Tackling child labour in agriculture

World Day Against Child Labour 2007

and beyond
Why agriculture should be a priority sector?

• 70% of working children in agriculture
• + 132 million girls & boys aged 5-14
• Start work very young: 5 +
• Hazardous work: fatalities, injuries, illness
Why agriculture should be a priority sector?

- Girls: extra burden of household chores
- Children’s work: often hidden & invisible
- Lack of labour laws in agriculture
- Little/poor quality education
- Poverty & malnutrition
Many tasks are part of growing up in a rural environment, and are not child labour if:

- appropriate to a child's age
- no interference with a child's schooling or leisure time
Hazardous child labour

- Agriculture, mining, construction: three most dangerous occupations:
  - fatalities
  - injuries
  - work-related illnesses
- Many work-related health problems do *not* develop until the child becomes an adult
Hazardous child labour

- Children exposed to:
  - extreme temperatures
  - dangerous machinery
  - hard manual work
  - heavy/awkward loads
  - using sharp cutting tools
  - mixing & spraying pesticides
  - long hours
WDACL 2007 and beyond

The WDACL 2007 slogan is

*Harvest for the future: agriculture without child labour*

Making the slogan a reality, only possible if we strengthen the worldwide movement on child labour, especially in agriculture

Creation of a new partnership between ILO and five international agricultural organizations is a major step forward
new Partnership between:

- **ILO** (International Labour Organization)
- **FAO** (Food & Agriculture Organization)
- **IFAD** (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
- **IFPRI** (International Food Policy Research Institute) of **CGIAR** (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research)
- **IFAP** (International Federation of Agricultural Producers)
- **IUF** (International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations)
International agricultural organizations are important conduits because of their close contacts with national:

- ministries or departments of agriculture
- agricultural extension services
- farmers' organizations and cooperatives
- agricultural: producer organizations, research bodies, marketing boards, etc.
The way forward: Joint Partnership messages

- Apply ILO Conventions No. 138 (Minimum age) and No. 182 (Worst forms of child labour) in agriculture
- Act to ensure children do not carry out hazardous work in agriculture
- Improve rural livelihoods, tackle poverty
- Incorporate child labour issues in national agricultural policies and programmes
The way forward: Joint Partnership messages

- Bridge the urban/rural and gender gap in education
- Promote youth employment in agriculture & rural areas
- Make agriculture an attractive sector for both youth and adult workers to work in
- Provide decent agricultural employment opportunities, incentives, working conditions, incomes & wages
The way forward: Joint Partnership actions

- Build policy coherence on tackling agricultural child labour between ILO and the five partner agricultural organizations
- Develop joint field level activities & programmes
- Extend the partnership to other agriculture-based organizations