

# Harvest for the future:

agriculture without  
child labour



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World Day Against Child Labour  
12 June 2007

Photos: FAO, ILO, Panos UK



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## Agriculture accounts for 70% of child labour worldwide

- Over 132 million girls and boys aged 5-14 years old work on farms and plantations, sowing and harvesting crops, spraying pesticides, and tending livestock. Girls are particularly disadvantaged as they often undertake household chores either before or after working in the fields.
- Agriculture is one of the three most dangerous sectors, along with mining and construction, in which to work. Children working in agriculture often face many hazards and risks which include, for example mixing, handling and applying toxic pesticides; using dangerous cutting tools; working in extreme temperatures; and operating powerful farm vehicles and heavy machinery.
- Long hours in the fields prevent children from getting the knowledge and skills, through education and training that could help lift them out of poverty.
- Not all work that children do in agriculture is bad for them. Tasks appropriate to a child's age, and that do not interfere with a child's schooling and leisure time, can be a normal part of growing up in a rural environment.
- Agriculture should become a more attractive sector for both youth and adult workers, providing them with decent employment opportunities and working conditions, incomes and wages so that poverty — the basis of much child labour — can be rooted out.

**Join us in our growing worldwide movement to eliminate child labour in agriculture in order to give a better future to these girls and boys and their families.**

International Labour Organization

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

[www.ilo.org/childlabour](http://www.ilo.org/childlabour)