

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



Child economic activity in agriculture

- 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



World Day Against Child Labour
12 June 2007

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

World Day Against Child Labour
12 June 2007

WDACL 2007 and beyond

- 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)

WDACL 2007 and beyond: The way forward

- 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**