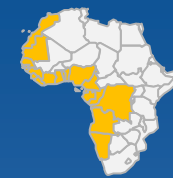




To accelerate the elimination of child labor in the fishing sector in Africa

Introduction to the phenomenon of child labor in the fishing and aquaculture sectors



Naji LAAMRICH
ATLAFCO Secretariat
Casablanca 27 Feb 2024



Introduction

- ❑ Child labor is one of the **oldest problems in our society** and still an ongoing issue
- ❑ During the time, child labor evolved from working in **agriculture or small handicraft workshops** to being forced into work **in factories in the urban** setting as a result of the industrial revolution.
- ❑ Children were very profitable assets since
 - ❑ **their pay was very low**
 - ❑ **were less likely to strike**, and
 - ❑ **were easy to be manipulated**
- ❑ **Socioeconomic disparities** and **lack of access to education** are among others contributing to the child labor
- ❑ Religious and cultural beliefs can be **misguiding and concealing in delineating the limits of child labor**

Child labor prevents physical, intellectual, and emotional development of children



What is child labor?



- ❑ **Child labor is work that is harmful to children**
- ❑ According to the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, the most widely accepted international human rights treaty in history, “*children have the right to be protected from work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.*”
- ❑ While child labour is a serious violation of human rights and the right to education, it is important to remember **that not all work done by children should be classified as child labour**
- ❑ The **International Labour Organisation** defines child labour as **work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, that is harmful to their physical and mental development.** It refers to work that
 - ❑ *(i) is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or*
 - ❑ *(ii) interferes with their schooling*
- ❑ Child labour is a complex issue with **deep political, and socio-economic roots**
- ❑ When addressing these problems one needs to develop a **holistic and comprehensive approach**, recognizing that child labour is **both a cause and consequence of poverty, inequality, discrimination, social exclusion, and lack of access to education**



Types of Child Labour

Do you know that there are 168 million child labourers in the world? And more than half of them, 85 million, are in hazardous work.

1. Children in Plantations & Farms

Based on 26 countries developing countries, ILO data shows that there are nearly 70% of child laborers, or some 170 million, work in agriculture, fishing, forestry and hunting.

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Benin, Brazil, Burkina, China, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Mali, Paraguay, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Cotton

Flowers
Columbia

Cocoa
Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Nigeria

Tea
Argentina, Banglades, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda

Tobacco
Brazil, Cambodia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgystan, Lebanon, Malawi, Mexico, Phillipines, Tanzania, Uganda

2. Children in the Mining & Quarrying area

2% of child labourers are actually involved in construction and mining industries

Bricks
Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burma, China, Ecuador, India, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Uganda

Charcoal
Brazil, El Salvador, Uganda

Coal
China, Colombia, Mongolia, North Korea, Ukraine, Pakistan

Mines
Columbia, Peru

Emerald
Columbia

Gold Mining
Bolivia, Burkina, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Mali, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Niger, North Korea, Peru, Phillipines, Senegal, Tanzania

3. Children in the Manufacturing Companies

8% of child labourers are actually involved in manufacturing

Garments
Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Jordan, Malaysia, Thailand

Stitching of Football
Pakistan

Surgical Instruments
Pakistan

Afghanistan, Colombia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Laos, (Occupied) Palestinian, Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen

4. Children in Unconditional Worst Forms

Pornography
Cambodia, Colombia, Mexico, Ukraine, Russia, Phillipines, Thailand

Trafficking Hard Drug
Brazil, Mexico, Peru

Child Soldier
Afghanistan, Colombia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Laos, (Occupied) Palestinian, Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen

Plastic Bags Collection
Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Phillipines, Thailand, Vietnam

Cans Collection
Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Phillipines, Thailand, Vietnam

Created By: Joanna Lal, January 2014



History of child labor



- ❑ Throughout history, children **have played a role in supporting their families through farming and handicrafts**
- ❑ However, the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries brought about significant changes, leading to **the exploitation of children in factories and farms under hazardous conditions**
- ❑ This, in turn, **prompted laws that regulated conditions for kids working and mandated education**
- ❑ Key milestones:
 - ❑ **1938:** The U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act **restricted hours and types of jobs for individuals under age 16**
 - ❑ **1973:** The Minimum Age Convention, ratified by **172 countries**, **established the minimum age for employment with some exceptions**
 - ❑ **1989:** The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child was enacted to guarantee the protection of children's rights to grow and thrive
 - ❑ **1992:** **The International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)** was founded to promote the global elimination of the practice and support countries in their efforts
 - ❑ **1999:** The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, ratified by **186 countries**, required ending practices like slavery, human trafficking, debt bondage, forced labor in armed conflict, prostitution, pornography, drug trafficking, and other illicit activities
 - ❑ **2021:** The U.N. General Assembly declared **2021 the Year for the Elimination of Child Labor**
 - ❑ **2025:** Target 8.7 of the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals is to end all forms of child labor by 2025

Of the 152 Million Children in Child Labour

Age Profile

48%

5-11 years-olds

28%

12-14 years-olds

24%

15-17 years-olds

Gender

58%

88 million

42%

64 million

Economic Activity



70.9%

Agriculture



11.9%

Industry



17.2%

Services

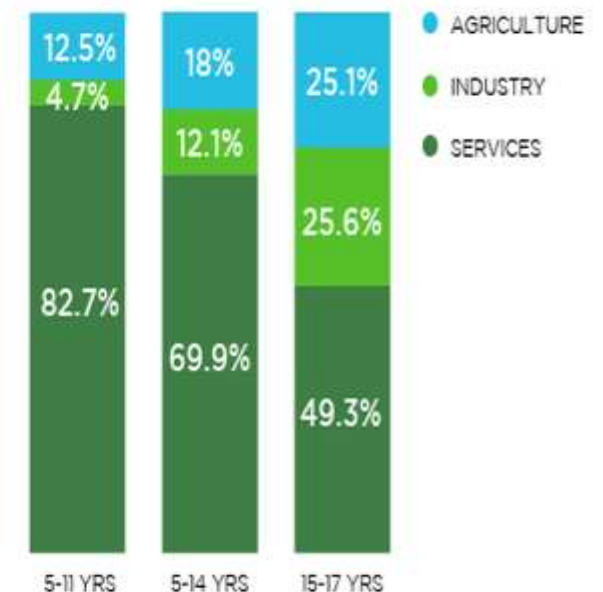


Child Labor global estimates



- ❑ The latest global estimates on child labour (ILO and UNICEF, 2021) indicate that of the **160 million child laborers globally**
- ❑ **70 percent work in agriculture** and are more likely to live in rural areas
- ❑ Agriculture covers farming, livestock keeping, forestry, **fisheries, and aquaculture** as well as postharvest handling of crops (**including fish and aquatic-sourced foods**)
- ❑ This means that diverse operations, some of which take place **on land and some at sea or on inland waters, are classified as “agriculture”**

AGRICULTURE IS A DANGEROUS SECTOR FOR CHILDREN: SEVEN IN TEN CHILDREN IN CHILD LABOUR ARE WORKING IN THIS INDUSTRY



CHILD LABOUR DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP AND ECONOMIC SECTOR

in Child labour

in Hazardous work

Child Labour: Global estimates 2020

In the world, 160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys – are in child labour accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide. Nearly half of whom 79 million children are in hazardous work



More than 1 in 5 children are engaged in child labor in the world's poorest countries

Globally, nearly 1 in 10 children works as a child laborer, while in the least developed countries, this ratio corresponds to more than 1 in 5 children

Number of child laborers worldwide

160 MILLION



97 million boys



63 million girls

NUMBER OF CHILD LABORERS
MILLION



Number of children working in hazardous jobs

has increased by **6.5 million** since 2016, reaching **79 million** (Children aged 5 to 17)

While the rate of child labor in rural areas is **14%**, this rate is around **5%** in urban areas

While **72%** of child workers work with their families, they can also take part in hazardous jobs

70%

The agricultural sector accounts for 70% (112 million) of all child labor

The List in Numbers

148

goods

76

countries

418

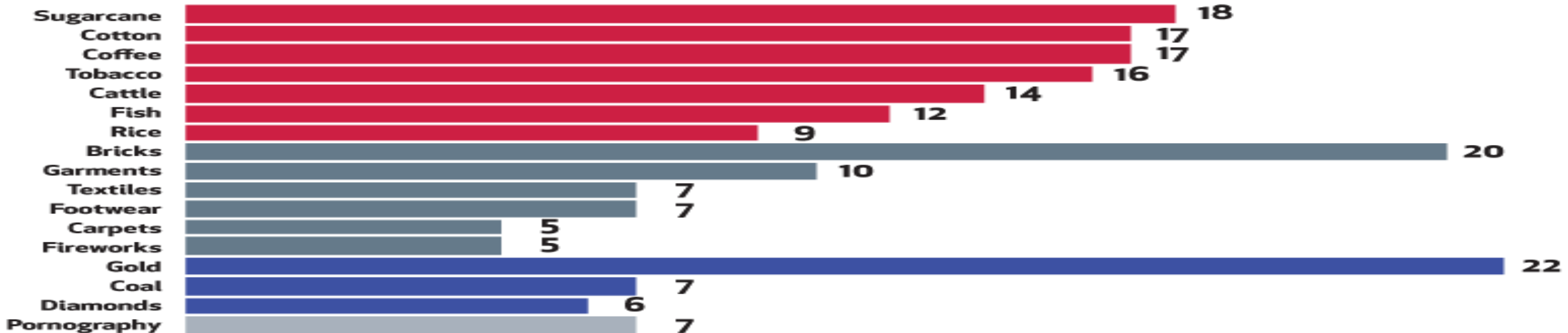
line items

Number of Goods Produced Globally by Child Labor or Forced Labor, by Production Sector

Agriculture	74
Manufacturing	42
Mining/Quarrying	31
Pornography	1



Goods with Most Child Labor and Forced Labor Listings by Number of Countries



Where Are Most Working Children Ages 5 to 14?



Asia-Pacific Region 127 million, or 60 percent of the world total

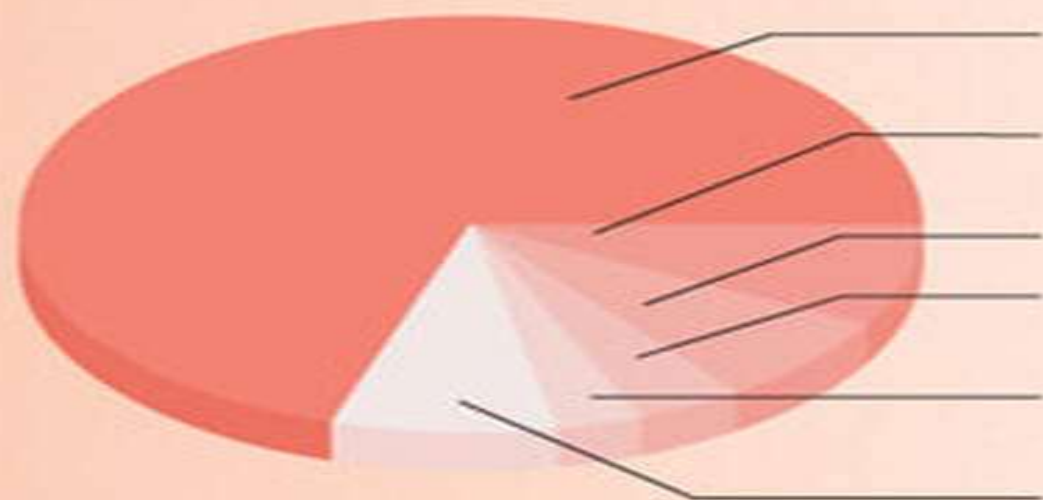
Sub-Saharan Africa is second with 48 million, or 23 percent of the total

Latin America and the Caribbean with 17.4 million, or 8 percent

Middle East and North Africa with 13.4 million, or 6 percent

Other: 3 percent

What Do Most Working Children Do?



70 percent agriculture, fishing, hunting, and forestry

8 percent manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels

7 percent domestic work and services

4 percent transport, storage, and communication

3 percent construction, mining, and quarrying

8 percent other

Note: Data derived from surveys conducted in developing countries.



Child labor in fishing sector

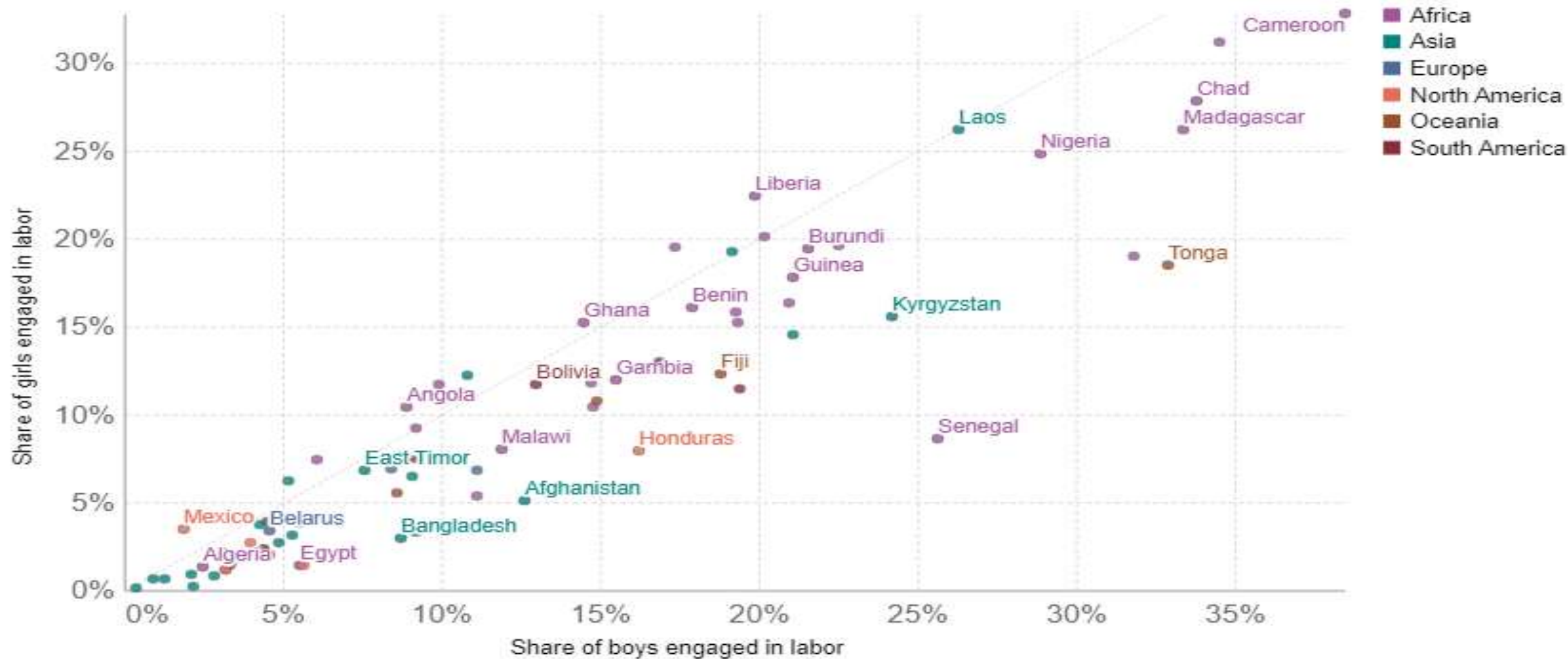


- ❑ Aggregate data indicate that about 60 per cent of child laborers work in agriculture, including **fisheries and aquaculture**
- ❑ While there are **limited disaggregated data on child labor specifically related to fisheries and aquaculture**, case-specific evidence points to **significant numbers**
- ❑ Children engage in a **wide variety of activities in capture fishing, aquaculture and all associated operations** (processing, marketing and other postharvest activities), as well as **in upstream industries including net making and boatbuilding**
- ❑ Children also **perform household chores in their fishing and fish farming families and communities**
- ❑ When child labour is used as cheap labour *to cut fishing costs*, **not only is harmful to the children, it may also have a negative effect on the sustainability of the fishery activity**
- ❑ Child labour appears to be particularly widespread in **the small- and medium-scale sectors of the informal economy where decent work is poorly organized or absent**



Share of children aged 5–17 years engaged in labor, 2022

Child employment is defined based on the amount of time spent participating in economic activities during the reference week of a survey.





Common activities children perform



- ❑ **In fisheries**, children engage in the following:
 - ❑ **Capturing of fish**: all phases of a fishing trip (loading of equipment, rowing, motoring, bailing water out of boats or canoes, diving to disentangle nets or scare fish into nets, sorting and cleaning catch); shore collection of fish and shellfish; and illegal and harmful practices (e.g. fish poisoning or fishing with explosives)
 - ❑ **Building and maintenance**: boat building and repairing; and net making and repairing.
- ❑ **In aquaculture**, children engage in the following:
 - ❑ **Farm operations**: feeding, fertilizing, cleaning and maintenance of aquaculture gear and holding units; guarding facilities (e.g. pond areas, cages, hatcheries); and harvesting fish
 - ❑ **Collection of fish/shrimp fry or seeds**
- ❑ **In post-harvest activities**, children engage in the following:
 - ❑ **Transport**: loading and unloading fish for transport; and shovelling ice
 - ❑ **Marketing**
 - ❑ **Fish processing**: shrimp peeling, gutting, slicing, filleting, salting, smoking, drying, packing.



CHILD LABOUR

Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and harms their physical and mental development.

12.5million
Latin America and the Caribbean

9million
Middle East and North Africa

77.7million
Asia and the Pacific

59million
Sub-Saharan Africa

168 MILLION CHILD LABOURERS

ALMOST 11% of ALL CHILDREN



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

A loving home for every child

Figure 1

Global Estimates on the Number of Working Children

Global Data on Child Labor, 5-17 Years Old



*Global estimates on the number of children engaged in categorical worst forms of child labor do not exist.

Source: ILO and UNICEF. *Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward*. New York, 2021



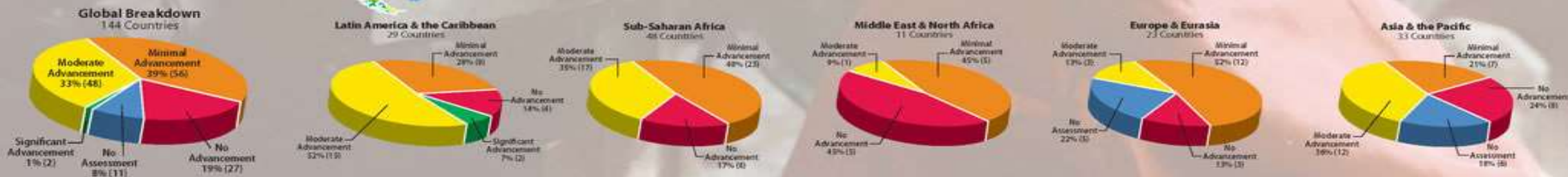
Assessment of Country Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Around the world, 175 governments have committed themselves to eradicating the worst forms of child labor. The International Labor Organization estimates that 215 million children are working as child laborers, of which about 115 million participate in hazardous labor. New global estimates from the ILO place the number of children forced into labor or sexual exploitation at 6 million.



Country Assessments

- Significant Advancement
- Moderate Advancement
- Minimal Advancement
- No Advancement
- No Assessment
- Countries Not Covered in This Report



Source: United States Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Figure 5

Global Breakdown of Country Assessments

4 Significant Advancement

Argentina | Colombia | Côte d'Ivoire | Uzbekistan

69 Moderate Advancement

Albania | Angola | Belize | Benin | Bhutan | **Bolivia** ↑ | Bosnia and Herzegovina | **Botswana** ↑ | Brazil | Burkina Faso | Burundi | Cabo Verde | Cameroon | Chile | Comoros | **Costa Rica** ↓ | **Djibouti** ↑ | **Ecuador** ↓ | Egypt | El Salvador | Ethiopia | Gambia, The | Georgia | Ghana | **Guatemala** ↓ | Guinea | Guinea-Bissau | **Honduras** ↓ | India | Indonesia | Jamaica | **Jordan** ↓ | Kosovo | Lesotho | Liberia | Madagascar | Malawi | Maldives | Mauritius | Mexico | **Moldova** ↑ | Mongolia | Morocco | Nepal | Nigeria | Norfolk Island | Oman | **Pakistan** ↑ | Panama | Paraguay | Peru | Philippines | Saint Lucia | Samoa | Senegal | Serbia | Sierra Leone | **Solomon Islands** ↑ | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Suriname | Tanzania | Thailand | Togo | Tunisia | Uganda | **Vanuatu** ↑ | Western Sahara | Zambia

46 Minimal Advancement

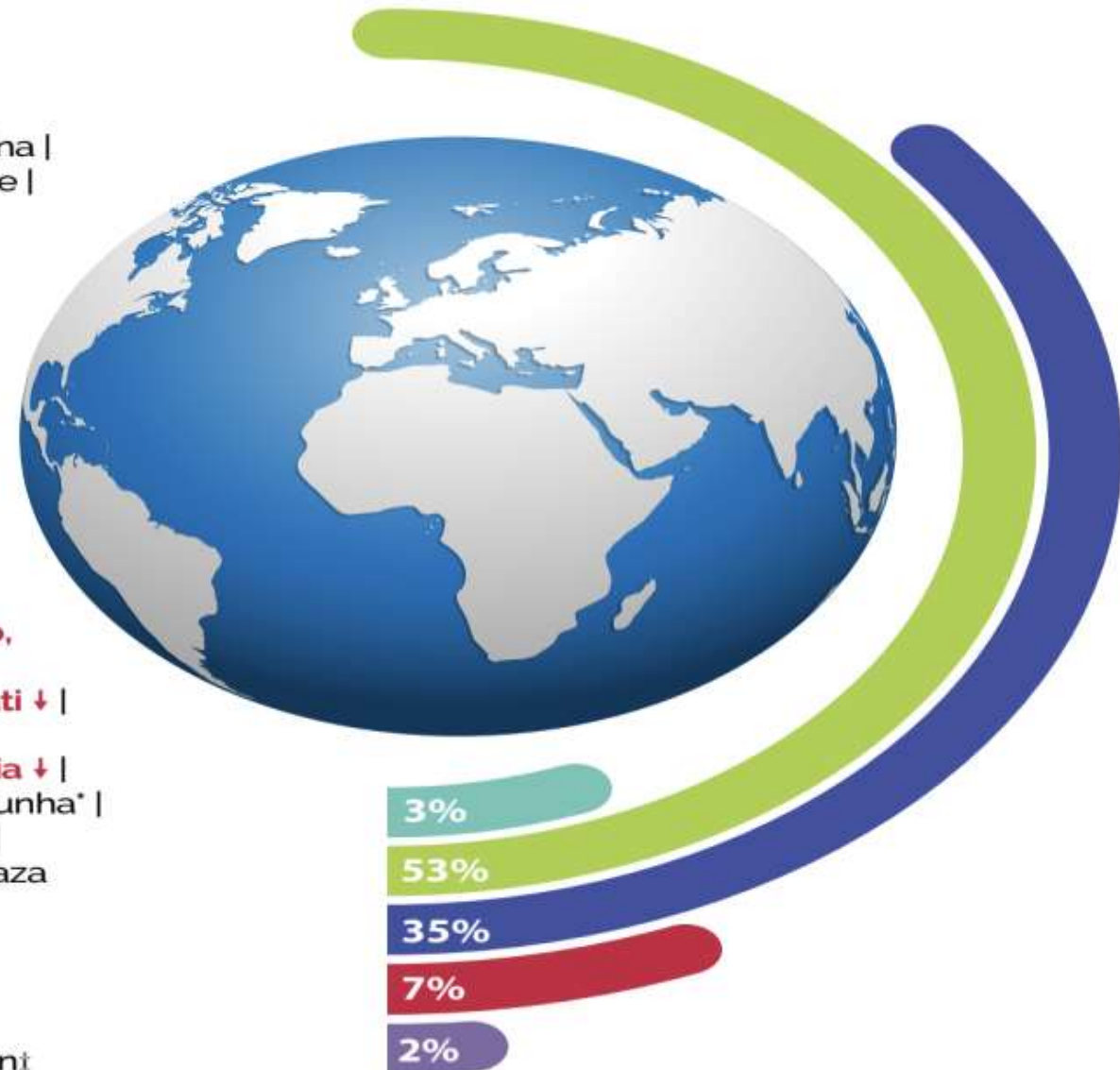
Algeria | Armenia* | Azerbaijan* | **Bangladesh** ↓ | Cambodia* | Central African Republic* | **Chad** ↓ | **Congo, Democratic Republic of the*** ↓ | **Congo, Republic of the** ↓ | **Cook Islands** ↓ | Dominica | **Dominican Republic*** ↓ | Eswatini | **Fiji** ↓ | Gabon* | Guyana | Haiti | Iraq* | Kazakhstan* | Kenya* | **Kiribati** ↓ | Kyrgyz Republic* | Lebanon | Mali* | Mauritania* | **Montenegro** ↓ | **Mozambique** ↓ | **Namibia** ↓ | Nicaragua | **Niger** ↓ | **Niue** ↑ | **North Macedonia** ↓ | Papua New Guinea | **Rwanda** ↓ | Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristán da Cunha* | **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** ↓ | **São Tomé and Príncipe** ↓ | Somalia* | Timor-Leste* | **Tokelau** ↑ | Tonga* | Tuvalu | Ukraine* | West Bank and the Gaza Strip | Yemen* | Zimbabwe*

9 No Advancement

Afghanistan | Anguilla | British Virgin Islands | Burma‡ | Eritrea‡ | **Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)*** ↓ | Grenada | **Montserrat*** ↓ | South Sudan‡

3 No Assessment

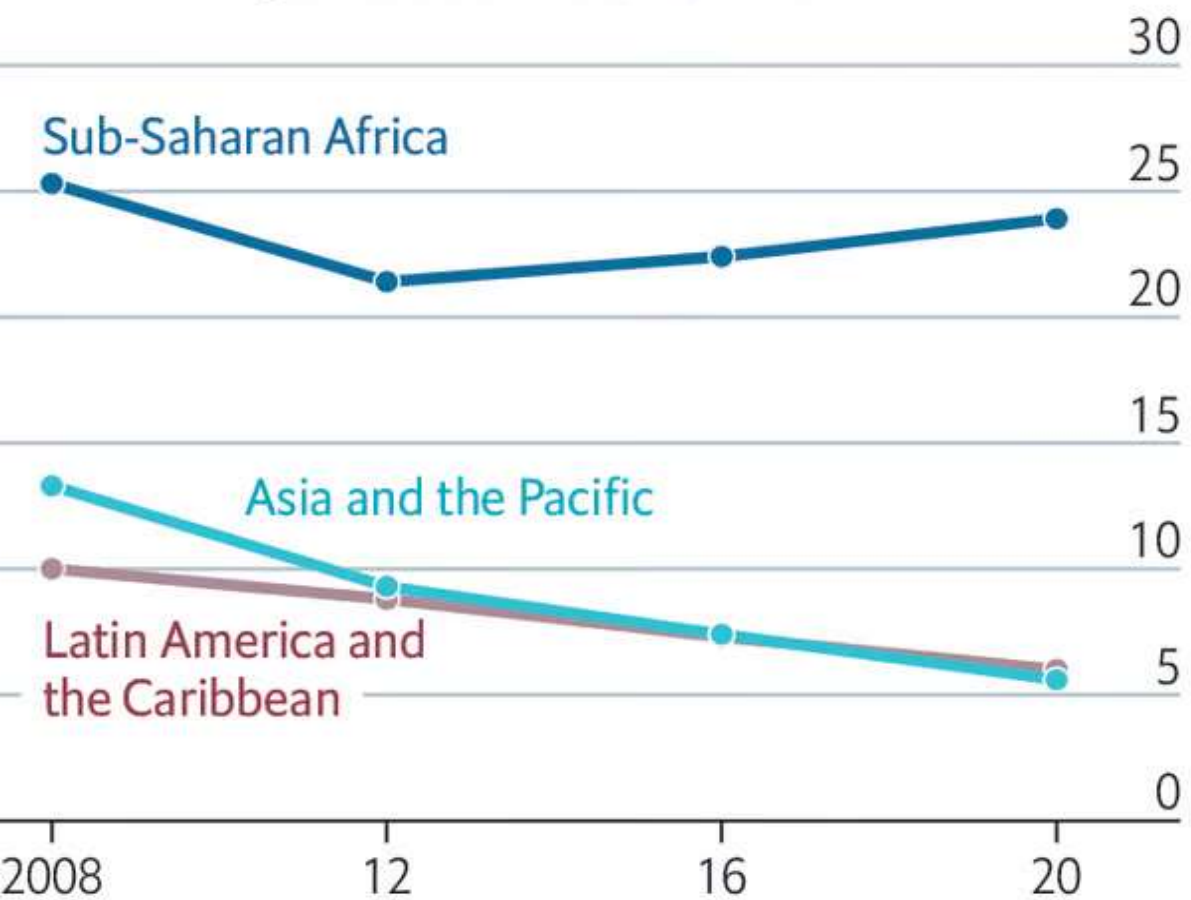
Christmas Island | Cocos (Keeling) Islands | Wallis and Futuna



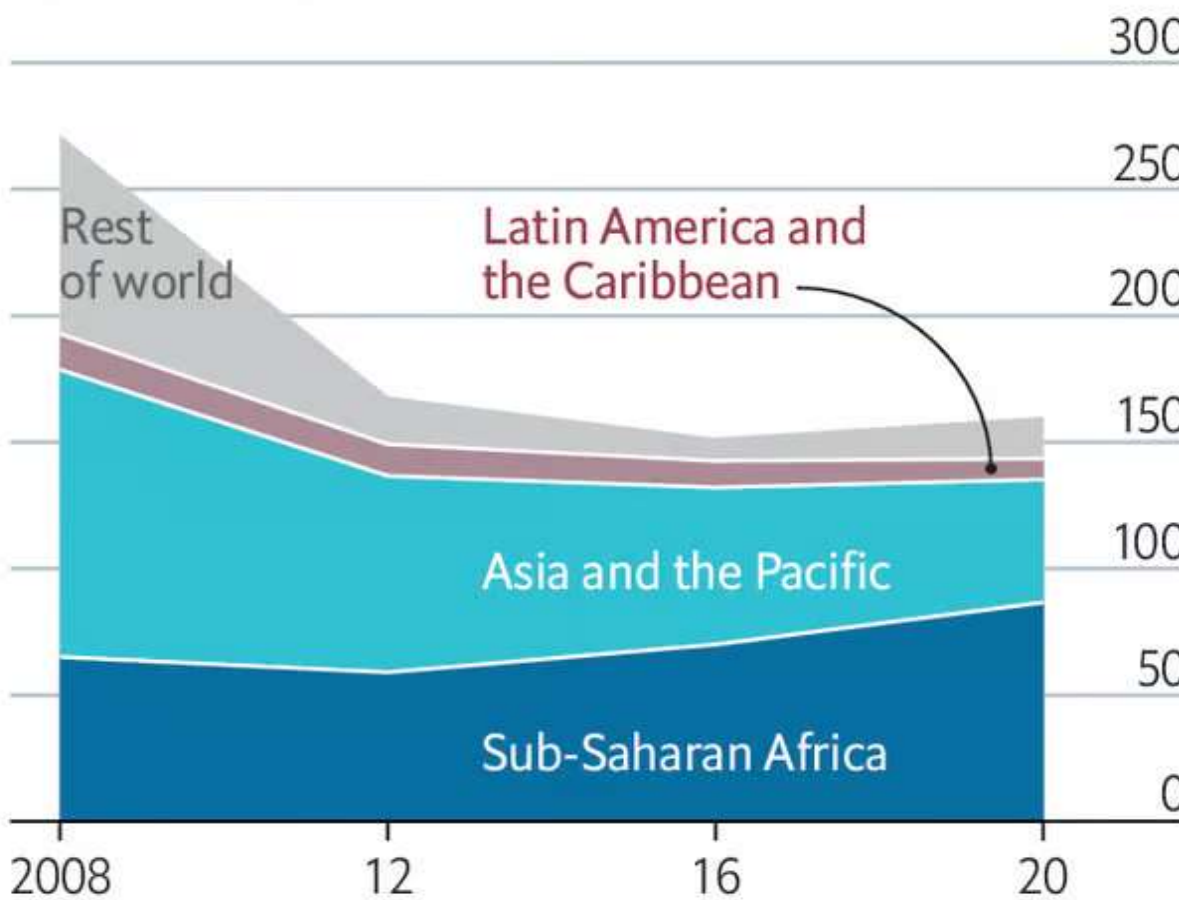
All work, no play

Children in child labour*

Selected regions, % of child population



Number of children, m

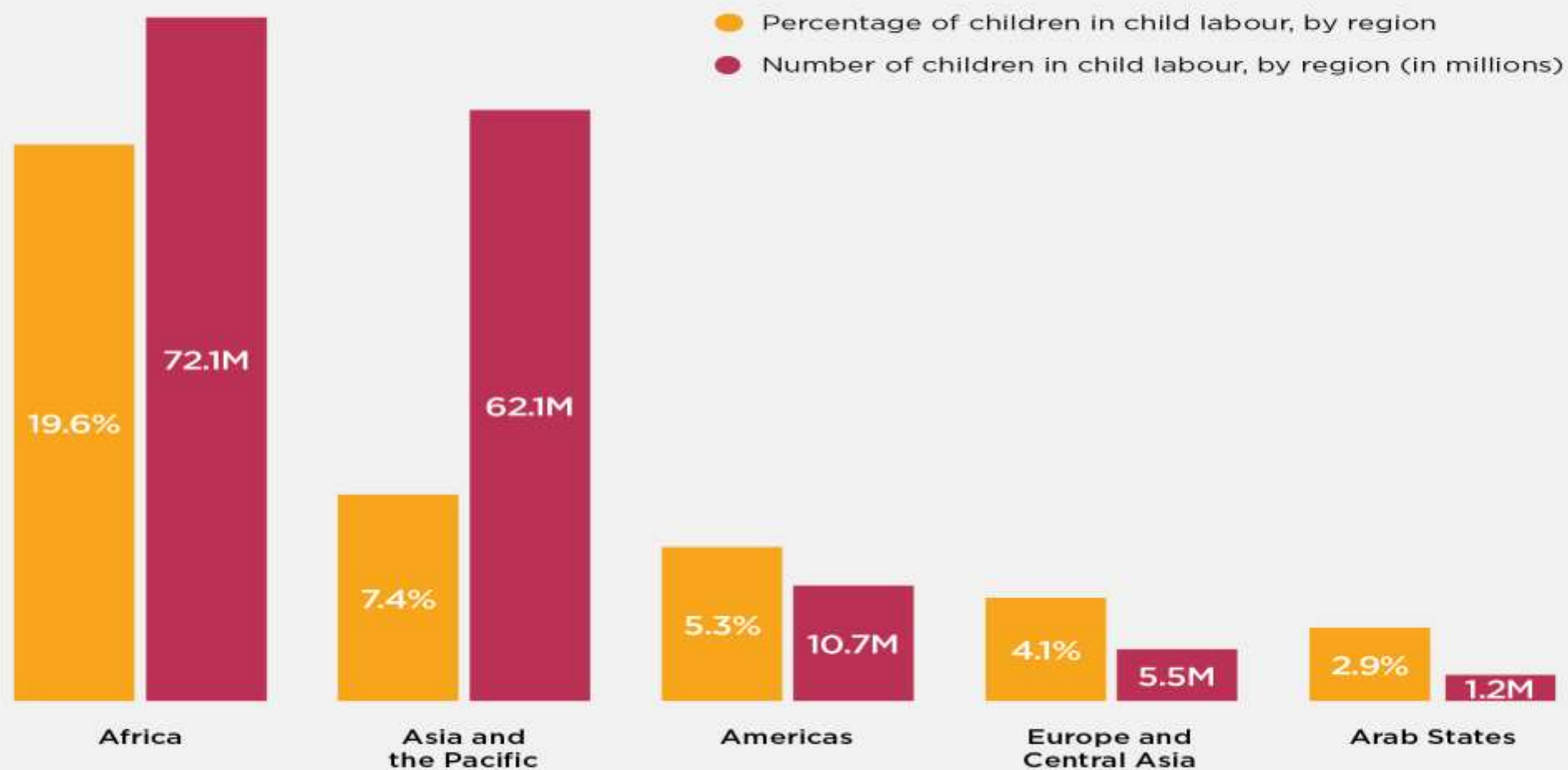


Source: "Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward", ILO and UNICEF

*5- to 17- year-olds



Among regions, Africa has the highest number of child labourers and the highest percentage of its children in child labour. Asia and the Pacific is close behind in terms of absolute numbers of child labourers.



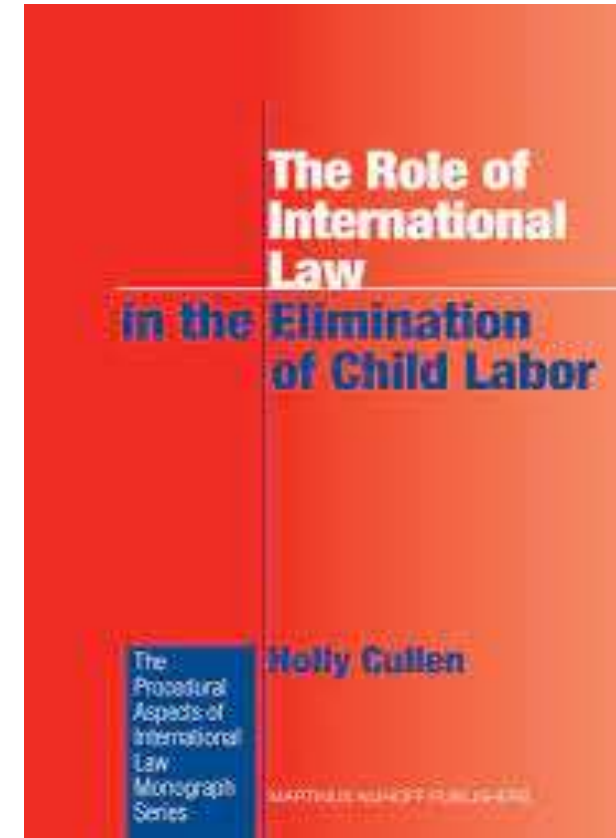
Percentage and number of children (in millions) in child labour by region



International law and child labour



- ❑ There has been a great deal of **literature examining the phenomenon of child labor**, yet comparatively little of that literature is related to the legal response, particularly from an international perspective
- ❑ However, an increasing number of **international legal instruments now address, directly or indirectly, various aspects of child labor**
- ❑ Undeniably, legal responses alone **are insufficient to address such a multi-faceted problem**
- ❑ Nonetheless, it is worth while to analyze the international legal responses to child labor and the role of international law in respect of the campaign to end child labor





International legislation and child labour



- ❑ The international legislation enacted with **the purpose of regulating and modifying children's work, and considers the impact of this legislation including how States are held to account**
- ❑ **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was the first international body that signed in 1989 the Convention on the Rights of the Children.**
- ❑ **The scope of international legislation addressing child labour is wide ranging**
- ❑ **In recent years, the focus has moved from prohibition and minimum age requirements to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and the identification of hazardous child labour**
- ❑ **This statement is tempered with a proviso that age is in fact considered a key feature in the identification of hazardous child work.**

So age has come to be accepted as an important consideration, although individual countries may identify specific key ages



International conventions for countries



- ❑ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in **1948**
- ❑ This declaration may well be the most important document **in international agreements between countries on human rights, including the rights of children**
- ❑ The International Convention on the Rights of the Child (ICRC) recognizes the right of every child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing work that is hazardous or harmful to their health and development or that interferes with their education.
- ❑ It also requires governments to set a minimum age for employment and to provide for appropriate hours and conditions of employment. (**Article 32.1.**)
- ❑ Since it was adopted by the United Nations in **November 1989**, **196** countries have signed up to the UNCR
- ❑ **WHAT IS THE UNCR?**

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCR)** is a legally-binding international agreement setting out the **civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights** of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities
- ❑ The most concrete international agreements on combating child labour are the conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) concerning the minimum age for the admission to employment (138) and on the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (182).



International agreements that require action by businesses OECD



- ❑ The UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (also known as the ‘Ruggie Principles’) contain **the most important international guidelines on the role businesses are expected to play in eliminating child labour**
 - ❑ They also set out the obligations of governments to ensure that businesses **adhere to these guidelines**
 - ❑ Businesses and governments together have to ensure **that problems are solved for the victims.**
 - ❑ The UN Principles are endorsed internationally and included in shortened form in the OECD Guidelines.
- ❑ The OECD guidelines give companies **practical advice on cross-border business and corporate social responsibility**

Figure 9

Global Gaps in Laws and Regulations*



23

Countries' prohibitions of forced labor do not meet international standards

44

Countries' prohibitions of commercial sexual exploitation of children do not meet international standards

30

Countries' prohibitions of child trafficking do not meet international standards

46

Countries' prohibitions of the use of children in illicit activities do not meet international standards

*Out of 131 countries



How to raise awareness



More information on child labour is needed to raise awareness at all levels:

- ❑ A critical first step towards eliminating child labour, in particular its worst forms, is **to understand what constitutes hazardous work and what tasks and occupations are acceptable for children above the minimum legal age for employment**
- ❑ **Convention on Minimum Age, 1973 (No 138), and Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182)**, define child labour on the basis of a child's age, the hours and conditions of work, activities performed and hazards involved
- ❑ Child labour is work that **interferes with compulsory schooling and damages health and personal development**
- ❑ Concerted efforts are needed to effectively address child labour with multistakeholder **participation and involving governments, development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), employers' and workers' associations and other socio-professional organizations, the private sector and communities (including children and youth)**

By applying holistic, participatory, integrated and feasible approaches, a better life for millions of children can be created





Conclusion

- ❑ Although there is a **widely ratified international legal framework to address child labour**, – comprising ILO Conventions and other agreements, laws are effective only if they are **applied and enforced, with incentives to ensure compliance**
- ❑ Addressing child labour **is rarely high on the national agenda of social dialogue**, legislation review and institution building
- ❑ **Its elimination is difficult** because it is part of production systems, is nested in the **context of poverty and relates closely to social injustices**
- ❑ Communities and institutions are often not fully aware of the **negative individual and collective social and economic consequences of child labour**

Practical and realistic pathways for improving the current situation and community engagement and buy-in are essential for successful results

**TO END CHILD LABOUR
WORLD VISION SAYS
GOVERNMENTS SHOULD:**



**STRENGTHEN
CHILD AND
SOCIAL
PROTECTION
SYSTEMS**



**PROVIDE
FREE QUALITY
EDUCATION
FOR ALL
CHILDREN**



**ENFORCE
DUE DILIGENCE
IN GLOBAL
SUPPLY
CHAINS**

“ How is he different? ”

*According to UNICEF
there is an estimated
250 million children aged
5 - 14 in child labour,
excluding
child domestic labour.*



**STOP
CHILD LABOUR**



www.comhafat.org



World Day Against Child Labour 2023



THANK YOU