Cocoa Life Programme in the course of child labour eradication is their technical skill and mandate for protecting children as enshrined in the laws of Ghana. Through partnership and support by World Vision in running planned sensitization campaigns at the community levels, cocoa growing families especially children are aware of their rights and responsibilities, which safeguard them from child labour and other forms of exploitation and rights denial.  In the private space, the partnership between World Vision Ghana and Mondelez International Cocoa Life has been very sensitive in the following ways to ensure child labour is ended in all programme beneficiary communities as outlined herein.  **Enhancing Cocoa farmers Access to Microfinance to Increase Resilience of Cocoa Farming Families**  World Vision Ghana with support from Mondelez International Cocoa Life further facilitates cocoa growing communities’ access to microfinance products through the Savings for Transformation Groups which helps farmers to save parts of their income against off-peak cocoa seasons, with savings kits. This microfinance component of the Cocoa Life Programme also helps cocoa farmers to save up and build assets necessary to escape poverty and invest in the education of their children to high levels to enable them have descent jobs. As at 2019, the Cocoa Life Programme had established 1,967 functional savings groups with 121,167 cocoa community dwellers participating in 589 cocoa life communities in Ghana. Over 300 of these savings groups have been linked successful to formal microfinance institutions to access bigger loans to expand their businesses of which they are able to hire labour for their work on the farm. World Vision Ghana facilitates this initiative in 161 communities in six districts in three regions of Ghana. The meetings are used to discuss child labour and child marriage preventions.  **Improving Community Access to Infrastructure which mitigates Child Labour In Cocoa Growing Communities**  The Cocoa Life Programme also robustly facilitates total community development to sustainably free families from infrastructural limitations which foster child labour and forced labour practices. Naturally, cocoa growing communities in Ghana are in the remote areas, challenged with unavailability of necessary social amenities and services like roads, schools and health services. The lack of education infrastructure in particular aids child labour through deprivation of children’s right to quality education. In instances where schools are available, the distance covered by children in cocoa growing communities to attend these schools impact negatively on their health and makes schooling unattractive. Poor road networks also make transportation of goods to market centres an avenue for child labour practice.  In ensuring access to community infrastructure and social services World Vision through the Cocoa Life Programme Unit had supported 450 communities in 12 Districts, to develop and activate community action plans, ensuring the participation of erstwhile marginalized groups like women, youth and children. As at 2019, 3,205 projects had been initiated and completed while 1,599 projects are on-going in cocoa growing communities in Ghana. World Vision Ghana’s District project coordinating units facilitated the mobilization and training of communities in six districts within three cohorts of the Cocoa Life Programme, enhancing cocoa farming communities’ advocacy knowledge and skills through its Citizen Voice and Action Project Model. This model essentially drives communities to engage duty bearers for provision of non existing social services and improvement of existing low quality services and infrastructure.  World Vision Ghana also supports communities by bridging the disconnection between cocoa growing communities and district-level duty-bearers in cocoa growing districts through an established annual communities and District Assembly engagement forum. This has improved District Assemblies infrastructural and social services improvement in Cocoa Life communities, leading to gradual removal of major community barriers which predispose families to engage in child labour. Private institutions and cocoa growing communities have also initiated and partially/fully funded projects which address community pressing educational infrastructural needs and access to safe potable drinking water. Access to education infrastructure in particular has replaced farms in the lives of children in cocoa growing communities with mechanized water points also reducing times spent on household chores for children (especially girls) before attending school.  Additionally, World Vision and World Bicycle Relief directly supports children who access education from distant communities through the Bicycle for Educational Empowerment Project in collaboration with Mondelez International. This initiative provided children in remote communities with bicycles to support and motivate them to access education with support from Mondelez International.  **Facilitating Cocoa Farmers’ Access and Adoption of Appropriate Technologies To End Dependence On Manual Family Labour**  In addition to increasing household incomes for cocoa farming families to pay for appropriate labour to work on the farm, the Cocoa Life programme strategically evaluates the cocoa production value chain to ascertain areas where appropriate technologies can be used to reduce manual work and thereby eliminate child labour along activities in the cocoa value chain.  Mechanized Slashers and tricycles used by Cocoa Farmers to manage weeds and transport beans alternative ultimately breaks reliance on children within the value chain replacing manual activity with farm mechanization. These technologies also help to protect children from harmful chemicals and hazardous work which are harmful to their health. The Mondelez International Cocoa Life Unit has invested heavily in these appropriate technology supplying mobilized farmer cooperatives at community and district levels with environmentally friendly motorized pruners, slashers and tricycles to support farm management and transportation of cocoa beans from the farm to the house for drying.  **Raising Awareness among Cocoa Growing Families and Communities on the effects of Child Labour and Importance of Education.** More directly, Mondelez International in partnership with World Vision Ghana and other child-focused organizations like Child Rights International and Right To Play have consistently raised awareness among cocoa community dwellers, reaching 270, 863 in 2019 in 656 communities with community child protection structures established to sustain preventive awareness creation messages. Child labour monitoring and remediation systems are also in place to manage cases of child labour and forced child labour. Community Child Protection Committees have been ensuring that every child in their communities attends school and undertake referrals to the District Child Protection Committees if any child labour/abuse is identified**.** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **ACTIONS WORLD VISION IS TAKING TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR IN AGRICULTURE?**  **Our partners:**  World Vision collaborates and engages with governments, private sector actors, workers’ organizations, and directly in communities to advance the protection of children from the practice of child labor and to support the awareness and compliance of labor rights. We partner with key private sector actors, the United States Government, and foreign governments to provide linkages to decent work opportunities for youth and their families. World Vision values private partners and works closely with employers, trade associations, and labor inspectorates to increase commitment to upholding labor rights laws.  **Our Approach**  **Civil Society**  World Vision’s long-term community presence has enabled it to establish sustainable partnerships with civil society that prioritize education and reducing violence and exploitation. We have seen children thrive when communities and civil society are committed to protect workers’ rights, strong child protection systems are in place, education is accessible and valued, schools are safe to attend, and age-inappropriate work is prevented. World Vision helps to mobilize local community structures centered around labor and child rights to build awareness and refer potential violations to local and/or municipal authorities.  For years, World Vision has worked with communities to ensure that adolescents of legal working age and youth are aware of their rights for (1) minimum wages, (2) age-appropriate working hours, (3) continuing education, (4) acceptable working conditions, and (5) reporting workplace rights violations. This increases the likelihood of adolescents to access grievance mechanisms and reduces their risk of being exploited or abused in the workplace. Through awareness-raising and outreach campaigns, World Vision advocates for the rights of adolescents in the workplace in communities by crafting key messages for specific audiences.  In several countries where World Vision works, we also support civil society and government engagement with workers’ organizations, such as federations, associations, and labor unions that defend workers’ rights and provide accountability and transparency measures for employers. Civil society’s efforts to protect workers and their rights reduce the risks of families falling victim to forced labor, child labor, gender-based violence and other types of exploitation. Through direct trainings to workers, World Vision has often provided information and resources to them on how to claim and defend their rights.  **Government**  World Vision partners with and supports foreign governments to 1) create and enforce laws related to the protection of workers, 2) strengthen local and national systems to identify and respond to violations of children’s rights, 3) advance social protection mechanisms, and 4) increase access to education to create an environment for children to learn and thrive. As a non-governmental organization, we have been able to successfully advocate and support interagency coordination among government branches and departments, keeping the focus on the well-being of children and their families.  World Vision provides technical assistance to government programs that 1) provide both formal and alternative education options to children and adolescents, 2) promote soft and technical skills development, 3) support youth in the transition to employment, 4) incentivize adolescents and youth to pursue safe and decent work, rather than leave school for lower paying jobs, and 5) create and/or promote grievance mechanisms for an emerging young adult workforce. We have often partnered with schools to train teachers and establish peer-tutoring programming. In remote areas where traditional schools are not present, World Vision has linked children and adolescents to alternative education programs. We also offered complementary education programs within schools and around communities to increase literacy rates and interest in school through reading camps, mobile libraries, and life-skills programming.  **Private Sector**  World Vison promotes and supports employers and private sector stakeholders to consider the well-being of adolescents of legal working age and youth when creating social compliance systems and remediation mechanisms. This includes consideration of flexible schedules to accommodate ongoing education and the active prevention of adolescents and youth from being exploited or abused. The quality and sustainability of a workforce is improved when adolescents and youth can build technical skills and specializations within a single industry and have opportunities for internal advancement. Through World Vision’s youth programming, youth are equipped to pursue higher education, obtain employment, or start a small business. For youth who choose employment, strong partnerships are made with private sector companies to link them to internships and job opportunities.  World Vision provides resources and capacity building support to private sector businesses to comply with labor laws around decent work, decent wages and OSH standards, and to provide due diligence and access to grievance mechanisms. When workers are fairly compensated for their work and have safe work environments, they are less likely to be injured or to develop chronic illnesses. Reducing economic pressure on the household diminishes the need for children to provide additional income to the household. World Vision partners with OSH experts to strengthen guidelines, protocols, and training manuals that can be used by companies to improve their compliance with labor laws. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| 1. Absence of government social protection measures to protect the most vulnerable during the lean season: These challenges can be addressed through targeted government social protection programs for farm workers and small holder farmers. Facilitate access to finance and organize farmers into producer groups to access a safety net to buy seeds or hire labor. Despite it being the state’s responsibility to provide social protection programmes that ensure people can cope with crises and have the basics of life, about 55 percent of the global population (especially in developing countries and fragile contexts) do not have such coverage. Even before COVID-19 struck, almost two thirds of all children globally – more than 1.3 billion girls and boys – could not access social protection. 2. Mechanization of agriculture to save time. 3. Absence of fair living wage for farm workers: Policy legislation accompanied by a dedicated budget and accountability mechanisms in place. 4. Lack of information: Capacity building and awareness raising for farm workers on child labor. 5. COVID-19 exacerbating cases of child labor: Those in the hard to reach places and already receiving humanitarian assistance due to conflict and climate change are most affected and pushed further into poverty. Children from households facing loss of jobs or reduced income are now more at risk because of begging, child labour, child trafficking and early marriage. For example, our Asia region rapid assessment in Cambodia found 28 percent of households facing loss of jobs and income were sending children out to work, and in Bangladesh, 34 percent were sending children to beg. See <https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Out%20of%20Time_Covid19%20Aftershocks%20-%20FINAL.pdf> 6. Conflict resulting in increased displacement and migration placing children at risk of child labor as the case with Mexico: Increase the promotion and protection of labor rights, and creating linkages for migrant children and their families to participate in existing education, training, and social protection programs. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| 1. Private sector stakeholders to improve their compliance of workers’ rights and strengthen their due diligence processes. This leads to the responsible recruitment of workers, prohibiting children under the age of 14 to work, and eliminating child labor. This respect for workers’ rights assures the protection of those entering the workforce, allowing them to exercise their rights without fear of reprisal. 2. Employers to build awareness of their workers’ rights, protections, and entitlements create a fair and safe work environment, while allowing adolescent and youth workers to complete their education. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| 1. The Ministries of Labor must work closely with the government and the Ministry of Justice to enforce labor rights, including the eradication of child labor, and the promotion of occupational safety and health (OSH) standards and decent wages. 2. Social services should provide capacity-building support farm workers and employers on how to address child labor. 3. Civil society’s efforts to protect workers and their rights reduce the risks of families falling victim to forced labor, child labor, gender-based violence and other types of exploitation. |

## 47. Nadia Correale, FAO – Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, Italy

Everyone has a role to play in ending child labour in agriculture. This includes different ministries in charge of agriculture and rural development, labour and health, agricultural extension workers, pesticide control boards, researchers, producers’ organizations, farmers, etc.

Child labour is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling. Hazardous child labour is work that is performed by children in dangerous and unhealthy conditions. Children below the age of 18 years must be protected from hazardous work. Handling and using pesticides is considered hazardous work and is not allowed below the age of 18. Children are particularly vulnerable and can be exposed to hazardous pesticides directly and indirectly.

The FAO Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and the Child Labour in Agriculture Prevention team within the Decent Rural Employment team in ESP have established a long-term collaboration. Different approaches have been carried out in addressing hazardous child labour in agriculture and reduce the risks of pesticides at institutional and field level: a) by supporting knowledge generation, capacity development as well as livelihood enhancement schemes to allow families to be less economically dependent on the labour of their children and prioritize education and safe, age-appropriate tasks; b) by raising awareness among various stakeholders on the issue; c) by collecting data on pesticide poisoning and improving the legal framework on pesticide management.

Two publications on occupational safety and health, child labour reduction and pesticide exposure were published in March 2021 providing an array of information, useful tools and case studies:

* The technical note for agricultural stakeholders “[Addressing hazardous child labour and reducing risks posed by hazardous pesticides](http://www.fao.org/3/cb3586en/cb3586en.pdf)”
* The Information note and call for action “[Eliminating hazardous child labour through safe and sustainable farming practices](http://www.fao.org/3/cb3587en/cb3587en.pdf)”

## 48. Eléazar Tchemtchoua, Ministère de l’Agriculture et du Développement Rural, Cameroon

Je vous envoie ci joint ma contribution dans le cadre de l'appel à l'action : Mettre un terme au travail des enfants dans l'agriculture avec l'aide des parties prenantes du secteur agricole.

**Auteur de la présentation** (nom/genre/institution)

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| **TCHEMTCHOUA Eléazar/Masculin/ Ministère de l’Agriculture et du Développement Rural (MINADER)** |

**Titre de votre présentation**

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| **Crise sécuritaireetimpact sur le travail des enfants: Cas des adolescentsdéplacés de la zone Anglophone du Cameroun** |

**Cochez votre catégorie de partie prenante/acteur agricole**

* Fonctionnaire gouvernemental (/ministères liés à l'agriculture)
* Organisation patronale
* Établissement d'enseignement/de recherche
* Secteur privé
* Organisation d'agriculteurs / coopérative / organisation de producteurs
* Organisation de travailleurs ou syndicat
* Société civile ou ONG
* Oganisation internationale (ONU, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banque de développement

**Si vous n'êtes dans aucune de ces situations, veuillez indiquer la catégorie d'acteur ou le secteur auquel vous appartenez (par exemple, le travail, l'éducation ou le social).**

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**Région/Pays/Lieu**

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| **Afrique/Cameroun/Yaoundé** |

**Sous-secteur agricole** (production végétale, pêche et aquaculture, élevage ou foresterie).

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| **Production végétale** |

1. Veuillez décrire le **contexte** de votre contribution et de votre proposition :
   * Quel est l'aspect du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture qui vous préoccupe ? Quelles sont les causes principales? Et quelles conséquences ? Quel est l'impact direct/indirect ou intentionnel/non intentionnel de votre travail sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ?
   * La pandémie de COVID-19 a-t-elle eu un effet (in)direct sur le travail des enfants dans le système agro-alimentaire de votre pays ?
   * Veuillez décrire, si applicable, les activités et les projets, précédemment mis en œuvre ou en cours, destinés à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture, ainsi que leur impact/résultat.

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| **L’atmosphère de terreur créée par la crise sécuritaire dans les régions anglophones du Nord-Ouest et du Sud-Ouest du Cameroun depuis 2017 a amené de nombreuses populations civiles à fuir pour se disperser dans des régions voisines etcomme celle du Littoral fortement agricole. Nombreux sont ces familles ou ces personnes qui ont abandonnés leur terres, leur biens brefs leur moyens de subsistance pour sauver leur vie. En situation de précarité, nombreux sont ces déplacés de tout âge (enfant y compris) qui pour survivre se mettent à la disposition des populations d’accueil pour les réalisations de différentes activités mais surtout agricoles.**  **Il est un secret de polichinelle et reconnu comme tel dans les mœurs locales que les personnes originaires des zones anglophones excellent dans ledésherbageet l’entretien des plantations. Les résidents locaux voient donc cette main d’œuvre qui afflue comme une manne à exploiter à tout prix et sur toutes les formes.**  **En effet, pour faire face aux besoins vitaux que sont: la nutrition, le logement, les soins de santé, la scolarisationdes enfants, plusieurs personnes déplacées ayant été contactés par des résidents locaux pour des travaux champêtres embarquent leurs enfants dans leurs activités (il arrive que des ainés majeurs associent leurscadets mineurs dans leur prestation). L’objectif visé ici étant de vite exécuter la tâche à l’effet d’être payé au plus tôt et se rendre disponible pour une autre sollicitation. Dans lalocalité d’accueil, cette main d’œuvre occasionnelle est bon marché et les sollicitations nombreuses.**  **L’aspect frustrant est que les enfants déplacés sont souvent sollicités soit comme grimpeur dans des exploitations de fruitiers (manguiers, agrumes, safoutier, etc...) soit comme cueilleur/porteur dans les champs de papayes, cacaoyer, café, etc....**  **Comme conséquence, ces enfants sont exposés à des chutes parfois mortelles ou handicapantes.**  **Les enfants généralement de 12 à 15 ans sont aussi généralement sollicité en période de semis (maïs, plantains, arachide) et ce parfois dans des conditions climatiques peu favorables. En effet, les semis se font pendant la petite et la grande saison de pluie, cependant il n’est pas rare de voir ces êtres fragiles travailler non seulement sous la pluie sans équipement de protection et de sécurité mais aussi avec des objets contondants.**  **Malheureusement, l’urgence des besoins dans les familles de déplacés les amène à parfois à repartir les membres de familles en deux ou trois groupes surtout quand la demande de main d’œuvre est élevée. Ainsi le père et la mère peuvent offrir leur service dans une exploitation de culture pérenne (cacao, café, poivre par exemple) tandis que leurs enfants travaillent dans un autre champ de maraîcher ou deculture vivrière. Cette répartition tient souvent compte du niveau de pénibilité, de la distance à parcourir, mais aussi du niveau de rémunération. Par exemple, la rémunération quotidienne pour la cueillette et l’écabossage dans les plantations de cacao varie entre 3000 Fcfa (6 $ USD) et 5000 Fcfa (10$ USD). La cueillette ou récoltes des fruits sont rémunérés entre 1500Fcfa (3 $ USD) et 3000 Fcfa (6 $ USD). Le désherbage est rémunéré à environ 25000 Fcfa (50 $ USD) /hectare. Cette dernière activité, par le passé était menée par des adultes mais est de plus en plus effectuée des adolescents constitués en groupe de deux ou de trois individus.**  **Le MINADER s’est engagé inclure dans les ateliers de formation relative au développement des chaînes de valeur agricoles des modules réservés à sensibiliser les agriculteurs sur les dangers de l’emploi de la main d’œuvre infantile dans les exploitations.**   * **En examinant la situation particulièrement au niveau local, la pandémie de COVID-19a eu un effet plus ou moins direct sur le travail des enfantsdans le système agro-alimentaire du Cameroun.Tout d’abord, les contraintes imposéespar les mesures barrières tel que la distanciation sociale afortement affecté des maillonssituésen aval de la chaîne de valeur tel que l’hôtellerie (informel et formel) provoquant ainsi une baisse de la demande des produits agricolesde base. Ainsi la faible fréquentation voire la fermeture des maquis et divers restaurants ont négativement impactés sur les revenus des agriculteurs réduisant leur capacités à employer les enfants. Mais on a assisté dans certains cas bien que marginal (secteur vivrier par exemple) autravaildes enfantsmais dans des conditions de rémunérations deux à trois fois moindre qu’en situation normale.Un autre aspect est lié à fermeture des écoles qui a eu pour conséquence l’augmentation des besoins alimentaire dans les ménagestant des résidents que des déplacés. Toutefois, l’effet induit de cette situation est qu’une partiede la production a été affecté à la consommation domestique et quel’excédent a été transformé en produit agro-alimentaire à l’effet d’être commercialisé par les enfants dans les coins de rues.La pandemie du COVID-19 a donc contribué à une reconversion des enfants «ouvriers des champs» à «vendeur ambulant» des produits agroalimentaires dans les rues.** * **Particulièrement dans les chaînes de valeur cacao et café les organismes de Certification RAINFOREST, FAIRTRAIDE, UTZ appui le MINADER dans la sensibilisation et leurs actions ont non seulement un impact sur l’amélioration des conditions de gestion de l’environnement mais aussi au niveau de la qualité des ressources humaines intervenant dans les exploitations. Ces dites ressources exclues ipso facto le travail des enfants. Les agriculteurs prennent de plus en plus conscience de cela.** |

1. **Veuillez décrire les** mesures que vous ou votre organisation pouvez ou pourriez adopter pour aborder ou accroître les efforts en faveur de l'élimination du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture. Si cette option n'est pas applicable, veuillez expliquer dans les sections suivantes les défis que vous ou votre organisation rencontrez dans la lutte contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture et présenter des recommandations pour que les acteurs du secteur agricole et d'autres parties prenantes puissent intensifier leur action.

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| * **Dans des chaînes de valeur à forte valeur ajoutéecomme le cacao et lecafé, des prix préférentiels(décents) sontaccordés aux coopératives de producteurs ou directement aux producteursqui ne pratique pas le travail des enfants.** * **Des primeset bonus(intrants, équipement agricole) sontégalement accordées auxmembresdes coopératives qui respectentla dignité des enfants.En guisederecommandations:** * **On peutdavantage organiser et intensifier les ateliers de sensibilisation destinés aux agriculteurs et auxdifférentes parties prenantes;** * **Il est judicieux de promouvoirledéveloppementdes micro-entreprisesde transformation agro-alimentaireen aval des chaînes de valeur dont les activités sont légères, compatibles et bienfaisantes pour les adolescentsrésidents et déplacés.** |

1. **Défis:** Quels sont les principaux obstacles rencontrés par vous, ou par les acteurs du secteur agricole en général, pour lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ? Comment surmonter ou aborder ces difficultés (par exemple, par la politique, la législation, le renforcement des capacités, etc.)

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| **L’un des défis majeur sur le terrain est la difficulté à suivre ou à contrôler les activités menéespar les enfants en général et ce d’entre eux issus dudéplacement interneen particulier. Il est difficile de s’assurer de l’adéquationde ces activités avec l’intégrité physique et morale des adolescents. En effet, la multiplicité des activités agricoles, leur saisonnalité, les distances à parcourir et l’immensité des espaces qui en sont consacréesrend particulièrement difficile ce contrôle.Il devient dès lors difficilede cartographier l’ensemble des activités impliquant les enfants déplacés et de savoir les quellesconstituent des facteurs favorisant le travail des enfants.**  **Les leviers possibles sont:**   * **la sensibilisationsur les dangers du travail des enfants déplacés ou non lors des formationsauprès des agriculteurs** * **l’offre des facilités et avantages divers en termes de: conseils agricolesà la carte, Inputs agricolesetprix d’achat préférentielsaux acteurs qui font preuve de responsabilité en refusant le travail des enfants dans leur exploitation.** * **La prise des mesures coercitives comme le refus d’achat des produits agricolesau sein des coopératives (cacaoet café par exemple)ayant été l’objet du travail des enfants** |

1. **Recommandations destinées aux acteurs du secteur agricole :** Quelles recommandations donneriez-vous aux acteurs du secteur agricole pour aborder la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture que vous venez de présenter ?

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| **Il faut d’avantage communiquer, informer, et sensibiliser les agriculteurs sur les dangers que constitue le travail des enfants. Des mesures incitatives doivent par ailleurs être combinées aux actions coercitivespour plus d’efficacité sur le terrain** |

1. **Recommandations destinées à d’autres parties prenantes :** Que recommanderiez-vous aux autres parties prenantes concernées par la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture (parties prenantes du secteur du travail, de l'éducation, de la protection de l'enfance ou du secteur social, notamment les ministères du travail, les inspecteurs, les éducateurs, les intervenants des services sociaux) ?

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| **Les acteurs en charge de la protection de l’enfance, de l’éducation ou d’autres services sociaux devraient fédérerleur effort pour créerdes centres agricoles d’incubation, destinées aux adolescents. Dans ces centres,l’accent doit être mis sur l’offre de formations aux métiers agricoles sollicités par le marché du travaildécent et adaptés aux capacités physiques et intellectuelles des enfants surtout de la tranche de 12 à 16 ans. On peut citer par exemple:**   * **la formation à la maintenance/réparation des petits équipements agricoles (pulvérisateurs, atomiseurs, débroussailleuse)** * **la formation à la production de semences (pépiniéristes)**   **Ces types d’activités, bien encadrées constituerontcertainement des sources de revenus stableset décentspour les enfants résidents et déplacés et constitueront de ce fait une réponse adaptée et durable à problématique du travail des enfants dans l’agriculture.** |

## 49. Uzooba Hureem, Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI), Planning and Development Board, Pakistan

Pakistan is predominantly characterized by small agricultural landholdings, where farmers are dependent on hired labourers or pooling labourers, as opposed to mechanized agriculture. More often than not, small farm operations are carried out with the help of the family unit instead of hiring agriculture labour from outside (who have to be paid). Thus, the small farm owner or landless farmer (sharecropper/tenant) mostly depends on his/her family to save labour costs and increase profits. The whole family, including children, contribute to this enterprise for their livelihood and income. Limited income/poverty leads households to be economically dependent on child work/labour for their livelihoods and food security.

Children (irrespective of attending school or not) are engaged in farm work with their parents who are either small landowners, share-croppers or tenants. They start helping their parents from an early age in all domestic and farm chores especially at harvest time when adults are busier. However, this work is assigned according to capacity consideration by the parents. Moreover, parents/adults work in hazardous working conditions due to lack of safety measures adopted for pesticide spray. Children are not involved in this but are exposed to it, because of their involvement in other farm work.

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI)** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Research Institution** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Punjab, Pakistan** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| **Note: Response to this form is based upon the findings of our recently conducted study in collaboration with FAO.**  Pakistan is predominantly characterized by small agricultural landholdings, where farmers are dependent on hired labourers or pooling labourers, as opposed to mechanized agriculture. More often than not, small farm operations are carried out with the help of the family unit instead of hiring agriculture labour from outside (who have to be paid). Thus, the small farm owner or landless farmer (sharecropper/tenant) mostly depends on his/her family to save labour costs and increase profits. The whole family, including children, contribute to this enterprise for their livelihood and income. Limited income/poverty leads households to be economically dependent on child work/labour for their livelihoods and food security.  Children (irrespective of attending school or not) are engaged in farm work with their parents who are either small landowners, share-croppers or tenants. They start helping their parents from an early age in all domestic and farm chores especially at harvest time when adults are busier. However, this work is assigned according to capacity consideration by the parents. Moreover, parents/adults work in hazardous working conditions due to lack of safety measures adopted for pesticide spray. Children are not involved in this but are exposed to it, because of their involvement in other farm work. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| The general knowledge that emerges about children in small and marginalized farmer families is that Children are considered a resource by small farm families. The land owners of the area employ labour on their farms on the basis of daily wages, tenant and share cropping. The whole family (including children) contributes to increase the profit from this employment. Here child labour/work becomes important for farmers who work as share croppers/tenants for land owners.  Furthermore, the cultural norm of men not sharing in household work is the major gender-based constraint in the area for women in agriculture. This also points to more burden of a gender role on the girl child (12-17) years of age.  *How can they be addressed?*   * The small farm family is the backbone of Pakistan’s agriculture sector. It needs specific developmental interventions which are suited to their needs and correspond to alleviating their poverty. A one size fits all development plan may not be as relevant. The whole family needs uplifting so that the children can study, play and learn life skills like agriculture and livestock tending. * The small farmer has to integrate in the modern market system. The small farmer is also vulnerable to a host of risks like a market crash and pest destruction cycles. Easy and innovative financing mechanisms to improve efficiency, increase income and alleviate the poverty of small farmers are needed. It will helpful to reduce the children’s engagement in the family farming activities. * Need of inclusive policies; the benefits of existing government policies, to facilitate agriculture, do not seem to be reaching the small farmer/tenant. They complain of the high costs of inputs and less profit of output. They are hired on an informal basis by the land owner without any work or health insurance., this makes them more vulnerable. * There is a need to recognize and compensate the farmer family as an integral part of the formal economy. At the moment their work is informal and susceptible to the vagaries of landowners (who can influence both government and market) and natural calamities (floods, locust/insect attack). |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| * At the moment, agriculture labour, both women and men are limited by their poverty which confines them in gender roles learnt within the family and hinders their upward mobility. In terms of agriculture, this means that group-based interventions may be more eﬀective than one-to-one extension services. In this regard, giving knowledge and training to farmer family as a whole, instead of just the men will be and according to their roles will be more appropriate and help to increase their subsistence. * Inclusiveness; (most of the time) the land owners have access to government inputs, information and trainings in agriculture instead of small farmers/tenants/sharecroppers. Men farmers get training in fertilizer selection, spray and seed selection and women do not have access to this information and training, although they play a remarkably active role in agriculture. * Awareness raising regarding equal education opportunities, as gender inequality is apparent in children’s schooling. A major cause of children not being in school is reported as poverty. If a school is within the village, children go to school. However, if this is not the case, then only children whose parents can afford the transport cost, go to school. In this case, girls are more likely to not be in school as they are not sent out of the village, due to security and cultural reasons. Nevertheless, in both cases their (girls) contribution as farm hand is valued more than their education. * As the agriculture system is not inclusive, other means of income are seen as a way out by women and girls, which should be a worrisome tendency for agricultural policy makers as they eventually will lose agricultural labour. The same is true for adult boys who become conscious of being the bread winner at an early age and move to large towns and cities in search of work as their farm work does not fulfil their financial needs. * There is an immediate need to increase awareness regarding health hazards of pesticide and fertilizer usage. There is a need to increase the knowledge of agricultural communities about how to take care of themselves and their children while working in the field. The government in coordination with local health authorities may initiate mobile medical assistance in these areas, particular peak time of crop season, whereas majority of females and children are in the field. Such assistance can serve to common injuries, allergies, heatstroke, etc. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| * Promoting education which is relevant to the needs of the agricultural communities will increase the value of skill education. * Poverty (transport cost not affordable) and remoteness of secondary/high school from the village are the main reasons of not sending children to school in agricultural communities. As children are considered a resource in the farming communities, there is a need to raise awareness about how they can enjoy childhood, acquire an education and become future managers and leaders in the agricultural economy of Pakistan. * Agriculture is an integral part of the economy and its related study has remained the realm of the rich and privileged and is mostly government-driven. There is a critical need to popularize the study of agriculture[[42]](#footnote-42) at the school level. * At the moment the government is giving incentives to parents for sending children to school e.g., Government of Punjab has initiated “Zeware Taleem” programme through Khidmat Card mechanism developed by the Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA), Rs.1000 monthly stipend is being given to the girls of class VI-X on successful attainment of 80% attendance in public sector schools in 16 districts of Punjab including Bahawalpur and Vehari Under this programme. However, there is a need to study the family’s overall expenses and unpack whether these incentives suit the small farmer. * There is a critical need to popularize the study of agriculture as an important pillar of the economy through public schools in the agricultural communities of Pakistan. Agricultural education is common at the primary, secondary and high school in developed countries like the United States of America. The study of agriculture as a career will be relevant to such communities and ensure stable, safe and affordable food systems for the country. * Education curricula should have more agricultural related content to fulfil the need of agricultural communities. This will increase the value of children’s skill, which they were acquiring due to the family being used as a resource by agricultural communities. In this regard the work of Development in Literacy (DIL) in Pakistan with agricultural communities can be helpful[[43]](#footnote-43). * There is a need to change agriculture research focus. At present, it tends to not research and accept cultural norms and gender roles as a given. It measures yield, crops or climate, rather than people, history and culture. * A few non-government organizations are providing loans in the area and men have access and control to this facility. However, even the men do not report of any upward mobility due to this facility, and mostly do not access it due to high markup rate. There is need to provision of microfinance facilities to both men and women in the farming communities. |

## 50. Jose Hernández, FAO, Guatemala

Estimados colegas buenos días, adjunto la propuesta de llamado a la acción para acabar con el trabajo infantil en la agricultura por parte de FAO Guatemala.

Quedo atento a cualquier observación al formulario.

Saludos cordiales,

José Hernández

**Proponente** (nombre/sexo/institución)

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| **Ricardo Rapallo /masculino / FAO Guatemala** |

**Título de la contribución**

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| **Alianzas público-privadas en la reducción del trabajo infantil en Guatemala** |

**Indique la categoría de parte interesada/actor agrícola**

* Funcionario gubernamental (/ministerios competentes en materia agrícola)
* Organización patronal
* Institución académica/de investigación
* Sector privado
* Organización / cooperativa de agricultores / organización de productores
* Organización de trabajadores o sindicato
* Sociedad civil u ONG
* Organismo internacional (ONU, UITA, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banco de desarrollo

**Si ninguna de las anteriores es válida, indique a qué categoría de actor o sector pertenece (por ejemplo, laboral, educativo o social)**

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**Región/País/Ubicación**

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| **Centroamérica /Guatemala/Ciudad de Guatemala** |

**Subsector agrícola** (agricultura, pesca y acuicultura, ganadería, o silvicultura)

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| **AAgricultura** |

1. Proporcione algo de **contexto** sobre su contribución y propuesta:
   * ¿Cuál es el aspecto del trabajo infantil en la agricultura que le preocupa? ¿Cuáles son las principales causas? ¿Y las consecuencias? ¿Qué impacto directo/indirecto o intencionado/no intencionado cree que está teniendo su labor sobre el trabajo infantil en la agricultura
   * ¿Ha tenido la COVID-19 un impacto (in)directo en el trabajo infantil en el sistema agroalimentario de su país?
   * Si procede, describa actividades y proyectos, implementados anteriormente o en curso, para abordar el trabajo infantil en la agricultura, así como su impacto/resultados:

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| **La mayoría de familias que dependen de la agricultura en Guatemala viven en condiciones de pobreza y pobreza extrema, propiciando cuadros de inseguridad alimentaria en los menores y su participación en actividades laborales. El país ha sido duramente afectado por la pandemia y dos tormentas tropicales, exacerbando la situación de vulnerabilidad de los pequeños productores.**  **FAO ha llegado a un acuerdo con Foro Mundial Bananero (FMB) a través del plan “Trabajando juntos hacia una producción y comercio sostenible del banano”, para el desarrollo de un manual de salud y seguridad ocupacional específico para la industria bananera, junto con sesiones de formación para actores del sector público y privado, así como representantes de los trabajadores.** |

1. **Describa la actuación** que usted o su organización pueden o podrían llevar a cabo para abordar o aumentar los esfuerzos hacia la eliminación del trabajo infantil en la agricultura. Si esto no procede, explique en las siguientes secciones los retos a los que usted o su organización se enfrentan a la hora de abordar el trabajo infantil en la agricultura y aporte recomendaciones para que las partes interesadas en el sector agrícola y otras partes interesadas puedan tomar mayores medidas.

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| * **Trabajar con actores agrícolas para reducir las barreras en la preparación y el acceso al trabajo decente para los jóvenes rurales de 14 a 17 años, que, aunque tienen menos de 18 años, tienen la edad mínima legal para trabajar.** * **Fortalecimiento de las capacidades del sector agrícola bananero** * **Garantizar mejores opciones de medios de vida para los hogares rurales y aumentar la productividad.** |

1. **Retos:** ¿Cuáles son los principales obstáculos a los que usted, o las partes interesadas del sector agrícola en general, se enfrentan a la hora de abordar el trabajo infantil en la agricultura? ¿Cómo podrían superarse o abordarse estos retos (p.ej. mediante políticas, legislación, desarrollo de capacidades, etc.)?

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| * **Bajos controles por parte de los productores en la verificación del personal empleado.** * **Programas de resguardo y protección a menores en condiciones laborales.** * **Condiciones sociales (pobreza, desempleo, migración) que propician el trabajo infantil en áreas rurales.** |

1. **Sugerencias para las partes interesadas del sector agrícola:** ¿Qué recomendaría a las partes interesadas para abordar la cuestión del trabajo infantil en la agricultura que ha abordado?

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| * **Fortalecimiento de capacidades para la agricultura familiar (apoyo/seguimiento a la ley en Guatemala).** * **Desarrollo de programas que propicien conocimientos y experiencia técnica en adolescentes en áreas de alta migración.** * **Acompañamiento técnico con contrapartes.** |

1. **Sugerencias para otras partes interesadas:** ¿Qué recomendaría a otras partes interesadas que se ocupan de la cuestión del trabajo infantil en la agricultura (sector laboral, educación, protección de la infancia o sector social, incluidos los ministerios de trabajo, inspectores, educadores, profesionales de los servicios sociales, etc.)?

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| * **Disponibilidad y apertura a diálogos y acuerdos.** * **Coordinación de actividades que den paso a programas concretos** |

## 51. Agnès Buhendwa, ONG TUSAIDIANE, Democratic Republic of Congo

Le travail des enfants dans l’agriculture et son impact sanitaire sur ces derniers dans la Province du Haut – Katanga.

**Auteur de la présentation** (nom/genre/institution)

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| **Agnès BUHENDWA/ Femme / ONG TUSAIDIANE** |

**Titre de votre présentation**

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| **Le travail des enfants dans l’agriculture et son impact sanitaire sur ces derniers dans la Province du Haut – Katanga.** |

**Cochez votre catégorie de partie prenante/acteur agricole**

* Fonctionnaire gouvernemental (/ministères liés à l'agriculture)
* Organisation patronale
* Établissement d'enseignement/de recherche
* Secteur privé
* Organisation d'agriculteurs / coopérative / organisation de producteurs
* Organisation de travailleurs ou syndicat
* Société civile ou ONG
* Organisation internationale (ONU, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Banque de développement

**Si vous n'êtes dans aucune de ces situations, veuillez indiquer la catégorie d'acteur ou le secteur auquel vous appartenez (par exemple, le travail, l'éducation ou le social).**

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| **RAS** |

**Région/Pays/Lieu**

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| **République Démocratique du Congo / Province du Haut – Katanga / Ville de Lubumbashi** |

**Sous-secteur agricole** (production végétale, pêche et aquaculture, élevage ou foresterie).

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| **Production végétale et élevage** |

1. Veuillez décrire le **contexte** de votre contribution et de votre proposition :
   * Quel est l'aspect du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture qui vous préoccupe ? Quelles sont les causes principales? Et quelles conséquences ? Quel est l'impact direct/indirect ou intentionnel/non intentionnel de votre travail sur le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ?
   * La pandémie de COVID-19 a-t-elle eu un effet (in)direct sur le travail des enfants dans le système agro-alimentaire de votre pays ?
   * Veuillez décrire, si applicable, les activités et les projets, précédemment mis en œuvre ou en cours, destinés à lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture, ainsi que leur impact/résultat.

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| **La Province du Haut – Katanga est une province à la fois agricole et minière. Même les terres affectées à l’agriculture regorgent des minerais.**  **L’instauration par le gouvernement de la RDC de la fermeture temporaire des écoles comme l’une des mesures barrières pour endiguer la pandémie de la COVID-19 a entraîné une baisse remarquable de la fréquentation scolaire des enfants. Ceux dont les parents étaient confrontés à plusieurs contraintes financières n’ont pas pu retrouver le chemin de l’école à cause de la baisse des revenus des ménages et l'incapacité des parents à payer les frais de scolarité.**  **Voulant profiter d’une main-d’œuvre disponible et bon marché, les enfants restés à la maison sont forcés d’accompagner leurs parents dans les champs pour contribuer à l’accroissement de la production et, ipso facto, des revenus.**  **Or, la présence des enfants dans les champs les expose aux radiations des substances minérales qui seraient à la base des infections cutanées et respiratoires pouvant conduire au handicap physique et/ou mentale et à la mort.** |

1. **Veuillez décrire les** mesures que vous ou votre organisation pouvez ou pourriez adopter pour aborder ou accroître les efforts en faveur de l'élimination du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture. Si cette option n'est pas applicable, veuillez expliquer dans les sections suivantes les défis que vous ou votre organisation rencontrez dans la lutte contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture et présenter des recommandations pour que les acteurs du secteur agricole et d'autres parties prenantes puissent intensifier leur action.

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| **Les efforts en faveur de l’élimination du travail des enfants dans l’agriculture devraient consister dans la conduite des programmes / projets et dans la mise en œuvre des activités visant :**  **1° le renforcement des capacités des ménages agricoles à faibles revenus dans le domaine de l’entreprenariat agricole pour la création des activités génératrices des revenus viables et durables ;**  **2° l’appui matériel, financier et technique aux ménages agricoles à faibles revenus pour la création et la diversification des sources de revenus ;**  **3° le renforcement des capacités des ménages agricoles à faibles revenus dans le domaine de l’éducation et l’inclusion financière (comment gérer leurs propres budgets, comment épargner davantage, faire la différence entre une dépense et un gaspillage, comment avoir accès aux différents services financiers, etc.) ;**  **4° l’accès facile et le maintien dans les écoles des enfants des ménages à faibles revenus.**  **Il est difficile d’identifier les enfants travaillant dans l’agriculture et de collecter des informations à leur sujet, étant donné que les ménages auxquels appartiennent ces enfants ne sont pas généralement structurés en coopératives agricoles. Pour lever ce défi, il est souhaitable de procéder à l’identification, à la sélection et à la structuration des ménages agricoles éligibles.** |

1. **Défis:** Quels sont les principaux obstacles rencontrés par vous, ou par les acteurs du secteur agricole en général, pour lutter contre le travail des enfants dans l'agriculture ? Comment surmonter ou aborder ces difficultés (par exemple, par la politique, la législation, le renforcement des capacités, etc.)

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| **Les obstacles généralement rencontrés sont de trois ordres, à savoir :**  **1° défis d’ordre culturel : la culture associative n’est pas beaucoup développée chez la plupart des agriculteurs (prédominance de l’individualisme et de l’égoïsme au détriment d’une vision collective à long terme) ;**  **2° défis d’ordre économique : accès difficile aux services financiers, d’où le recours à une main-d’œuvre disponible et bon marché que sont les enfants dans les différentes opérations agricoles (labours, semis, sarclage, récolte et transport) ;**  **3° défis d’ordre juridique : beaucoup de terres exploitées par les ménages agricoles ne sont pas généralement sécurisées ; d’où la résurgence des conflits fonciers entre cultivateurs et exploitants miniers.** |

1. **Recommandations destinées aux acteurs du secteur agricole :** Quelles recommandations donneriez-vous aux acteurs du secteur agricole pour aborder la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture que vous venez de présenter ?

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| **Aux acteurs du secteur agricole, nous recommandons de :**   * **Adopter les nouvelles techniques agricoles et d’organisation qui favorisent un travail de groupe pour mieux défendre leurs intérêts et capitaliser différentes opportunités qui s’offrent en leur faveur (Coopératives Agricoles);** * **Comprendre les méfaits du travail des enfants dans l’agriculture et leurs conséquences sanitaires et économiques ;** |

1. **Recommandations destinées à d’autres parties prenantes :** Que recommanderiez-vous aux autres parties prenantes concernées par la problématique du travail des enfants dans l'agriculture (parties prenantes du secteur du travail, de l'éducation, de la protection de l'enfance ou du secteur social, notamment les ministères du travail, les inspecteurs, les éducateurs, les intervenants des services sociaux) ?

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| **Nous recommandons ce qui suit :**   * **Améliorer l’offre et l’accès des enfants à l’éducation de base (Appui directs aux enfants et soutien financier et matériel aux écoles) ;** * **Travailler pour le renforcement et la sécurisation du pouvoir d’achat des ménages agricoles à faibles revenus (appui technique, matériel et financier aux familles) ;** * **Renforcer les mesures d’encadrement et élargir la gratuité de l’éducation de tous les enfants jusqu’au niveau du secondaire (BAC).** |

## 52. Muhammad Iqbal, Farmers’ Integrated Development Association (FIDA), Pakistan

**Dear FAO colleagues,**

Greetings from Vehari, Pakistan

Please find attached the FIDA contribution to the Call for action “ending child labor in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders” by FAO. It was a very interesting and learning opportunity for us.

Wonderful FAO!

Regards,

**Abdul Rasheed Abbasi**

**Farmers’ Integrated Development Association (FIDA), Pakistan**

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| Abdul Rasheed Abbasi/Male/ Farmers’ Integrated Development Association (FIDA), Pakistan |

**Title of your contribution**

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| FFS, Children ecological clubs, eliminating child labor & hazards in agriculture |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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| N/A |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Asia/Pakistan/District Vehari** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| Farming, forestry and livestock |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| * + **What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?**   Children are employed in both formal and informal sectors in Pakistan and they are engaged in activities that are harmful. Unsafe for their health, survival and future, half of them are under age at ten. Poverty in Pakistan forces children to be exploit by their parents and guardians for jobs that endanger their health and safety. While overwork, modern slavery by debt bondage and other illicit activities are as well insecure them.  As we know that major reason of child labor in Pakistan is a poverty. It is important to take necessary steps to reduce poverty, especially in rural areas. Sadly, the majority of our society does not consider child labor in agriculture as a child labor and most child labour takes place within the family unit.  Our learnings and experiences tells us that child labour issue especially in agriculture is very common and treated as a normal issue. Because all concerned stakeholders have not any knowledge and information about child rights especially child labour and its impact on children lives even on whole family lives. In rural areas, a large number of child live far from home and without parents for laborers work. It is common for children to all forms of exploitation and treatment, such as violence, malnutrition, lack of medical care and inadequate compensation.   * + **Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?**   Mostly people have been affected by the Covid-19 epidemic, but the children and youth labourers in agriculture have been hit hardest. In our areas, agri centered child & youth workforce/labourers are employed in low-income. They are becoming unstable as first to lose their jobs/labour workdue to the Covid-19 pandemic. Left to face increased financial burdens, they are becoming more fearful of not knowing where their next income will come from and how to fulfill their family needs. They are even on the verge of thinking if their families will be able to survive this epic crisis. With the loss of their livelihoods, still they are unable to pay for necessitiesincluding daily family foods, utilities, and domestic expenses. With fears of hunger, child labourers and their families are certain hopelessness on the rise for this already vulnerable population, they need us now more than ever and it will all have a great impact on their life.   * + **If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:**   FIDA is struggling and working actively on the elimination of child labour and modern slavery in agriculture along with different non-governmental organizations and networks through continuously efforts as;   * Formed and strengthening FFS and promote descent work in agriculture through reducing child labor work. * Awareness raising about hazards child labour work in agriculture including forestry, livestock, farming etc. * Educate parents/guardians as well as farmers to avoid any hazards labor work from children, which will harmful for their health, survival, and protection issues. * FIDA is promoting child to child learning and sharing opportunities on hazards labor work in agriculture through children ecological clubs in rural areas. This is platform for children where children ask questions and share their problems, which makes their parents and the community better aware of their children's problems.   FIDA understands that employment opportunities should be provided to youth by providing various skills as per their local needs and demands to facilitate the transition of the youth in the labor market. This will make it easier for their families to get rid of child labor at an early age. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| FIDA is working since 2003 with local communities especially children and youth along with their parents to end child labour and safety measures from Pesticides in agriculture. FIDA has working extensively to raise awareness and advocacy on hazards of child labor work and practices. By keeping in mind FIDA previous experience, these action could be useful to eliminate child labor in agriculture;   * Accessible free compulsory education for all without any discriminations and gender biases. * Skill based education as per local needs * Micro entrepreneurships for poor families especially for women and youth * Strengthening local CSOs to raise awareness and advocacy on eliminate child labor * Child to child/peer education for sensitization among children on hazards child labor issues. * Liaison building with concerned line departments/institutions to eliminate child labor in agriculture. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| The International Labour Organization (ILO) suggests that poverty is the greatest single cause behind child labour in Pakistan. Pakistan has a per-capita income of approximately $1900. A middle class person in Pakistan earns around $6 a day on average and this situation is very bad in agriculture sector. The second most important thing is that the sources of income of the rural population are very limited except for agriculture.  There is a need to create more income generating activities and agri-based entrepreneurships to eliminate child labor in agriculture by educating children both girls and boys and youth skilled force. Support and strengthening local community based organizations and CSOs’ to create awareness and behavior change commination about eliminating child labour in agriculture. Therefore, there is a need to invest more in the agricultural sector to increase employment and increase income so that parents can send their children to school instead of working in the fields. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| FIDA understand that all community segments in rural areas, especially parents, should be made aware of the dangers of child labor and its adverse effects on children's survival and future as well as their education and health. This process should be continued so that a positive change in their attitudes can help eliminate child labor. This requires bringing together all agricultural groups and stakeholders on a one platform for mutual efforts towards child labour elimination in agriculture and also   * Child labour work especially hazards works are prohibited in all forms of agriculture. * Establish long & short-term strategy to cope up child labor issues in agriculture. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| * Alternative/multi sources of income generation components are available for farmers and their elder family members. * Access of free and compulsory education for all children both for girls and for boys. * Implementation of child labour laws forcefully and its monitoring. * Strengthening local CSOs for awareness raising and advocacy for eliminating child labour in agriculture. |

## 53. Hadiar Lakkis, Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training, Lebanon

Dear Sir or Mme,

Kindly, find attached the submission form for the call for action-child labor in agriculture.

Best regards,

Haidar Lakkis

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| **Haidar Lakkis/ Male/ Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training** |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| **Ideas for ending child labor in agriculture** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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|  |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **Middle East/Lebanon** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

|  |
| --- |
| **farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| * To being with, the nature of the labor and it being unsafe for children is our highest concern, furthermore, children are leaving school and/or being deprived of education to begin with. In our awareness programs, we are being able to directly have an impact on farmers employing children, since they are reducing or eliminating such form of labor in their work. In our education programs, BLN and ABLN, we were indirectly able to some extent to convince parents to direct their kids towards education rather than hazardous child labor activities mostly in agriculture. * With factories closing their doors, and/or limiting working hours due to Covid-19 restrictions, there has been a surplus of raw materials, meaning farmers are not able to sell their harvest, as a result they were forced to release some of their laborers, thus indirectly limiting or reducing child labor in agriculture. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| * If we are to eliminate or work towards eliminating child labor in agriculture, we could work on providing efficient alternatives for farmers to replace the children working the fields, such as machinery, or more abled adult laborers at similar wages, for example, instead of employing 6 children who can harvest 20 kilos of potatoes in a day for a wage of 120,000 LBP collectively, we can employ 3 adults who can harvest 60 kilos in a day for a wage of 240,000 LBP, twice the cost but triple the production. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| The stubborn nature of the people here makes them resist any change, and we should note that child labor in agriculture has been a norm for centuries in the Arab area. Such resistance can be dealt with through awareness and capacity building.  As I mentioned above, farmers ask for an alternative for their laborers, since it is not logical to ask them to relieve workers and not provide them with an alternative. An alternative was mentioned above.  It will take us time to get through to the farmers, to change what has been normalized for ages, so we can reach a temporary arrangement with farmers who still have children working the fields, we can have them give children harmless tasks thus preserving the children’s wellbeing until a final resolution can be achieved. Of course this arrangement has to be supervised by the NGO to make sure that it has not been breached. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| Think of these children as the pupils who will make the country a better place to live in, do not put them harm, and deprive them of their right to study and have a normal childhood. The children who work for you are your responsibility, give them tasks that are not harmful to them, and if they do get hurt, do not neglect them and take care of them. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| As for other stakeholders, they can help in providing support in their respected fields, from education programs for children, training programs for farmers, employees for farms, PSS for children, enforce labor laws protecting children. |

## 54. Maya Obeid, Relief International, Lebanon

Dear FAO team,

I am pleased to share with you Relief International - Lebanon office's contribution to the call for action: ending child labour in agriculture with the help of agricultural stakeholders. Please find attached the completed call form.

Kind regards,

Maya Obeid

Livelihoods Program Manager

Relief International - Lebanon Office

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Maya Obeid – Female - Relief International** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| --- |
| **Holistic Protection and Livelihoods Solutions to Reduce Child Labour in Agriculture Sector** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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|  |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **Middle East – Lebanon – North of Lebanon** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming and Livestock** |

1. Please provide some background context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| Child Labour remains one of Lebanon's most intractable protection issues, with the rates of working children and severity of exploitative conditions accelerating following the Syrian refugee's crisis. The child labour rate dramatically increased among Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese after October 2019, the starting of economic and financial crises in Lebanon, the devaluation of Lebanese pounds, and the significantly increasing prices of goods[[44]](#footnote-44). The combination of increasingly harsh economic conditions adding the consequences of COVID19, where 60%[[45]](#footnote-45) of Syrian refugees have been laid off, and the school closures have led to an increase in food insecurity and thus an increase in child labor as one of the negative coping mechanisms.  The percentage of child labour particularly among Syrian children have increased dramatically throughout the past few years. As per the VASYR data, the child labour rate has increased by 5 points in 2020 compared to 2019,[[46]](#footnote-46) this was also indicated in the findings of a study conducted by IRC, where 67% of children reported that they are the main income earner for their families after COVID-19[[47]](#footnote-47). Child labour has not only risen among Syrian children but also among Lebanese children. The prevalence of Lebanese working children has tripled between 2009 and 2016 from 1.9 to 6.0 percent[[48]](#footnote-48) and this rate is expected to be much higher with the continuous deterioration of economic and financial situations in Lebanon.  Among all sectors, the agriculture sector comprises the largest share of child labour, it is estimated that 60%[[49]](#footnote-49) of child laborers work in the agriculture sector and this percentage is increased in the agriculture areas such as Akkar and Bekaa.  Besides placing the children under immense pressure and responsibility to prevent hunger and homelessness within the household, which is a heavy psychological burden for a child, engaging children in the agriculture sector is another burden because of the multiple risks and dangers that the child is exposed to. In addition to exposure to fungal infection, poisoning, dehydration, allergies, respiratory disease, sunstroke, being bitten, long working hours, However, the musculoskeletal injuries and disorders, and the sexual abuse are the highly two risks facing children working in the agriculture sector in Lebanon particularly girls. As per the baseline analysis of RI that was conducted under New-Beginnings Project during the q4 2020 and q1 2021, 42% of the working children in agriculture sector are girls, the majority of them have been either sexually harassed or they faced attempt of sexual harassment.  Children, girls and boys, work in small, medium-sized, and large farms and greenhouses and usually pick beans, figs, and potatoes, bagging vegetables and fruits, picking rocks, cleaning fields where pesticides are present.  Relief International is currently implementing a project with the aim to address the child labour in all sectors including the agriculture sector since two of the three targeted areas (Al-Mina in Tripoli, Kfarmelki and Mhamara in Akkar) are considered agricultural areas and 32% of the project children's beneficiaries were engaged in the agricultural activities.  The overall goal of the project is to reduce child labour amongst vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees Households (HHs) through a holistic approach, interconnected intervention between protection and livelihoods. The project takes two-pronged approach to reducing child labour:   1. By addressing economic vulnerability and protection concerns of working children and their families 2. By helping in change, the enabling environment that support the child labour through engaging local authorities and enforcement bodies   To ensure safe livelihoods opportunities for parents of working children, skills building training activities and job placement support are delivered to the project beneficiaries, those who removed their children form labour market, along with short-term emergency cash assistance to help compensate the loss of family income by taking the children out of work.  In addition to that, case management services, psycho-social and focused psycho-social activities are provided to the identified children and their families complemented by re-engaging the children in formal or non-formal education activities.  RI, works on improving the eRI and Himaya will work on improving the enabling and enforcement environment for child protection and child labor by directly building the capacity of local governance and legal enforcement institutions in the program area. For this purpose, employers and municipal officers will be trained and sensitized on the child rights, child labour law, consequences of work on children on holistic development, and the referral mechanism to combat child labour issue. Additionally, support on creating both employment and labor-intensive opportunities on a small scale (village-scale) for adults is one of the main pillars of the project. Job creation plans will be developed and implemented based on the market assessment findings, which was conducted at the beginning of the project, focusing on three value chains: horticulture and dairy.  This project is currently being implemented, however, 100% of our current beneficiaries whom were working in the agriculture sector were removed from labour market and 40 % were re-engaged in educational activities (formal and non-formal). |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| To address or increase efforts towards eliminating child labour in agriculture, Relief International has the ability to work at a grassroots level by providing social protection and livelihood opportunities for caregivers to enter the labor market and enable them to improve their economic and social conditions. The provision of cash and skills development and raising awareness across communities on the consequences of working on children is a successful approach to combat child labour at a small scale. Additionally, promoting the social-behavioral change among communities and farmers is the main pillar of any action to be taken in this matter. Providing farmers with technical and financial support with the aim to decrease the cost and increase the crop yield will contribute to elimination hiring of children (as per RI collected field data in Akkar-north of Lebanon, the landlord/farmer most of the time does not accept to hire adults/caregivers without their children and that particularly in the cultivation season because of the low wage they are received); delivering assistance to the farmers who are not engaged in child labour or delivering conditional assistance to the farmers with the aim of eliminating child labour is necessary.  Enabling environment at area level is one of the key activities that RI is currently working on and would continue to invest in. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| Working on eliminating the child labour issue, RI faces challenges that are more related to the legislation and the implementation of law at field level. The lack of inter-governmental coordination between the concerned ministries (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social affairs, Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour), and other actors such as General Security Office, Municipalities, NSSF, etc. is resulting in a lack of enforcement the existing labour Law.  Another challenge is related to the weaknesses in implementing the monitoring, referral and response mechanism and the lack of Child Labour Unit capacity.  These challenges that impact the implementation of any action could be addressed through:   * Advocating to establish a specialized juvenile police which contributes to the prevention of recruitment of the children in the worst forms of child labour. * Activating the role of municipal officer and giving them the power to combat child labour in their coverage areas * Establishing a committee from ministries representatives and actors at district and coordination mechanism under the supervision of the committee between SDCs, Municipalities and NGOs to provide technical assistance and to report and monitor incidents of child labour in agriculture. * Empowering the child labour unit at ministry of Labour and strengthening labour inspection capacity and provide them with skills to carry their role in monitoring the implementation of the provision of the Lebanese labour law, especially Decree No. 8987, which prohibits using children in the worst forms of child labour and hazardous work. * Upgrading and digitizing the monitor, referral and response mechanism in a way to facilitate and accelerate the work. * Building the community awareness on the child labour by introducing a wide media campaign that will include live testimonies, true stories and exposure of actual dangers that encounter children (boys and girls) upon working in the agricultural land, and have the hosting community be involved and advocate for these rights. * Providing training and awareness session on the good usage of pesticides, alternate the usage with non-dangerous materials to inform the families of children on the dangers of these materials in Agricultural lands were children work, play and even live * Introducing awareness sessions and parenting skills to enhance awareness on dangers that can encounter their children regarding sexual abuse and harassment elevated among boys and girls working in the agricultural fields, and how to prevent it. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| --- |
| * To promote the fundamental social rights and decent working conditions, including core labour standards * To link any assistance to the farmers and food processing factory with the implementation of labour Law * To raise awareness on the occupational safety and health (OSH) in agriculture and ensure the availability and the usage of safety kit * To raise awareness on usage of pesticides and substate it's usage with non-harmful products * To raise awareness and parenting skills on sexual harassment and abuse of children that can happen in the Agri-land. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| --- |
| The recommendations to other actors/NGOs are to include an activity/component in all project that support the elimination the child labour in agriculture  For Education actors: to design a specific curriculum/ program that helps limit dropouts and re-integrate children in school and the education system.  Child protection: PSS session and parenting skills on sexual abuse and harassment and good behavior with children.  Social sector: social workers to provide psycho-social support to survivors of abuse (Male or female)  MOL: To focus on application of legislation related to child labor and activate hotline to create a referral mechanism and enforce response through municipal police and local actors that will be considered as inspectors that will respond to any complaint from the field |

## 55. Priscilla Asonibare, Hello Tractor

Hello,

Please find our contribution to the call attached.

Kind regards,

Asonibare Priscilla

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| **Priscilla Asonibare – Female**  **Eunice Wambere Nyagah - Female**  **Institution: Hello Tractor** |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| **The role of sustainable mechanization as a contribution to the elimination of child labour in agriculture - The Hello Tractor solution** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

|  |
| --- |
| N/A |

**Region/Country/Location**

|  |
| --- |
| **Western Africa - Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Ghana**  **Eastern Africa - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda**  **Southern Africa - Malawi, Mozambique and Angola** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

|  |
| --- |
| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **The Hello Tractor Solution**  ***“Farm power as a contribution to the elimination of child labour in***  ***agriculture”***  **Back ground**  Hello Tractors' key policy is to transform the agricultural ecosystem, creating efficiencies that generate inclusive growth, reduce poverty and help build stronger, more stable economies. Hello Tractors' current purpose is to connect tractor owners and smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa through a farm equipment sharing application. This application enables for:   1. Tractor owners to grow their business 2. The creation of employment opportunities for service providers and rural booking agents – (especially the youth ) in coordinating services within the platform 3. Equitable access to tractor services that enable smallholder farmers to earn more and grow more, improving livelihoods and food security for their families and communities   Today, Hello Tractor is the largest and fastest-growing tractor contracting network in the emerging markets. To date, we have grown our contractor customer base to over 3,000 tractor owners who have provided services to over 500,000 smallholder farmers. We are laser-focused on revolutionizing tractor services and will continue to lead the market in innovation.  **2) The role played by Hello Tractor technology**  Hello Tractor's platform creates transparency and efficiency in the hired services market by connecting tractor owners to booking agents and farmers at each stage of the process. As a result, this makes service delivery more secure, efficient, and profitable for all stakeholders involved. As our customers have expressed, access to mechanization services increases yields, income and improves overall livelihood. Our solution begins with a low-cost hardware monitoring device installed on any tractor, connecting it to the Hello Tractor cloud for remote data tracking and analytics. By expanding tractors' serviceable geography, Hello Tractor enables owners to grow their business, providing employment opportunities for service providers and rural booking agents. By creating equitable access to tractor services, Hello Tractor enables smallholder farmers to earn more and grow more, improving livelihoods and food security for their families and communities.  **3) Issue of child labour in agriculture of concern to Hello Tractor**  **3.1) Farm power – addressing manual cultivation**  Despite being resource-rich, average crop yields across the African continent fall way below the global average. Africa is the only region in the world where agricultural productivity is largely stagnant. Low levels of mechanization have been cited as the primary reason for stagnant agricultural productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa since the mid-1960s. Across farming communities, the transition from manual cultivation to mechanized processes has been painfully slow - 90% of arable land continues to be cultivated by hand and animal draft, drastically decreasing productivity rates.  As a result, smaller plots get cultivated with lower yield returns. Farmers struggle to produce enough food to feed their families and earn sustainable livelihoods, leaving entire communities reliant on costly food imports and assistance and vulnerable to external shocks such as droughts, extreme weather, and global pandemics. Lack of access to financing markets, improved techniques, coupled with a high rate of migration increasing and access to inputs such as farm help and machinery available for hire- becomes further restricted, decreasing their yields by 20-30%.  **3.2) Causes**  One of the main reasons access to farm power remains a challenge across Africa resides in disorganized and often antiquated agricultural value chains that persist across these markets. There are not enough tractors to serve the millions of smallholder farmers who need them. Estimates hold that Africa only has eight (8) tractors per 100km2 of arable land, where the global average is 200.  **3.3) Consequences**  As a result, the individual farmer is often left without access to the right equipment and inputs critical to improving their livelihoods. Without easy access to farm equipment, farmers struggle to properly cultivate their land and plant on time, depending heavily on manual labor (usually involving their children) which is significantly slower and leads to underproduction and lost income.  **3.4) The role of farm power in the elimination of child labour**  Tractor use also allows for field preparation, planting, and harvesting to occur in less time and labor-intensive ways, creating the opportunity for family members to pursue off-farm opportunities. Through the utilization of farm power, an indirect impact contributes to mitigating against child labour within agriculture by freeing up household labor and allowing children to go to school and engage in purposeful recreational activities. The use of machinery in modern farming is recognized and widely essential to increasing the productivity of all other inputs used in production (seeds, fertilizer, water, labour, and time), that assist in the alleviation of manual cultivation more specifically in this case, in the use of child labour.  **4 ) Intended impact expected**  By increasing the smallholder farmer’s access to mechanization services that are efficient and affordable, the expected result would be a decline in manual cultivation amongst farmers, particularly those that employ children. Access to mechanization would enable family members to pursue off-farm activities and provide opportunities for children to engage in education and constructive recreational activities.  **5) The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on agri-food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa**  Given the scope of Hello Tractor in Sub-Saharan Africa, reports indicate that with the rise of the COVID 19 crises, nearly one in 10 children globally were stuck in child labour, with Sub-Saharan Africa being the most affected. With child labour in the agricultural sector accounting for the largest share of child labour worldwide, Sub-Sahara has the highest number of child labourers in the agricultural sector within the globe. Child labour in Africa (agriculture) accounts for over three-quarters of all child labour activities. With looming challenges running concurrently alongside the COVID 19 crises, such as persistent droughts, floods, the upsurge of desert locusts, and conflict within the continent, the implications had on food systems are far-reaching. The imposition of the lockdown has resulted in the closure of small shops and open-air markets, border controls, nationwide school closure, cessation of movement against other challenges. These findings indicate the pressure that gives way to employing child labour, given the effect that COVID 19 has on income-generating activities for micro, small and medium enterprises. With reduced access to markets, the loss of consumer income, and reduced spending, smallholder household poverty is on the rise within rural areas, which adds more pressure for children to be engaged in child labor activities to supplement incomes and strive for better livelihoods.  **8) Activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture**  Hello Tractor has emerged as a true agricultural mechanization platform. Our scaling partners include top companies such as John Deere, IBM, Calamp, and Aeris. We have worked closely with each of these companies to expand our geographical footprint to make mechanization more accessible for smallholder farmers, eliminating the need for manual labor. Thus, increasing their productivity and income and enabling their children to go to school. We currently have over 3,000 tractors on our platform serving our network of farmers and are keen on increasing this number significantly in the near future. We anticipate achieving this through our novel Pay As You Go (PAYG) model for tractor ownership, currently under pilot across Kenya and Tanzania. Under this model, we aim to empower youth and women entrepreneurs to own tractors. While organizing the supply and demand (farmers in need of mechanization services) sides of the marketplace, our goal is to make it easy and low risk to finance new equipment into our managed marketplace of farm equipment sharing.  **9) Check-list on thematic issues addressed by Hello Tractor**  It is worth highlighting the thematic issues in the elimination of child labour in agriculture that Hello Tractor’s policy addresses – through the Hello Tractor solution. These include the following   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **NO** | **Thematic Issue** | **Hello Tractor Solution** | | **1** | **Hunger and malnutrition** | Through mechanization, children do not have to meet their own food needs, given the scope of food yield productivity and increased income attributed to tractors in cultivation. | | **2** | **Climate change**  **and environmental**  **degradation** | By adopting sustainable land-use techniques complemented by mechanization, shocks attributed to climate and environmental degradation have a lesser impact. | | **3** | **Agricultural**  **investment**  **programmes** | The Hello Tractor solution provides opportunities in job creation, thereby increasing livelihoods that aim to eliminate the need for child labour in agriculture. | | **4** | **Family farming** | Hello Tractors' policy aims to break down the poverty cycle by increasing food yield productivity and increased income, thus securing better livelihoods. Through mechanization, families, and communities are provided with opportunities to engage in off-farm activities. | | **5** | **Humanitarian**  **contexts** | Through mechanization, time use is drastically cut down. Appropriate mechanization assumes hazardous and dangerous work exposed to children. | | **6** | **Occupational**  **safety and health**  **(OSH) and**  **pesticide exposure** | Through mechanization, children (14-17 of age) are relieved from engaging in hazardous tasks and are instead offered off-farm opportunities (such as serving as booking agents for their communities), which can translate to decent working opportunities | | **7** | **Decent youth**  **employment**  **(14/15-17)** | Hello Tractor has developed technology to increase and optimize tractor activity. Our Internet-of-Things (IoT) digital solution bridges the gap between traditional farming and more technologically advanced approaches. | | **8** | **Digital innovation**  **and blockchains:** | Hello Tractor has developed technology to increase and optimize tractor activity. Our Internet-of-Things (IoT) digital solution bridges the gap between traditional farming and more technologically advanced approaches. | | **9** | **Multi-sectoral**  **approach:** | Through engagements with partners-stakeholders, Hello Tractors' solution indirectly supports livelihoods that can lend to the provision of resources to educate children. | |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| According to research conducted by Baudron et al. (2019), the results suggest a much higher demand for mechanization than previously found by macroeconomic analyses, pointing to a problem of access.  Through the Hello Tractor solution, continued efforts are underway to increase access to mechanization, as provided by our platform to access tractor services. Additionally, Hello Tractor seeks to accelerate smallholder farmers' access to services by supporting contractors with flexible financing to buy equipment under the pay-as-you-go (PAYG) model enabled by our industry-leading technology, developed 5 years while working with tractor operators across Africa and Asia.  In providing access to mechanization, Hello Tractor aims not only to address manual cultivation but also eliminate the necessity to have children assume farm labour. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **Access to Mechanization**  With the benefits ascribed to mechanization as provided by Bourdon et al. (2019), the supply of tractors has impeded its widespread adoption. Through efforts by Hello Tractor in conjunction with its partners and key stakeholders in the agricultural ecosystem, access to provide mechanized services is underway.  Additional to this is the development of “A Framework for sustainable agricultural mechanization in Africa” (F-SAMA), which aims to inform policymakers and decision-makers on the significance of mainstreaming mechanization. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| Given the demand in gaining access to mechanized services, Hello Tractors' recommendation resides in investment in equipment financing as provided in the pay-as-you-go (PAYG) model. As a result, it would urge all necessary stakeholders such as financing institutions, manufacturers, and distributors alike to forge partnerships to enhance access to tractor-mechanized services. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **NO** | **Institution** | **Recommendation** | | **1** | **Governments** | Filling in the gaps in existing child labour policies to inform interventions that factor in the local context under which child labour presents itself within the agricultural sector. | | **2** | **Agricultural Stakeholders** | Engaging stakeholders to adopt a multi sectoral approach that aims to organize the agricultural value chain, to leverage the strengths of each in achieving value. | | **3** | **NGOs – Civil Society** | Lobbying for child rights within the agricultural sector, with advocacy campaigns targeted toward communities in sensitizing them on the violation of child labour. | | **4** | **The Media** | By investigating and reporting on incidences of child labour while creating awareness on strategies to address this occurrence. By producing educational and progressive content that provides insights that challenge the status quo. | | **5** | **Environmental Organizations** | In partnership with relevant government agencies, intervening to support Arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) and marginalized rural areas can foster more sustainable land practices translating to increased income and land productivity, curtailing the reliance on child labour. | | **6** | **Research / Academia** | The role of research/academia in documenting child labour in agriculture that adheres to methodologies that purposely measure the dynamics, aimed at creating a better understanding to inform policy. For example: In understanding the gender dynamics ascribed to child labour ‘activities’ within agriculture. | |

## 56. Yuki Onogi, PARCIC, Lebanon

To whom it may concern,

I'm Yuki Onogi from PARCIC, a Japanese NGO.

I'm submitting the submission form.

Best regards,

Yuki

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| **Yuki Onogi/ male/ PARCIC** |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| **Agricultural investment programmes & Multi-sectoral approach** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **Lebanon** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| --- |
| A child should be always a child. When they start to work, its reason is always related to poverty. And while working, they will be given a responsibility for not only working hard whether or not they like, they need to grow up fast to understand a fact that they need to earn some income to make his/her family’s life better, which any child does not need to think about. Child labour makes all children lose their precious childhood. This will put a huge impact on their future children who will more likely follow the same footpath.  Before moving to Lebanon, we used to work in Sanliurfa, South of Turkey, supporting Syrian children living in rural areas with provision of educational activities where at the beginning of our projects only 40% of children went to local public school. The rest were working in the agriculture sector. Although we wanted to let all the children go to school, most of the children had to work together with their parents to help with harvest vegetables to make their living condition better. As their living conditions were very bad, we could not force the parents to stop their children from working because this would make their living even worse. This was against Do no harm policy. At that time all we could do was to visit their children at the same time and same date of the week and allow us to spend a few hours on giving recreational and cognitive based activities so that children can enjoy childhood activities as well as learn something. As we had a small team and were working in over 10 villages, we could visit each village only once a week. Luckily, all the parents were at least willing to allow their children to stop working for a few hours once a week for our activities. (Prior to this request, we had had already worked in the same villages with provision of food baskets and winter support over 12 months.) After giving children activities over 6 months, some parents start to understand that their children were enjoying the activities and learning something and were able to see some progress in cognitive development. Although over the 12 months of the project period we didn’t increase the weekly hour of activities with children, some parents started to feel ok to send their children to local public school. Although their income from their children’s contribution to work decreased, luckily Turkish government was supporting Syrian children in school with provision of ESSN for education, which gave a small amount of monthly allowance to be paid to families who sent their children to public school. We made sure that all the families in the project areas received this ESSN for education. By the time we finished our project in 2019, over 65% of Syrian children were in local public school compared with around 60% nationally.  Our success resulted in making their parents re-realising the importance of education by seeing actual progress among children from our educational activities and seeing their children enjoying themselves. It took us a long time to achieve, but it was worth it. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

|  |
| --- |
| It is important to address not only child labour but also poverty issues together to be tackled. When we talk to parents, we need to understand the root causes of child labour. Without addressing poverty issues, parents will never listen to us. However, if we tackle child labour, we also need to have a solution to ease poverty level if not being able to eliminate it. A thing like ESSN for education would be ideal. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| Since I’m now based in Lebanon, what I see is that only Food security sector is trying to discuss this issue among just a sector members. To solve this issue, we need to solve other sectors like Child protection, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, etc who are tacking a poverty issue.  As long as this issue is dealt with by Food Security sector, the sector will look at only what is related to the sector. We need to realise that we have to think beyond the sector to address and overcome this issue by bringing more people from different sectors and stakeholders. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| As mentioned above 3. We should take an overarching approach to overcome this issue. Although this has been discussed by Food security sector led by FAO/WFP, it would be better to be led by more mutual actors like UNICEF or UNHCR. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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## 57. Godswill Chimdugam Wachukwu, Chiwills Aquarium and Farms (CWAFs) Limited., Nigeria

Case study: Kosha village, Ihugh town, Vandeikya L.G.A Benue state.

Attachment: <http://assets.fsnforum.fao.org.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/public/discussions/contributions/FAO%20ENDING%20CHILD%20LABOUR%20IN%20AGRICULTURE%20WITH%20THE%20HELP%20OF%20AGRICULTURAL%20STAKE%20HOLDE.docx>

## 58. Shabwah Youth Organisation

المؤيد **(الاسم / النوع / المؤسسة)**

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| **Shabwah Youth Organisation**  **shabyouth@gmail.com** |

عنوان مساهمتك:

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| **معا لمستقبل مشرق وآمن** |

حدد فئة الجهة المعنية أو الجهات الفاعلة المهتمة بقطاع الزارعة

* **الجهات الرسمية في الحكومات (وزارات الزراعة)**
* **منظمات المزارعين / جمعية تعاونية / منظمات المنتجين**
* **منظمات المجتمع المدني أو المنظمات غير الحكومية**
* **منظمة دولية (الأمم المتحدة، والاتحاد الدولي لعمال الأغذية والزراعة والفنادق والمطاعم وخدمات توريد الأغذية الجاهزة والتبغ ورابطات العمال ذات الصلة، والمعهد الدولي لبحوث السياسات الغذائية، وغيرها).**
* **بنك التنمية.**

إذا لم ينطبق أي مما سبق، فيرجى تحديد فئة الجهة الفاعلة أو القطاع الذي تنتمي إليه (على سبيل المثال، قطاع العمل، أو التعليم، أو القطاع الاجتماعي)

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المنطقة / الدولة / المكان

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| **الشرق الأوسط الدولة اليمن محافظه شبوة** |

القطاع الزراعي الفرعي **(الزراعة أو مصايد الأسماك أو تربية الأحياء المائية أو الثروة الحيوانية أو الغابات)**

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| **الزراعه والثروة الحيوانية** |

1. **يُرجى تقديم بعض** المعلومات الأساسية **عن مساهمتك واقتراحك:**
   * **ما هو الجانب الذي تهتم به في** قضية عمالة الأطفال في الزراعة**؟ ما هي الأسباب الرئيسية؟ وما هي العواقب؟ وما هو الأثر المباشر / غير المباشر أو المقصود / غير المقصود الذي تعتقد أن يحدثه عملك على عمالة الأطفال في الزراعة؟**
   * **هل كان لأزمة كوفيد-19 تأثير مباشر أو غير مباشر على عمالة الأطفال في نظام الأغذية الزراعية في بلدك؟**
   * **إذا كان ذلك صحيحًا، يُرجى وصف الأنشطة والمشروعات، التي سبق أو يجري تنفيذها، لمعالجة مشكلة عمالة الأطفال في الزراعة، بالإضافة إلى تأثيرها / نتائجها:**

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| **نهتم بتوفير وسائل بديلة للمزارعين تعمل على إلغاء دور الاطفال في الزراعة وضمان عدم مشاركتهم واشغالهم بالعمل في الزراعة**  **ومن الأسباب التي أدت إلى ذلك أن الطفل يحرم من التعليم والحياة الامنه بسبب العمل في الزراعه ويضيع مستقبله في هذه الطريق**  **سيعمل هذا المشروع على إبعاد مايقارب 1000 طفل عن عمالة الأطفال ويضمن لهم مستقبل آمن من خلال دعم أسرهم وتشجيعها للانتاج والزراعة دون الحاجه الى الأطفال في العمل** |

1. يُرجى وصف الإجراء **الذي يمكنك أو يمكن لمنظمتك اتخاذه لمعالجة قضية القضاء على عمالة الأطفال في الزراعة، أو زيادة الجهود الرامية إلى تحقيق ذلك. وإذا لم يكن ذلك مناسبًا، فيرجى توضيح التحديات التي تواجهها أنت أو منظمتك في معالجة قضية عمالة الأطفال في الزراعة في الأقسام التالية، وتقديم توصيات للجهات المعنية بالزراعة والجهات المعنية الأخرى، لتوسيع نطاق العمل.**

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| **ستعمل المنظمة على توفير عدد 50 منظومة شمسية تستخدم في استخراج الماء من الآبار وتحد من تشغيل الأطفال في هذا الجانب إضافة إلى ذلك ستعمل على توفير 50 مضخة رش اوتوماتيكي لري الزراعه وبهذا يقلل عدد الأطفال العاملين في الزراعه** |

1. التحديات: **ما هي العقبات الرئيسية التي تواجهها أنت أو الجهات المعنية بالزراعة بشكل عام في معالجة قضية عمالة الأطفال في الزراعة؟ كيف يمكن التغلب على هذه التحديات أو تناولها (على سبيل المثال، من خلال السياسات والتشريعات وبناء القدرات وما إلى ذلك)؟**

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| **اهم التحديات هو عدم توفر الإمكانيات اللازمة لدعم المزارعين ورفع مستوى الوعي لديهم من خلال دورات تثقيفية وتدريبهم على مهارات حياتية تفيدهم وترفع مستوى الوعي لديهم بأهمية ابعاد الاطفال عن العماله** |

1. توصيات مقدمةإلى الجهات المعنية بالزراعة**: ما هي التوصيات التي قد تقدمها للجهات المعنية بالزراعة التي تهتم بمعالجة قضية عمالة الأطفال في الزراعة؟**

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| **عمل مسوحات شامله في المناطق الريفية والتي يعمل اغلب الاطفال فيها في مجال الزراعة ورعي الاغنام بحيث يتم حصرهم ودعمهم فيما بعد بمبالغ نقديه بسيطه لتوفير وسائل للتعليم وتشجيعهم على ذلك بدل من اتجاه الاطفال الى العمل وضياع مستقبلهم** |

1. توصيات مقدمةإلى الجهات المعنية الأخرى**: ما هي التوصيات التي قد تقدمها للجهات المعنية الأخرى التي تهتم بمعالجة قضية عمالة الأطفال في الزراعة (الجهات المعنية بالعمل أو التعليم أو الحماية الاجتماعية أو القطاع الاجتماعي، بما في ذلك وزارات العمل والمفتشين والمعلمين وممارسي الخدمات الاجتماعية، وغيرهم)؟**

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| 1. أن تعمل على تسهيل عمل منظمات المجتمع المدني ومكاتب الزراعة وتكون عامل مساعد لتنفيذ المشاريع التي تهدف إلى الحد من قضية عمالة الأطفال. |

## 59. Lindita Boshtrakaj, ILO

Mobilization of agriculture institutions and Executing Agencies to take action in prevention, identification and referral of children in HCL in agriculture.

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| **Lindita Boshtrakaj/F/ ILO MAP ‘16** |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| **Mobilization of agriculture institutions and Executing Agencies to take action in prevention, identification and referral of children in HCL in agriculture.** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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|  |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **Kosovo [in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)].** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

|  |
| --- |
| **Farming and forestry** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| --- |
| **Low family incomes, household poverty and few livelihood alternatives lead to assigning children tasks that are age-inappropriate and hazardous. Moreover, child labour undermines the efforts to promote decent youth employment, which is a key element in revitalizing agriculture.**  **Despite the fact that specific activities in agriculture and forestry are included in the Administrative Instruction for Prevention and Immediate Prohibition of HCL, child labor in agriculture and forestry is not seen as detrimental to child development but as a copying mechanism against poverty. As a result, the response of law enforcement agencies in prevention of HCL is not sufficient and the level of referral of children involved in HCL in agriculture and forestry is very limited.** |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **Given the complex nature of child labor, there is a multitude of actors that have to play their respective parts in a coordinated fashion. Integration of child labor concerns into the efforts of other ministries and executing agencies (including the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development-MAFRD) is a prerequisite for successful implementation of policies, programs and plans aimed at the elimination of child labor.** |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| --- |
| **Low family incomes and poverty, the lack of regulations and enforcement, and ingrained attitudes and perceptions about the roles of children in rural areas are only some of the numerous factors which make child labour in agriculture particularly difficult to tackle.** |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| --- |
| **To address child labour in agriculture, there is a need for:**   * **mainstreaming CL concerns in the legal and policy framework on forestry and agriculture development (primarily in the Law on Forestry and in the Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, both being under amendment/development this year);** * **introduction of prevention measures in the contractual relations of the Forestry Agency and of the Agency for Agriculture Development with economic operators and farmers, for prohibition of CL in hazardous activities in forestry and agriculture;** * **clear definition of the role of Forestry and Agriculture Inspectors for referral of children identified in HCL to the Centers for Social Work, as well as for tracking the whereabouts of children referred for protection as part of their regular inspections;** * **awareness-raising of farmers on the harmful effects of child labour and stimulating the debate about the topic among children and their communities;** * **mainstreaming child labour concerns in the measures aimed at improving rural livelihoods, creating alternative income-generating activities, as well a promotion of decent work for rural youth.** |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

|  |
| --- |
| **The attitude of parents, service providers, policy makers, law enforcement agencies and of society at large towards the importance for protection of children from HCL is a decisive factor that may foster or limit the response to child labour, therefore awareness-raising on the harmful effects of child labour need to be accelerated.**  **A coordinated multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach through a national and local framework is needed, involving key institutions that work in partnership for:**   * **joint identification of child labourers and children at risk of entering child labour;** * **assessment of the hazards and risks they are exposed to;** * **referral to relevant services or viable alternatives;** * **verification that children have been withdrawn from work; and** * **tracking and fact-based policy making to make sure that the root causes of child labour are gradually eliminated.** |

## 60. Yvonne Mmangisa, FAO, Malawi

Greetings from Malawi,

Kindly find attached the call for action that FAO Malawi has prepared.

Kind regards,

Yvonne

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

|  |
| --- |
| **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations** |

**Title of your contribution**

|  |
| --- |
| **Child Labour in Malawi: Issues and Proposed Interventions** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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|  |

**Region/Country/Location**

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| --- |
| **Malawi-Africa** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

|  |
| --- |
| **Agriculture (All sub-sectors)** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

|  |
| --- |
| **1.0 INTRODUCTION**  **1.1 Child Labour**  A child is any person under the age of eighteen years. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions 138 and 182 define child labour as any work that is detrimental to the physical, mental, and spiritual development of children and deprive them of their right to education. According to the Malawi Employment Act, child labour refers towork that is harmful to the health, safety, education, morals or development of a child, or is prejudicial to a child’s attendance at school or any other vocational or training programme. These definitions are also reflected in the African Charter on the Welfare and Rights of the Child.  The realm of child labour also includes worst forms of child labour**.** TheILO Convention 182 defines the worst forms of child labour as:   * 1. All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;   2. The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;   3. The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; and   4. Work which, by its nature or in the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety and morals of children.   Child labour, especially in its worst forms, constitutes a major violation and abuse of human rights and dignity of children. At a global level, there has been a decrease in the number of children in child labour: in 2016, there were 152 million child labourers aged 5-17 and this represented a decrease from 246 million in 2000. Fifty eight percent of the children in child labour are males while the rest (42%) are females. Figure 1 shows the global trends in child labour between 2000 and 2016.  Figure 1: Trends in child labour 2000-2016 (International Labour Organisation, 2017)    246  222  215  168  152  0  50  100  150  200  250  300  2000  2004  2008  2012  2016  **Number of children in**  **child labour**  **Trend in years**    It is estimated that 19.6% of the children in child labour are in Africa. Most children engaged in child labour are in the agricultural sector and this sector accounts for 71% (108 million children) of the global share of child labour. Two thirds of all children in child labour contribute to family labour (ILO, 2017). Understanding and addressing the dependence of families on child labour will, therefore, significantly contribute to ending child labour by 2025. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) developed the Global Action Plan (GAP) against Child Labour in 2006. The GAP urged ILO member states to commit themselves to the elimination of all worst forms of child labour by 2016. However, despite the progress that has been made at national, regional and international level, ILO acknowledges that the global goal of eradicating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 was not reached (ILO, 2017).  The Malawi National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) of 2015 revealed that 38 percent or 2,118,630 of the children in Malawi aged 5–17 years are involved in child labour. These numbers clearly demonstrate that child labour elimination efforts need to be intensified and accelerated in order for the goal of child labour elimination to be reached in the nearest possible future. The survey further found that 72 percent of working children were in the agriculture sector; 23 percent in domestic work; and 3 percent in the wholesale and retail sector. Povertyin the form of lack of basic income and food security is a significant cause of child labour. Extreme poverty forces children to engage in more harmful and detrimental forms of labour and often leads their families to condone or encourage such work. Government and development partners in Malawi have made considerable progress towards poverty reduction through such efforts as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy I, II and III, Malawi 2063 (MW2063), and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and other bilateral support.  Malawi as a Pathfinder Country**,** commits to going further and faster to achieve the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 and willing to try new approaches from which others can learn in order to support achievement of the target’s urgent deadlines.  **1.1.0. Causes of child labour**  Child labour arises due to a number of related and complex factors, both social and economic.  Some notable causes of child labour include:  **1.1.1 Poor Education System:** The education system in Malawi, as in most sub-Saharan African countries, faces many challenges. A report by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) of December 2004 sums that: “In the four decades since African countries started to gain independence from foreign rule, their education systems with few exceptions have been marked by inadequate teaching, lack of resources such as textbooks and chalkboards, colonial curricula, and modes of instruction that often impeded the learning process.” Among other effects, this has resulted in high dropout rates. Children who drop out of school are at high risk of becoming trapped in child labour.  **1.1.2 HIV and AIDS:**With a prevalence rate of 8.8 percent (MDHS, 2015-2016), Malawi is one of the countries most affected by HIV and AIDS in the world. Since the pandemic affects mostly the productive age group of 15–49, the loss of this age bracket leaves behind orphans and the elderly who are unable to support themselves. Children orphaned because of HIV and AIDS are more likely to become involved in child labour in order to support themselves and their younger siblings.  **1.1.3 Household size:** Households that have many children compared to the resources at their disposal are more likely to send their children to work in order to supplement family income. With a high fertility rate of 5.7 births per woman, Malawi’s population is growing faster than its economy can support and has a large pool of children. Children from poorer households are more likely to engage in child labour.  **1.1.4 Cultural factors:** Cultural and traditional beliefs play a significant role in influencing child labour. In many societies, boys are preferred to girls and hence are given preference in access to education. They are also favoured when it comes to the distribution of household chores. Cultural practices such as initiation ceremonies have been found to encourage early marriages and also increase the risk of contracting HIV.  **1.1.5 Search for Cheap Labour:** Estate owners, in an effort to maximize profits, have been engaging children in their farms as they can easily be paid low wages. Children have been ferried from other districts to work on farms within Malawi and across the borders.  The Malawi Employment Act prohibits all forms of employment or work for children below the age of 14 years. Between 14 -17 years a child may work but not in hazardous work as defined in the Employment Act (Prohibition of Hazardous Work for Children) Order, 2012. The Constitution of the Republic of Malawi in section 23(4) provides that “Children are entitled to be protected from economic exploitation or any treatment, work or punishment that is, or is likely to;   1. be hazardous; 2. interfere with their education; or be harmful to their health or to their physical, mental or spiritual or social development.” |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| **2.0. Proposed Solutions to address Child Labour**  All the proposed solutions to addressing child labour issues fall under mainstreaming. Child Labour Mainstreaming refers to concerted and systematic action by governmental, non- governmental agencies and other actors to integrate and reflect such elements into their processes, policies, programmes, and budgets, which will contribute to the sustained prevention and elimination of child labour.  Child labour mainstreaming is a key strategy for ensuring that child labour issues and concerns are included in policies, plans and budgets, appraisals, feasibility studies, evaluations, economic development targets/goals, etc, at the national, sub-national and sectoral levels, regional bodies and the global agenda.  Child labour mainstreaming entails elements that will contribute to the sustained prevention and elimination of child labour, for example: strategies for education, the withdrawal of children from work, the protection of children of legal working age (14–17 years), capacity development, data/information collection, dissemination, advocacy, and awareness raising.  Malawi has made some strides in mainstreaming child labour in different policies and sectors. For example, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) II explicitly included child labour eradication as one of the top priorities of government action. The Employers’ Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM) has also put in place a code of conduct on child labour for its members. Furthermore, child labour mainstreaming is one of the key strategies for child labour elimination under the National Action Plan II on Child Labour in Malawi.  **2.1. Mainstreaming Child Labour**  In Malawi, five key results areas were identified and used for the development of strategies and approaches to guide key stakeholders in mainstreaming child labour issues in their programming and service delivery as follows:   1. **Result Area 1**: Child labour mainstreaming in basic social services delivery 2. **Result Area 2**: Child labour mainstreaming in legal and policy frameworks 3. **Result Area 3**: Awareness creation, advocacy and lobbying 4. **Result Area 4**: Child labour coordination, support and oversight 5. **Result Area 5**: Addressing child labour in supply chains   It should be noted that Gender, HIV and AIDS, disability and child labour information base and data are treated as cross cutting issues.  Guided by these result areas, key Government and stakeholder institutions have been mainstreaming child labour within their mandated responsibilities. The issues to be mainstreamed cut across the result areas. More still needs to be done to eliminate child labour. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| **3.0 Challenges**  There are a number of challenges that are being experienced in the implementation of interventions to eliminate child labour in Malawi. There is need to ensure that these challenges are effectively addressed so that child labour is eliminated by the SDG Target 8.7 of 2025.  **3.1 Legislation and policy framework**  At international level, there are a number of relevant international instruments and agreements that Malawi has not ratified, for example, the ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Child Labour. At the national level, there are some gaps in existing legislation: for example, the Employment Act does not cover work done by children in the homes yet this is one of the areas with a lot of child labour. It is estimated that 70% of the domestic servants in Blantyre and Lilongwe are children and they receive very low wages (Kateta, 2013). Domestic child labour has not received adequate attention over the years as it is not covered in existing pieces of legislative and policy frameworks (Zhang et. al., 2016).  Malawi still uses the tenancy system for the production of tobacco where children of the tenant also work to assist as part of unpaid family labour. Although the Tenancy Labour Bill was drafted in 1997, Parliament has not yet passed it into law. The current position of Government is that the tenancy system should actually be abolished as it is significantly contributing to the practice of child labour and other labour rights violations. The penalties imposed on perpetrators of child labour are too insignificant to act as deterrents (Gondwe, 2012 & Kateta, 2013); hence, they need upward revision.  The draft National Child Labour Policy (NCLP) is currently being reviewed by the Cabinet. There was no NCLP and this still constitutes a major gap in the fight against child labour. While there have been attempts to mainstream child labour, the process has been slow. The mainstreaming of child labour in policies and programmes was recommended during the 2012 child labour in agriculture conference (GoM, ECAM and MCTU, 2012) and this process is expected to be accelerated following the recent adoption the National Child Labour Mainstreaming Guide.  **3.2 Access to education**  The ILO recommends that quality basic education is a central component of the response to child labour (ILO, 2010). However, Malawi’s education sector experiences numerous challenges including the critical shortage of primary school teachers, poor management of teachers, inadequate and inferior physical school infrastructure and inadequate teaching and learning materials (MoEST, 2008). Children, especially in rural areas where large tobacco estates are located, either walk long distances to get to school or the schools are not there. The long distances children walk to schools make schools unsafe especially for the girls. These inadequacies of the education system have a negative impact on school attendance and the retention of children in schools; hence, children withdraw from school and go into child labour.  Records from the MoEST still demonstrate that there is a high dropout rate from primary school: only 30% of the children who start Standard 1 finish Standard 8 for various reasons. The MoEST has, therefore, established the CBE programme that targets children aged 9-17. CBE reduces the risk of exposure of children to child labour. This programme provides a second chance of education for children who have dropped out of school without acquiring enough literacy. Children who are younger are sent back to school while those who are older are empowered through livelihood vocational skills training as recommended in the 2017 conference on child labour that was held in Rio de Jeneiro (ILO, 2017) and the 2012 child labour conference in agriculture in Malawi (GoM, ECAM and MCTU, 2012). The challenge, however, is that these CBE programmes are not being implemented nationwide: the programme only targets districts that have high school dropout rates; hence, coverage is still low. While there have been programs that have withdrawn children from child labour or have prevented children at risk of engaging in child labour, one of the challenges has been that the education system has proved inadequate to fully absorb these children.  **3.3 Data on child labour**  In order to effectively monitor trends in child labour in Malawi, child labour surveys are supposed to be conducted at least every 4-5 years. The first national child labour survey was conducted in 2002 and a follow up survey was conducted in 2015. This demonstrates that these surveys are not being conducted regularly. Furthermore, there is generally a lack of data on the worst forms of child labour for example child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. In addition to this, annual national reports on child labour are not being produced by the Ministry of Labour, Skills and Innovation. Such reports would be helpful for effective monitoring of the progress in addressing child labour and ensuring that Malawi eliminates child labour by 2025.  CCLCs constitute an effective tool for monitoring child labour at community level including data collection. However, in many communities in Malawi the CCLCs are not available and where they are available they are not effectively carrying out their responsibilities.  **3.4 Awareness on the evils of child labour**  In order for households to stop engaging children in child labour, there is need for them to be knowledgeable about the evils of child labour. Most people do not know the differences between work done by children that is appropriate for their age which they do as part of training to prepare them for adult roles when they grow up and child labour on the other hand. That is why there is a lot of child labour within family labour; hence the need for awareness raising. There is also need to explain the concept of light work which is closely related with work that children undertake as part of their upbringing or training. In order to implement an effective awareness campaign on child labour, there is need for adequate human and financial resources which are presently not adequate. Furthermore, the advocacy and awareness campaigns need to target policy makers such as the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MoFEPD), Parliamentarians and Councillors so that they understand the consequences of child labour. Other key stakeholders including communities and their leadership should also be targeted.  **3.5 Addressing poverty at household level**  Poverty constitutes one of the major contributing factors to child labour in Malawi. At national level, Government and development partners have established and are supporting programmes that are addressing poverty and contribute towards ensuring that households have adequate income and are food secure. There are a number of social protection interventions such as Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP), SCTPs, IGAs and microfinance institutions such as VSLAs that have proved quite successful in alleviating household poverty. The challenge, however, is that such programmes do not specifically target households with children in or at risk of child labour but target the poor in general. The coverage of most of these programmes is also limited. The other challenge is that social protection programmes in Malawi depend largely on donor funding and this creates uncertainties.  **3.6 Working environment and conditions for children aged 15-17 years**  The Malawi Employment Act prohibits children aged less than 14 years from working. Children aged 15-17 are prohibited from working in hazardous environments. While this is the case, there are many children aged 14-17 years who are working and are exposed to occupational hazards especially in the agricultural sector where they are exposed to pesticides and other chemicals. Employers also do not provide opportunities for most of the children and their families to access essential services such as health and education. Child labourers are usually subjected to lower pay (and sometimes no pay at all) for the same amount of work done as their adult counterparts.  **3.7 Cultural beliefs and practices**  The 2015/16 MDHS shows that teenage pregnancy and child marriage are quite prevalent in Malawi: about 50% of the women aged 20-49 got married at the age of less than 18 (NSO, 2017). Some studies have also shown that girls get married by or before the age of 15 years (Munthali & Kok, 2016). At such an early age, married boys and girls are forced to cater for themselves: they no longer live with their parents, hence they are at greater risk of undertaking hazardous work including in tobacco fields in order to provide for themselves (CYECE, 2015 & Zhang et. al., 2016).  Initiation ceremonies are quite common in Malawi and once boys and girls attend these ceremonies they are assumed old enough to look after themselves. Such children often drop out of school and look for employment where they are exposed to different worst forms of child labour.   * 1. **Institutional and technical capacity**   There are a number of studies including programme evaluations that have pointed to the fact that within the Ministry of Labour, Skills Development and Innovation (MoLSI), especially the Child Labour Unit (CLU), there are resource constraints that prevent the effective implementation of interventions including the inspection of workplaces (USDOL, 2013 & Zhang et. al., 2016). These constraints include shortage of inspectors, the critical shortage of funding and limited transport capacity (Zhang et. al., 2016). Because of these resource constraints, inspections including by DLOs are not effectively conducted (Zhang et. al., 2016). In most cases, child labour inspections are done as a response to child labour violations and only concentrated on large-scale farms (USDOL, 2013). While there have been many child labour elimination interventions in Malawi, it has, however, been observed that most implementers lack capacity to comprehensively understand and address child labour as they do not have the requisite knowledge and skills.  **3.9 Collaboration and networking**  In order to successfully eradicate child labour including its worst forms by 2025, there is need for all stakeholders to work together towards common goals. However, it has been observed that most stakeholders work independently due to differences in priorities and geographical coverage and also due to ineffective coordination structures for which MoLSI is responsible. Such an approach has led to duplication of efforts and consequently a waste of the scarce resources. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| **Mainstreaming Child Labour in Agriculture**  **1. National Level**   * Through the Directorate of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (DAES), develop comprehensive extension delivery tools that will include a ‘child profile’ and ‘workers profile’ for farmers. * Include vulnerable households with school-going children in social protection programmes such as Social Cash Transfer (SCT), and the Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP). * Work with agriculture training institutions to cover child labour, including age appropriate occupational safety & health practices, in course content for extension workers. * Actively participate in the National Steering Committee (NSC) and Technical Working Group (TWG) on child labour at the national level. * Ensure that policy formulation and review in the agriculture sector takes into account the issue of child labour.   **2. District Level**   * Allocate more extension workers in areas where there is high prevalence of child labour. * Work with other stakeholders in child labour and child protection in the District Agriculture Extension Committee (DAEC). These could include NGOs/INGOs, FBOs, CSOs, cooperatives, local representatives of prominent agricultural buyers or private sector supply chains that are active in the area, representatives of organised labour, etc. * Introduce a child labour sub-committee within the DAEC. * Actively participate in District Child Labour Committee (DCLC) meetings at district level.   **3. Village or Extension Planning Area (EPA) Level**   * Develop and include ‘child profile index’ in the farmer information to know if children from farming households are going to school. * Liaise with Lead Farmers to collect information on farm workers in terms of their ages and type of work that they do. * Monitor and report incidents of child labour to structures such as Community Child Labour Committees (CCLCs), AEC, VDC, District Labour Offices (DLOs), Child Protection Workers (CPWs), NGOs, community leaders, and other relevant structures. * Support youth led agri-based enterprises in their production, storage, and marketing. * Identify and promote labour-extensive approaches in production and other off-farm tasks. * Provide instructions on Safety and Health when working with young farmers (14–17 years) so that they do not engage in hazardous practices. * Provide capacity building to farmers’organisations such as farmers clubs, associations and cooperatives so that they participate in child labour elimination within their supply chains |

## 61. Bernd Seiffert, facilitator of the call

Dear participants, FSN members,

A warm thank you to all those who have contributed to and disseminated this Call for Action, which has aimed at turning local, regional and global commitment into collective action. As reported in the new [ILO-UNICEF Global Estimates](https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_797515/lang--en/index.htm), 112 million child labourers were found in agriculture in early 2020, 4 million more since 2016, with the sector still accounting for 70% of all child labour. In addition, further 8.9 million girls and boys could be in child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of rising poverty driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, we hope that your engagement and action will go beyond this Call for Action, joining our efforts to reverse this intolerable trend and give back to all children their right to an educated and healthy childhood. Your contributions to the Call and the resulting outcome document will continue feeding FAO’s observance of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and contribute to the Global Event on Ending Child Labour in Agriculture on 2-3 November 2021. Closer to the Event, we will share with you all relevant information.

A warm thank you to all of you.

Bernd Seiffert

## 62. Jinane Doumit Nader, Nusaned, Lebanon

Food security through family farming in the current humanitarian context

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **Nusaned** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Food Security through family farming in the current humanitarian context** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union

⌧Civil society or NGO

* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Lebanon** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| Most recent surveys concerning child labour in agriculture in Lebanon were held in 2019 before the current economic crisis, focusing on Bekaa and targeting Syrian refugees who are mostly located in Bekaa and North of Lebanon. The massive influx of refugees, political and economic crisis and Covid 19 have had substantial repercussions on Lebanon’s economic, social and political landscape. There is currently an increase of school drop out and poverty rates are increasing incredibly related to Lebanese citizens. Lebanese child labor is increasing and Lebanese are relying more and more on agriculture to ensure food security.  Before the economic crisis, farmers were relying on Syrian workers to work on their farm, but currently a great number of Syrian workers stopped working in agriculture because of payment issues in fresh dollars and they are receiving money and food assistance from humanitarian organizations, as well as some dollars are transferred to them from their relatives from abroad. Consequently, many Lebanese farmers are relying now on their children to work with them in agriculture.  Furthermore, due to the pandemic and the economic crisis, many schools have closed, especially public schools in rural areas, some other schools are expensive and as well the poor infrastructure of schools in term of technology, no electricity, no good connection, has pushed children to withdraw from schools and start working to support their families, ensure their living and to ensure their basic needs.  Therefore, Nusaned insists on having an urgent survey concerning agriculture and child labor in agriculture to know more about the current needs and challenges in order to contribute and enhance economic empowerment specifically in agriculture and prevent school drop outs. Moreover, youth who cannot return to school should be provided with necessary trainings in farming and be more aware about safety and security issues towards working on the field.  In order to protect children and youth from unsecure labour, we need to support and empower farmers to become economically independent, in order to prevent their children from school dropout, and provide youth with necessary farming trainings and security and safety measures awareness. |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| Nusaned is aiming at improving Lebanese farmers production in order to provide economic stability and prevent children drop out and youth unsecure and unsafe labor. Therefore, the following actions are immediately needed:   1. Needs Assessment targeting Lebanese child labor in agriculture after 2019 crisis 2. Support farmers by providing necessary crops, poultry and bees to ensure their economic stability 3. Ensure Children below 16 in a farmers born family to be enrolled in the educational system and prevent school dropout instead of supporting their families in farming 4. Provide necessary trainings for youth above 16 on modern farming and raise awareness about farming security and safety measures   Nusaned is encouraging vulnerable families, all over Lebanon, and specifically in most underserved communities (Akkar, North and South of Lebanon, Bekaa, …) plant their backyard and to rear some livestock and poultry, also Nusaned is targeting small scale farmers who are relying on agriculture through supporting them in improving different value chains. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| The economic and financial situation in Lebanon is causing an unstable pricing of farming supplies that will affect the selling of the products.  Therefore, Nusaned has to interfere to provide the needed supplies and ensure a marketing and selling system. Nusaned is aiming to establish a bee productive center in order to distribute bees and beehives to farmers who can increase their profits, in addition to providing poultry and crops that yield to families who are relying on agriculture for living, and reduce their expenses.  Moreover, Lebanese child labor is increasing due to the current situation, where Nusaned will give more attention and prevent child labor by empowering and supporting Lebanese farmers and ensuring the enrollment of their children at school.  Youth are subject to unsafe working in agriculture to assist their families. Nusaned will provide necessary vocational trainings, capacity building and awareness sessions to ensure their safety. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| 1. To be aware of international standards of agriculture and apply Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) 2. To be aware of security and safety measures when employing youth 3. To provide basic rights of employed youth in agriculture |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| 1. To give more consideration to Lebanese farmers and child labour in the current situation in Lebanon 2. To provide necessary support for children and schools to prevent school dropout and child labor. 3. To enhance vocational trainings and capacity building for youth who cannot be enrolled at schools anymore |

## 63. CARE International, Lebanon

CARE International in Lebanon - Reduction of Child Labor in Agriculture Sector

**Proponent** (name/gender/institution)

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| **CARE International in Lebanon** |

**Title of your contribution**

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| **Reduction of Child Labor in Agriculture Sector** |

**Mark your category of agricultural stakeholder/actor**

* Government official (/agricultural-line ministries)
* Employer organization
* Academia/research institution
* Private sector
* Farmer organization / cooperative / producer organization
* Worker’s organization or Union
* Civil society or NGO
* International Organization (UN, IUF, IFPRI, etc.)
* Development Bank

**If none of the above applies, please indicate which category of actor or sector you belong to (for example, labour, education, or social)**

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**Region/Country/Location**

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| **Lebanon** |

**Agricultural sub-sector** (farming, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, or forestry)

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| **Farming and livestock** |

1. Please provide some **background** context to your contribution and proposal:
   * What is the issue of child labour in agriculture that concerns you? What are the main causes? And consequences? What direct/indirect or intended/unintended impact do you think your work is having on child labour in agriculture?
   * Has COVID-19 had an (in)direct impact on child labour in the agri-food system in your country?
   * If applicable, please describe activities and projects, previously implemented or ongoing, to address child labour in agriculture, as well as their impact/results:

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| The main concerns are health risks, loss of educational rights, the impact of work on the child's mental health, and the risk of sexual abuse. The main causes are the economic situation in Lebanon, and now, with the depreciation of the Lebanese currency and the COVID-19 pandemic, child labor in the agriculture sector has increased by up to 60%.. [[50]](#footnote-50)  Furthermore, children who are in the labor force and food insecure are expected to experience delay in physiological growth, which may result in chronic malnutrition, acute malnutrition, and anemia. Working children are at a higher risk of injury, with 55 percent suffering from wounds, diseases such as asthma, tuberculosis, and silicosis, mental health, and possibly death. Furthermore, work children are more likely to be subjected to various forms of abuse, such as SEA, violence, early marriage, and unwanted pregnancy. According to an IRC survey of working children, only 2% of them have expressed positive feelings. Due to food insecurity, children drop out of school or, in some cases, do not enroll at all, leaving the family breadwinner to bear the brunt of the burden. [[51]](#footnote-51) |

1. **Please describe the action** you or your organization can or could take to address or increase efforts towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture. If this is not applicable, please explain in the next sections the challenges you or your organization face in addressing child labour in agriculture and present recommendations for agricultural and other stakeholders to upscale action.

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| CARE International works with beneficiaries and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) in the agriculture sector, including the farming and livestock sub-sectors. Through the projects that have been and are currently being implemented, CARE ensures that MSMEs owners and beneficiaries/participants selected for the projects are at least 18 years old. As a result, the goal of CARE's selection criteria is to discourage the use of child labor in CARE projects.  For future projects, CARE will consider female beneficiaries/participants who have children and will give them the opportunity to benefit from the project by either providing a safe space for their children or requiring only a few working hours from the participants (for those engaged in projects that provide financial support or income generating activities). In the case of the AFDAL II project's training sessions (agricultural - Livestock project implemented in North and South of Lebanon), Female participants joined the session remotely during the lockdown in early 2021. Based on the MEAL results from the AFDAL II project, female participants who attended the online training sessions remotely, the majority of whom have children, were asked for feedback. According to their feedback, more than 93 percent of the female participants felt more at ease doing the session remotely because they could stay close to their children and family.  CARE International in Lebanon created a documentary depicting the faces of poverty in Lebanon. Chadi Lababidi, a 15-year-old Tripoli resident, is among those featured in the documentary. Chadi currently resides with his parents, siblings, as well as his sister and brother-in-law. He dropped out of school and went to work to support his family, earning 75,000 LBP per week. He gives his mother between 30,000 and 35,000 LBP per week, divides it among his siblings as pocket money, and saves the rest for Sunday breakfast and juice. His father works as a taxi driver, renting the car for 30,000 LBP per day to earn 25,000 to 35,000 LBP, and works so late that there is no money for his mother to prepare lunch. Chadi was forced to sell his mobile phone for 500,000 LBP because his father required the funds. |

1. **Challenges:** What are the main obstacles you, or agricultural stakeholders in general, face in addressing child labour in agriculture? How could these challenges be overcome or addressed (for example, through policy, legislation, capacity building, etc.)?

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| Some of the currently recognized challenges, according to CARE International in Lebanon and other INGOs. One of the challenges is to challenge the people who engage in child labor's traditional beliefs. In rural Lebanon, some families believe that their children are the breadwinners. As a result, CARE's approach to implementing programs in the agriculture sector, particularly without the involvement of children, will create some tension between the implementor and the beneficiaries. More challenges include limiting the application of existing laws in Lebanon that prohibit child labor for children aged 15 to 17 years old, insufficient subsidy and infrastructure to collect data on child labor in the agriculture sector, and a lack of coordination among the various humanitarian and development actors working in the various agricultural sectors. |

1. **Recommendations for agricultural stakeholders:** What recommendations would you give to agricultural stakeholders to address the issue of child labour in agriculture you presented?

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| More coordination efforts are required in the context of child labor. There is no specific action or project implementation in child labor or child protection at CARE. As a result, CARE would assist other organizations already working in this field through referrals, particularly through the Helpline & Accountability department, and collaborations. |

1. **Recommendations for other stakeholders:** What would you recommend to other stakeholders addressing the issue of child labour in agriculture (labour, education, child protection, or social sector stakeholders, including ministries of labour, inspectors, educators, social services practitioners, etc.)?

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| Child labor is a critical issue that should be prioritized by all stakeholders. We are increasingly seeing the prioritization of sectors as a whole, with little regard for the people involved (i.e. at the beneficiary level), their needs, or the impact of the intervention on them and their livelihood. It is suggested that stakeholders prioritize urgent food security and basic assistance for working children and their families. More advocacy on child labor is also suggested by all stakeholders involved. CARE will be willing to participate in advocacy and protection capacity building for organizations where it sees a need. |

1. ILO, 2017. Global estimates of child labour. Available in [English](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575499.pdf), [French](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_651813.pdf) and [Spanish](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_651815.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UN, 2020. Policy brief: the impact of COVID-19 on children. Available in [English](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420_Covid_Children_Policy_Brief.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. World Bank. 2021. Food security and COVID-19. Available in [English](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-and-covid-19). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
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