

## World Day Against Child Labour 12 June (</en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour>)



Child labour comprises work that children are too young to perform and/or work that, by its nature or circumstances, is likely to harm children's health, safety or morals.

**PHOTO:** UN/MINUSTAH/ Logan Abassi

### 2024 Theme: Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!

This year's World Day will focus on celebrating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/worst-forms-child-labour-convention-1999-no-182) (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/worst-forms-child-labour-convention-1999-no-182>) (1999, No. 182). It also presents an opportunity to remind all stakeholders to improve their implementation of the two fundamental Conventions on child labour - [Convention No. 182](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/worst-forms-child-labour-convention-1999-no-182) (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/worst-forms-child-labour-convention-1999-no-182>) and [Convention No. 138](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/minimum-age-convention-1973-no-138) (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/minimum-age-convention-1973-no-138>) concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment or Work (1973).

Although significant strides have been taken in reducing child labour over time, recent years have seen global trends reverse, underscoring the pressing need to unite efforts in expediting actions to eradicate child labour in all its manifestations.

With the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7, the international community made a commitment to the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Now is the time to make the elimination of child labour a reality!

This World Day Against Child Labour, June 12, 2024, we are calling for:

- The effective implementation of the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour;
- Reinvigorated national, regional and international action to end child labour in all of its forms, including worst forms, through adopting national policies and addressing root causes as called upon in the 2022 Durban Call to Action;
- Universal ratification and effective implementation of ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age, which, together with the universal ratification of ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour achieved in 2020, would provide all children with legal protection against all forms of child labour.

I was a child labourer, now I work to prevent it



### Prevalence of child labour (<https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Regionsandcountries/lang--en/index.htm>)

Since 2000, for nearly two decades, the world had been making steady progress in reducing child labour. But over the past few years, conflicts, crises and the COVID-19 pandemic, have plunged more families into poverty – and forced millions more children into child labour. Economic growth has not been sufficient, nor inclusive enough, to relieve the pressure that too many families and communities feel and that makes them resort to child labour. Today, 160 million children are still engaged in child labour. That is almost one in ten children worldwide.

Africa ranks highest among regions both in the percentage of children in child labour – one-fifth – and the absolute number of children in child labour – 72 million. Asia and the Pacific ranks second highest in both these measures – 7% of all children and 62 million in absolute terms are in child labour in this region.

The Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions together account for almost nine out of every ten children in child labour worldwide. The remaining child labour population is divided among the Americas (11 million), Europe and Central Asia (6 million), and the Arab States (1 million). In terms of incidence, 5% of children are in child labour in the Americas, 4% in Europe and Central Asia, and 3% in the Arab States.

While the percentage of children in child labour is highest in low-income countries, their numbers are actually greater in middle-income countries. 9% all children in lower-middle-income countries, and 7% of all children in upper-middle-income countries, are in child labour. Statistics on the absolute number of children in child labour in each national income grouping indicate that 84 million children in child labour, accounting for 56% of all those in child labour, actually live in middle-income countries, and an additional 2 million live in high-income countries.

## End Child Labour



As part of the Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media (SCREAM) Program implemented by the ILO to combat child labour, students from British Culture College who are conducting awareness-raising activities composed a song and recorded it in the studio.

[Find out more >>](#)

### Did you know?

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# Child Labour: Global estimates & trends



## 160 M

Approximately 160 million children worldwide are involved in child labor, which represents 1 in 10 children.

## 85.5 M

From 2000 to 2020, child labor decreased by 85.5 million, dropping from 16% to 9.6%.



## 26.4%





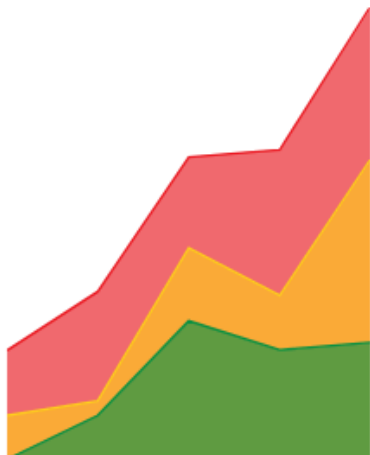
**Only 26.4% of children worldwide receive social protection cash benefits.**

**0.4%**

**Globally, only 1.1% of GDP is spent on social protection for children and only 0.4% of GDP for children in Africa.**



Source: International Labour Organization



**8.9 M**

**Without mitigation strategies, child labor could increase by 8.9 million by the end of 2022.**



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### Past Events

- [2023: Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!](https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour/2023) (https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour/2023)
- [2022: Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour](https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour/2022) (https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour/2022)
- [2021: Act now: end child labour!](https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour/2021) (https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour/2021)
- [2020: COVID-19: Protect Children from Child Labour, now more than ever!](https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2020/lang-en/index.htm) (https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2020/lang-en/index.htm)
- [2019: Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams!](https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2019/lang-en/index.htm) (https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2019/lang-en/index.htm)
- [2018: Generation Safe & Healthy](https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2018/lang-en/index.htm) (https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2018/lang-en/index.htm)
- [2017: In conflicts and disasters, protect children from child labour](https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2017/lang-en/index.htm) (https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2017/lang-en/index.htm)
- [2016: End child labour in supply chains - It's everyone's business!](https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2016/lang-en/index.htm) (https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2016/lang-en/index.htm)

- 2015: NO to child labour – YES to quality education! [Download PDF \(https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2023/06/wdacl\\_infographic.pdf\)](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2023/06/wdacl_infographic.pdf)  
<https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2015/lang-en/index.htm>

[Other past events \(https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/lang-en/index.htm\)](https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/lang-en/index.htm)



<https://www.un.org/zh/global-issues/children>

### **Global Issues: Children (<https://www.un.org/zh/global-issues/children>)**

Every child has the right to health, education and protection, and every society has a stake in expanding children's opportunities in life. Yet, around the world, millions of children are denied a fair chance for no reason other than the country, gender or circumstances into which they are born.

Find out more in "Global Issues: Children" (<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/children>)



(<https://live.ilo.org/events/whats-key-ending-child-labour-2023-06-12>)

### **What's the key to ending Child Labour? (<https://live.ilo.org/events/whats-key-ending-child-labour-2023-06-12>)**

To mark World Day Against Child Labour, the ILO World of Work Show (<https://live.ilo.org/series/world-work-show>) looks at what else needs to be done to protect the 160 million children worldwide who are in child labour - many in dangerous conditions. We will also explore the critical role of social protection in protecting workers and their families.



(<https://www.un.org/en/observances>)

### Why do we mark International Days? (<https://www.un.org/en/observances>)

International days and weeks (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks>) are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. We also mark other [UN observances](https://www.un.org/en/observances) (<https://www.un.org/en/observances>).

(<https://www.addtoany.com/share?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2Fobservances%2Fworld-day-against-child-labour&title=World%20Day%20Against%20Child%20Labour%20%7C%20United%20Nations>)  
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