

A Briefing on Child Labor

What is Child Labour?

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International
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Child labor: a human rights and child protection issue

ILO 8 core Conventions or "fundamental principles and rights at work": that all ILO Member States are required to respect, promote and realise

**Freedom of association
and collective
bargaining**

**Elimination of
discrimination in
respect of employment
and occupation**

**Abolition of
child labor**

**Elimination of forced
and compulsory
labor**

**Child rights
and
protection**



Child labor

Not all work done by children/adolescents is child labor

Some work can be positive, when

- Does not affect their health and personal development
- Does not interfere with their schooling

Child labor refers to work

- By children below the appropriate legal minimum working age, based on [ILO standards on child labor](#)
- By children/adolescents below 18 years of age that is work classified as a worst form of child labor, in [ILO standards on child labor](#)

Countries may define it differently, if

- If their laws are not in line with ILO standards, or
- If they have selected a flexibility as per the Conventions.



Acceptable forms of work or child work?

Depends on

- the child's age
- the types of work performed
- the conditions under which it is performed, and
- the objectives pursued by individual countries

The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries



So, what is child labor

Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

Refers to work that:

- is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children
- interferes with their schooling by:
 - depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
 - obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
 - requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.





Photos: Sherin R. Khan



Thank you!

