



HUMAN RIGHTS



LABOUR



ENVIRONMENT



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Global Compact
Network
Switzerland & Liechtenstein

In collaboration with



**focus
right**

In the context of the Swiss National Action Plan
on Business and Human Rights

Understanding child labour risks in supply chains of Swiss enterprises

26.10.2021, 14:00 - 15:30, online

Let's make Global Goals Local Business



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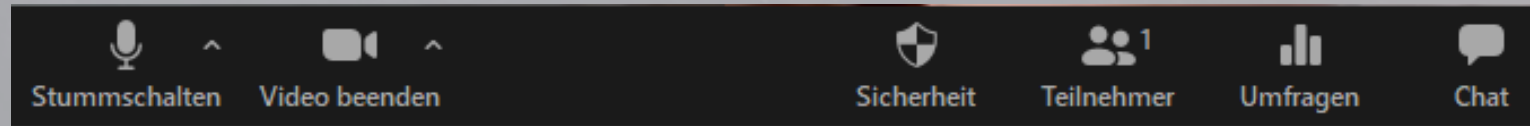
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Housekeeping

- Please make sure you are **muted during the webinar**. Unmute yourself if you wish to say something.



- You may **activate the video** before you make an intervention.
- Use the **chat function** to type in your questions or make a comment.



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Why this webinar?

- The United Nations has declared 2021 the “**International Year for the Elimination of Child labour**” and calls on all stakeholders to take action
- **160 millions children are in child labour** - many of them are working in the **supply chains of companies** producing all sorts of goods and services
- The UNGC through its Executive Director Sanda Ojiambo has made a [pledge to eradicate child labour and forced labour](#)
- The UNGC calls all companies to **identify, prevent, mitigate and account for all adverse human rights impacts** in their operations and value chains, which will help **tackle child labour and forced labour**
- Worldwide and in Switzerland **new regulations on child labour are coming up**

Agenda

- Why is Child Labour relevant for Swiss enterprises?

Valérie Berset Bircher, Ambassador, Head of International Labour Affairs at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

- What is child labour, why and where does it occur?

Monika Althaus, Senior Manager Children's Rights and Business at UNICEF Switzerland & Liechtenstein

- How can companies identify child labour risks in their supply chains?

Sibylle Baumgartner, Founder and Executive Director at focusright

Regula Meng, Consultant at focusright

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

Corporate sustainability starts with a company's value system. By incorporating the Ten Principles into strategies, policies and procedures, and establishing a culture of integrity, companies are not only upholding their basic responsibilities to people and planet, but also setting the stage for long-term success.

Companies operate responsibly



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1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
2. make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.



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3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
4. the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
5. the effective abolition of child labour; and
6. the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.



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7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
8. undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
9. encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.



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10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Companies contribute to progress

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
International Labour Affairs

Why is Child Labour relevant for Swiss enterprises?

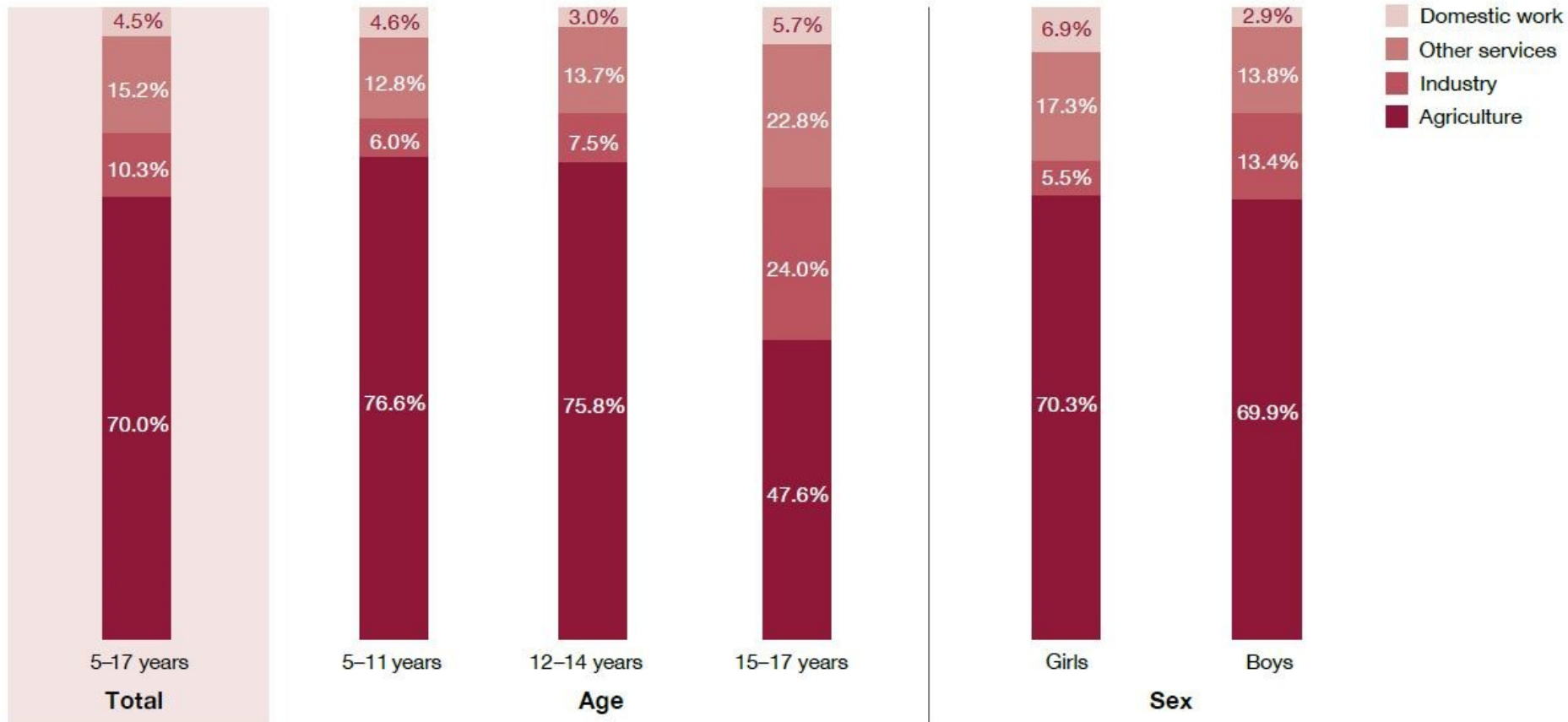
Ambassador Valérie Berset Bircher, SECO



Child Labour Estimates

The agricultural sector accounts for the largest share of child labour worldwide

Fig 17. Percentage distribution of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by sector of economic activity, age and sex



Source: International Labour Office and United Nations Children's Fund, Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward, ILO and UNICEF, New York, 2021.

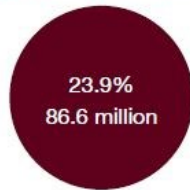


Child Labour Estimates

Sub-Saharan Africa stands out as the region with the highest prevalence and largest number of children in child labour

Fig 2. Percentage and number of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour, by region

Sub-Saharan Africa



Central and
Southern Asia



5.5%
26.3 million

Eastern and
South-Eastern Asia



6.2%
24.3 million

Northern Africa
and Western Asia



7.8%
10.1 million

Latin America and
the Caribbean

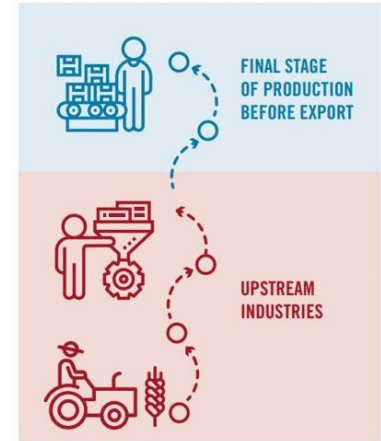


6.0%
8.2 million

Europe and
Northern America



2.3%
3.8 million



Notes: The size of the bubbles is proportionate to the absolute number of children in child labour. The figure shows regional groupings used for SDG reporting. The region of Oceania is omitted because of low data coverage. For this reason, region-specific numbers do not add up to the global total.

Source: International Labour Office and United Nations Children's Fund, Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward, ILO and UNICEF, New York, 2021.



Legislative developments

Popular initiative for responsible businesses was rejected at the popular vote

The Parliament's indirect counter-proposal :

- ⇒ Reporting obligation on non-financial issues (similar to EU directive): environmental issues, social issues, personnel issues, human rights and anti-corruption.
- ⇒ Due diligence obligation on conflict minerals: minerals or metals from conflict zones or high-risk areas (similar to EU regulation)
- ⇒ **Due diligence obligation on child labour:** applies to firms that offer goods or services for which there is a well-founded suspicion of child labour



Due Diligence Obligation on Child Labour

- **New:** due diligence requirements if there is **reasonable suspicion** that a product or service was produced using child labour.
- The draft ordinance sets out **exceptions for SMEs and businesses that present lower risks** in this area.
- Public consultation on the ordinance : consolidation ongoing
- Parliamentary initiative to extend the due diligence obligation to **forced labour** in discussion
- Child labour and forced labour have received increased awareness in public debate



Alliance 8.7



- April 1st, 2021: President Parmelin announced CH adhesion to the Alliance 8.7, an inclusive global partnership to eliminate child labour, forced labour and human trafficking
- Action pledge for the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour
- National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights
- [Global Solutions Forum – Acting Together to End Child Labour in Agriculture – 2-3 Nov. 2021, online](#)
- Business networks:
 - [Child Labour Platform](#)
 - [Global Business Network on Forced Labour](#)



National Action Plan on Business & Human Rights (NAP)

Implementation of the UNGP's in Switzerland

- 2016: first NAP was adopted on parliamentary request
- Revised NAP 2020-2023
- Creation of support measures for the implementation of human rights due diligence (tools, guidelines, etc.)
- Awareness-raising activities for Swiss companies

→ The NAP is the framework for our current support to companies on human rights due diligence

→ Visit our website: www.nap-bhr.admin.ch

Child Labour

- Definition
- Root causes
- Current figures

Monika Althaus

Senior Manager Children's Rights and Business

26.10.2021

UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein



"If I did not have to work here, I would spend more time at school. I would study more and I would become a teacher when I grow up"

What is child labour?

Child labour is work

- that **deprives children** of their **childhood**, their **potential** and their **dignity**
- that is **harmful** to their **physical** and **mental development**
- and that **interferes with their schooling**

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ILO-Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour
- ILO-Convention 138: Minimum Age



... and what is it not?

Depends on:

- the **child's age**
- **type and hours** of work performed
- the **conditions** under which it is performed

Examples:

- Trainees,
- Children helping in the household or family business for limited hours and not hazardous tasks,
- Student jobs not interfering with education, etc.



Root causes of child labour

Child labour is

- A **violation of children's rights**
- A consequence of numerous **root causes**, children's and human rights violations and social issues:
 - **Poverty**
 - Access to **education**
 - Access to **social protection**
 - Access to **decent work**



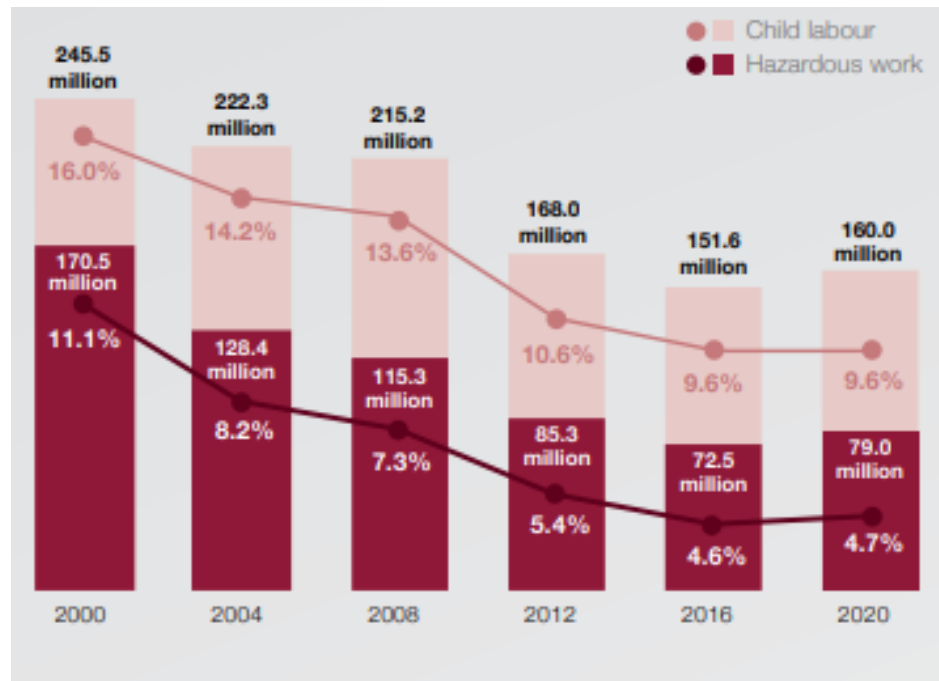
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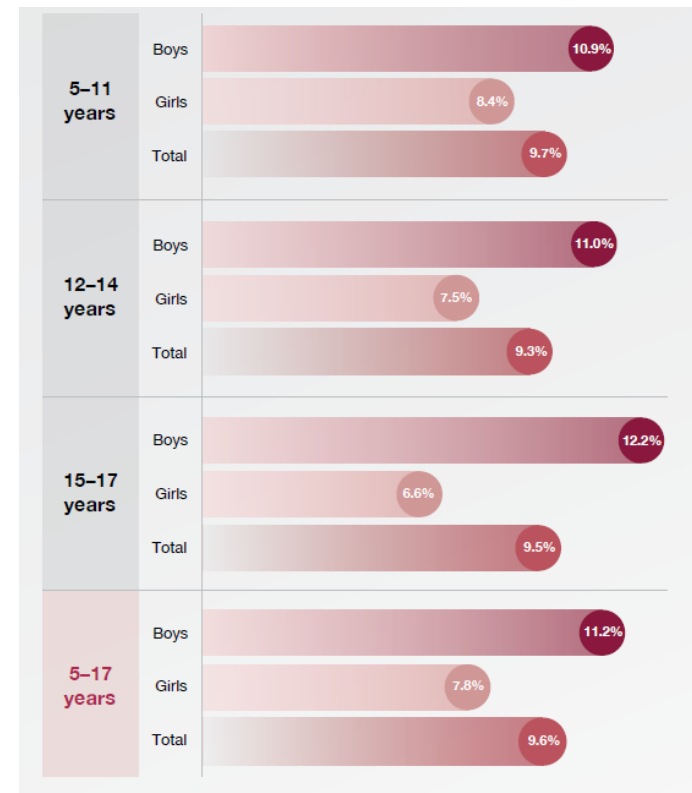
Current figures (2020)

Stagnating numbers since the last global estimates in 2016



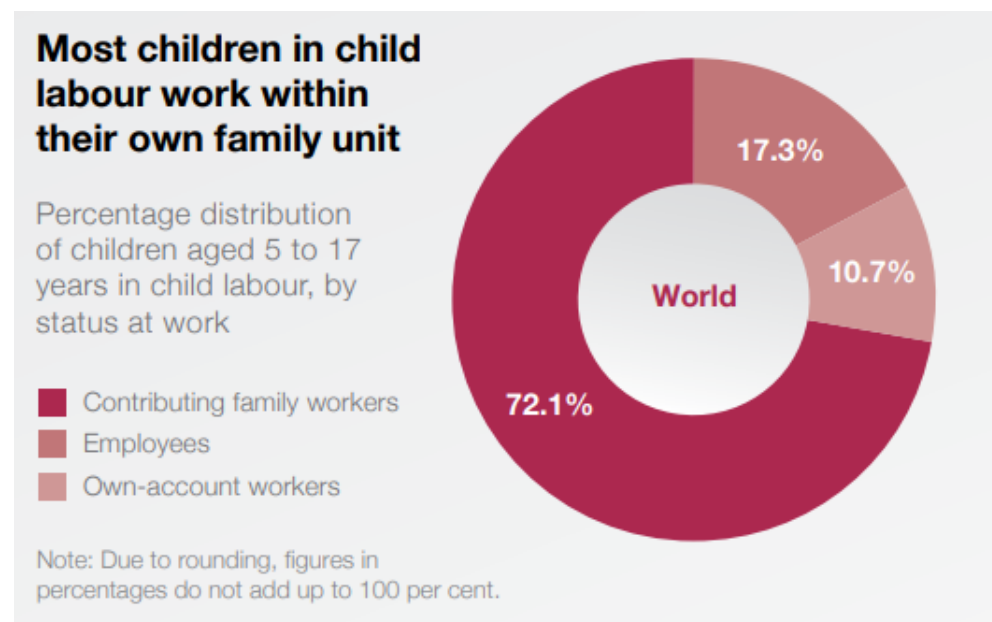
Quelle: ILO / UNICEF (2021): [Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward](#)

In every age group, **boys are more affected than girls**

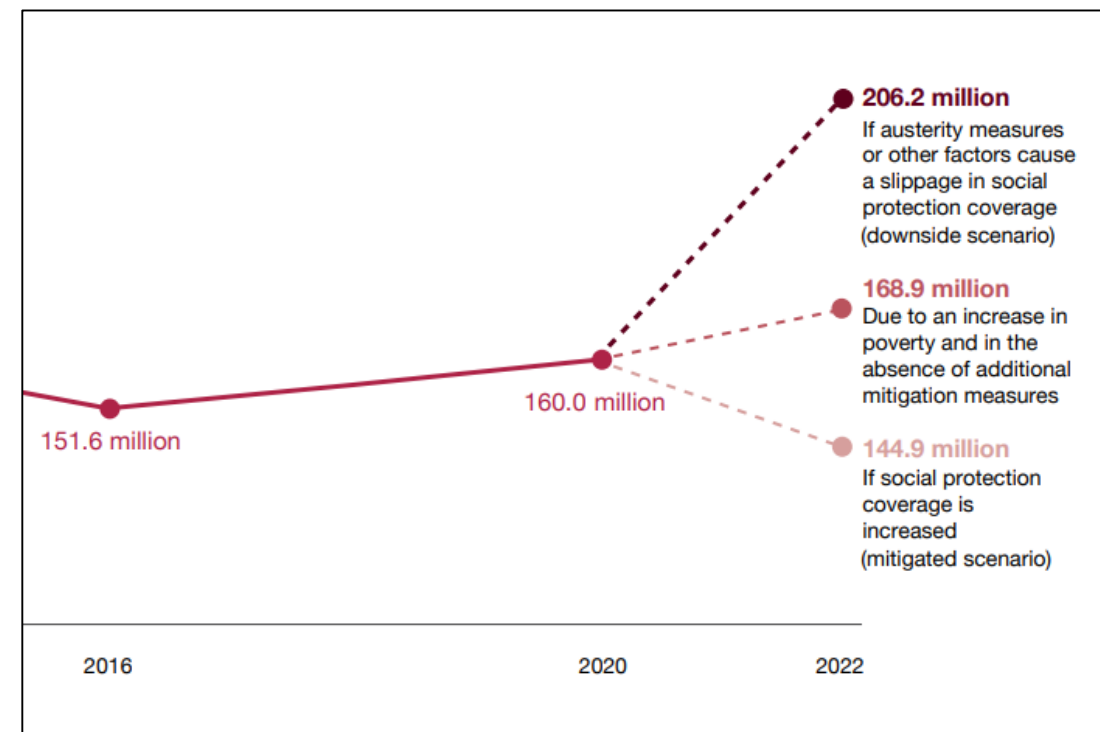


Current figures (2020)

The majority of children in child labour are working in their **family unit**



Increasing numbers due to Covid-19



Questions?



Thank you!

Monika Althaus

Senior Manager Children's Rights and Business

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Identifying child labour risks

Action points for companies

Sibylle Baumgartner & Regula Meng
focusright GmbH

October 26th 2021, online

SCOPE OF ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

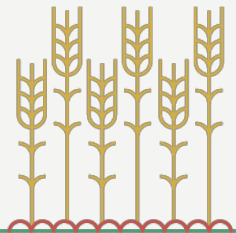
Analyse adverse impacts on child labour:

- Caused through own operations (incl. subsidiaries)
- Contributed to together with others
- Directly linked to through business relationships



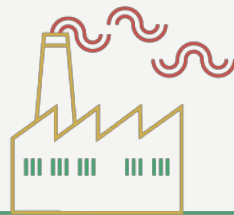
VALUE CHAIN MAPPING & ANALYSIS

- Map the full value chain and main business relationships
- Where information is missing, make evidence-based assumptions (research)
- Rely on internal and external human rights expertise
- Identify vulnerable groups of children



Agricultural production

Picking vegetables and being exposed to pesticides



Processing

Excessive working hours in food processing facilities



Transport & Agents

Loading and unloading vehicles



Retail

Cleaning and refiling stocks after store closure



Consumption

Assisting in a restaurant kitchen late in the evenings



End of life

Collecting waste goods for informal recycling

RISK MAPPING: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Risks linked to specific goods, services, industries:

- **Goods:** The US Bureau of International Labor Affairs' List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor
- **Industries:** UNICEF's Children's Rights and Business Atlas – industry analysis
- **Economic sectors:** reports (e.g. by UNICEF) illustrate child labour risks in global supply chains of different economic sectors

Indicators for general country risk:

- ILO national child labour survey reports
- UNICEF's Children's Rights in the Workplace Index
- The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)
- The World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index

In every country, there are **sectoral and regional differences**, as well as variations due to **contextual changes** such as conflict, migration, economic crisis etc.

Online search: child labour + specific activity + place

EXAMPLES FROM DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES

Industry	Example of child labour
Financial services	A bank provides a loan to a construction project that uses bricks which were produced using child labour.
Chemical and pharmaceutical industry	A pharmaceutical company buys ingredients from a supplier in whose production facilities underage workers are exposed to hazardous chemicals without adequate protection and instruction.
Machine, electrical engineering and metals (MEM) industry	A MEM company buys steel from a supplier that sources iron ore from a mine where children are working.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	An ICT company buys and uses electronic products that were manufactured by underage workers working excessive hours.

And: many industries are linked to child labour risks in **transport & logistics** (storage etc.)

EXAMPLES FROM UPPER-MIDDLE AND HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES

Country	Example of child labour
Italy	Unaccompanied underage migrants from Middle East and Northern Africa were found to work in Italian food markets.
Albania	Most child labourers were found in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing.
USA	Underage workers were found doing hazardous work in tobacco fields.

- Child labour also occurs in upper-middle and high-income countries
- Risk factors: high demand for cheap labour, informal markets, insufficient labour inspection, increased vulnerability due to economic crisis or migration
- In Central and Eastern Europe, the risk for the worst forms of child labour is highest in Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (ILO)

MORE INFORMATION: Q&A FOR COMPANIES

"Addressing child labour risks – Q&A to support companies' due diligence"

CHILD LABOUR Q&A

Avoiding child labour and integrating respect for children's rights in operational procedures were long considered a "best practice" rather than an integral component of business management. In recent years, however, regulatory requirements for corporate human rights due diligence have risen. Even more so for adverse impacts on child labour, as new laws obliging companies to conduct a due diligence for child labour are being adopted, e.g. in Switzerland and the Netherlands.

But what exactly is child labour, and how are companies expected to address child labour risks in their value chains?

focusright created a Q&A to answer the most important questions for companies that strive to manage their child labour risks proactively and systematically in line with international standards.

More information on our website:
www.focusright.ch/en/child-labour

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ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR RISKS

Q&A to support companies' due diligence



DOWNLOAD THE PDF WITH THE FULL Q&A