

# Stop Trafficking!

## AwarenessAdvocacyAction

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*FOCUS: In the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor, we continue to focus on the many ways children are exploited to provide consumer goods and services.*

## Child labor trafficking is defined as using force, fraud, or coercion to compel a child under 18 to provide involuntary labor or services.

Child labor trafficking most often occurs in agricultural settings, factories, domestic workplaces, health and beauty services, restaurants, and small businesses. It is often undetected as it is more common in informal settings or situations where it cannot easily be monitored.

Typical situations for labor trafficking include traveling sales crews and peddling operations. In traveling sales crews, young people are recruited to move from city to city selling cheap goods, such as candy, magazines, or other trinkets for little or no pay. In peddling operations, children must solicit “charitable” donations on the street or in shopping centers. Another common system of forced labor involves coerced drug dealing, often for gangs.

Child labor trafficking can be difficult to detect. A child may appear to be in the custody of a non-family member and is forced to perform work for that person’s financial benefit. The child may also be performing work for the use of third parties whom the child may not even know. As in sex trafficking, labor traffickers keep victims under their control through fear, intimidation, and abuse. As a result, child victims of labor trafficking may also be sexually abused or experiencing sex trafficking at the same time.

Approximately 30 million children live outside their country of birth, increasing their risk of being trafficked for labor and sexual exploitation. Click [here](#) to learn more.



## Child Labor and Human Trafficking in Global Supply Chains

A 2019 report, *Ending child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking in global supply chains*, indicates that a significant share of child labor and human trafficking in global supply chains occurs in raw material extraction and agriculture, making due diligence, visibility, and traceability challenging. The report was a joint effort by the International Labor Organization (ILO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) along with members of the Alliance 8.7 partnership on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

A supply chain is the system of organizations, people, activities, information, and resources involved in moving a product or service from the supplier to the customer.

Supply chains can include many touchpoints and be very difficult to follow. For example, a shoe might have the sole glued on in one factory, travel elsewhere to get laces, be packaged in a different facility, and make a few additional steps before being shipped to a store. A child laborer involved in any step of this lengthy process can connect the product, and the consumer, to child labor.

The report provides estimates of child labor and human trafficking in global supply chains. Among those in child labor, the percentage in global supply chains varies across regions.

The report outlines several key areas in which governments and businesses can do more. It underscores the critical role of states in addressing gaps in statutory



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legislation, enforcement, and access to justice and establishing a framework for responsible business conduct. It also examines how governments can lead by example by integrating due diligence considerations into their activities as procurers of goods and services, enterprises' owners, and credit and loans providers.

The report highlights the need for governments to strengthen efforts to ensure that businesses respect human rights in their operations and across supply chains. The report also outlines a broader preventive approach focused on root causes, including child and family deprivation, particularly in the global supply chains operating in the informal economy, where risks are greatest.

For business, the report highlights the need for a comprehensive, whole-of-supply-chain approach to due diligence. Due diligence both builds on and adjusts current business practices while also introducing processes that are still relatively new in the supply chain setting, such as procedures to provide for remedy along the supply chain. Importantly, effective due diligence for child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking is preventative, proportionate with and prioritized by the severity and likelihood of harm, and forms an integral share of an enterprise's risk management and decision-making.

The estimates were produced by combining data on the estimated total number of children in child labor with data on trade flows and value chains within countries and across borders. The same procedure was used to study human trafficking.

The report highlights the need to address root causes that are push factors for children to work, such as poverty and violence. It also suggests solutions to ensure that families have income sources other than child labor and that children have access to quality education and protective services. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Mining is one of the worst forms of child labor as the hazardous working conditions in mines adversely affect the safety and health of children.

Most of these children live in poverty and do not attend school. They work in inhumane and dangerous conditions to extract minerals and ores in high demand in the global market.

Children in small-scale mining are often far from the public eye and are vulnerable to social, psychological, and physical dangers not found in many other forms of work. Mining areas are notorious for violence, prostitution, drug and alcohol use, and crime, and they attract those unable or unwilling to sustain traditional lifestyles or occupations. Where temporary towns have developed, there is seldom potable water. Today, about 1 million children worldwide work as miners.

Child miners working in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) contribute to cobalt, coltan, copper and tin production. These materials are used in modern electronics like laptops and cell phones. Of the 2 million miners in DRC's artisanal mines, 40 percent are children. Their earnings range from \$0.75 to \$3 a day. Children go deep underground in tunnels only as wide as their bodies. As a result, cobalt mining often involves injuries, death, and health hazards. When Amnesty International warned the world of using child labor in cobalt mining,

consumers became aware of purchasing unethically mined cobalt in their electronic devices.

Stone quarries in Guatemala are often found along public shores, where low-income families set up camps to mine volcanic river rocks. These are then sold to construction companies at low prices. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO) reports, it takes three days for a 13-year-old boy to produce one cubic meter of gravel that sells for \$7.50. Children as young as five are found collecting and breaking rocks with hammers in these mines. Stone mining causes dehydration, respiratory infections, and accidents. Children also work in stone quarries in Nepal and Madagascar.

Gold mining exposes children to mercury poisoning, as they use their hands to work gold out of rocks using mercury. Child gold miners are often found in Burkina Faso, Niger, Ghana, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Mongolia and the Philippines. According to a study by the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), many



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instances of illegal mining occur in Côte d'Ivoire, where children are often trafficked from neighboring areas and held in slavery-like conditions. These children work with heavy and primitive equipment to break rocks and transport them to washing, crushing, and mineral processing. Children often work underground in narrow shafts and galleries.

Child laborers are found in all stages of salt mining. Salt mining is highly labor-intensive and includes:

- ◆ Digging pits.
- ◆ Filling and lifting sacks.
- ◆ Distilling salt alongside transporting ore and fuel to aid the process.

Mining salt exposes child miners to dizziness, skin problems, and iris discoloration. Child labor is also widely used in mining coal and gemstones. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Child Labor in the Beauty Industry

Mica is the mineral that makes cosmetics, cars, and phones sparkle. Jharkhand state, India, is one of the world's largest mica producers with an economy in which thousands of families are dependent on mining mica — even though it's illegal.

In India, an estimated 22,000 children, some as young as five years old, spend their days shimmying into small, man-made tunnels armed with ice picks and hammers. Without any protective gear – not even proper footwear – breathing in the dust in mica mines can cause infections, disease, and permanent damage to the lungs. Moreover, they are in constant danger of mine collapse, leaving them injured, paralyzed, or dead. A 2016 investigation by Reuters found that children regularly died in these mines and that local officials covered up many deaths. There are estimates of between 10 and 20 deaths in mines every month, which many believe is conservative.

For this, they are paid less than fifty cents a day.

### Sugarcane and the Beauty Industry

Child labor is also used in the production of sugarcane in Brazil, the country with the most sugarcane fields, and 19 other countries around the globe. Children work long hours, usually in unbearable heat, with machetes to harvest sugarcane. Cuts and injuries are common. In addition, the children are exposed to pesticides throughout each day. Most people think of sugarcane for use in confectionaries, carbonated drinks, and snacks. However, the pulp, or bagasse, of the sugarcane, leftover from the production of ethanol, denatured alcohol used in cosmetics, goes into making bioplastic. Hundreds of thousands of tons of bagasse are produced every year, and much of it is used for containers in the beauty industry.

Bagasse is advertised by many beauty brands as an eco-friendly, “green,” biodegradable product in place of plastic. However, the fact that child labor is used in its production is never advertised!



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*Bella was only nine years old when she landed at Newark International Airport in New Jersey from her native country of Togo. Her flight touched down on U.S. soil, surrounded by the lights of the New York City skyline.*

*But unlike her fellow passengers, Bella was unknowingly entering the dark, hidden world of child labor trafficking. More than 20 children worked alongside her, forced to provide services, such as braiding, in a hair salon operated by her traffickers.*

*Bella's experience is not rare; it was part of an organized criminal enterprise that systematically trafficked children for forced labor. Bella is now an advocate for trafficking survivors.*

*Click [here](#) to learn more.*





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## Criadazgo, referred to as serfdom as part of child labor, is common in Latin American and South American countries.

Children ranging in age from 5 to 17 years from low-income families are taken to work in another household. The child does not receive compensation nor an education. Many of these children experience physical and sexual abuse.

Over the centuries, criadazgo has become part of the culture. Several countries have officially outlawed the practice, but it exists with other forms of child labor.

In 2016, a teen was beaten to death by her adoptive family in Paraguay, which led the country to ban the practice. As a result, the number of children caught up in criadazgo has decreased by almost ninety percent since 1995 due to various national and international initiatives.

In Paraguay, the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate the Exploitation of Children (CONAETI)

coordinates the government's efforts to eradicate child labor with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. One of their main functions is to enforce child labor laws and reduce social exclusion and discrimination, aiming to abolish child labor. Furthermore, CONAETI aims to grant access to free quality education and livelihood alternatives for people exploited by criadazgo as children. It also prohibits government acquisition of goods and services involving child labor. In addition, the government has taken strict legal action against crimes using children as domestic workers by hiring specialized prosecutors and allocating resources to investigations in remote areas.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



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## Child labor is found throughout supply chains for the fashion industry

Many stages of the supply chain require low-skilled labor, tasks such as cotton picking and the transfer of pollen from one plant to another, production of cotton seeds, yarn spinning, embroidering, beading and smocking, sewing buttons, cutting and trimming threads, putting garments together, folding, moving and packing garments. Many of these tasks are better suited to the small hands of children.

Children often work alongside family members as the family is desperate for the basic needs of life. They work long hours, and they are usually paid wages significantly below the minimum wage. In addition, most children working in the garment industry work in hazardous environments. Children are exposed to harsh chemicals, inhaling fiber dust and dyes. Children who work in the ginning mills suffer from byssinosis, a lung disease caused by inhalation of the fiber particles. Additionally, dangerous machinery and exploitation affect children's poor physical and mental health.

One of the biggest challenges in addressing child labor in the fashion supply chain is the complex, multi-level supply chain for each garment. Even when brands have strict guidelines for suppliers, work often gets sub-contracted to other factories that the buyer may not even know exist. Companies may have codes of conduct in place and know their first supplier but cannot know anything about the behaviors deeper into the supply chain. For example, name brands would have a difficult time finding out the source of the cotton to make their products. Because the exploitation of children occurs so far down in the clothing industry chain, it is necessary for fashion brands to be thorough with their production lines and have strong ethical and sustainable practices and corporate social responsibility in place.





*Prosecutors in Mexico discovered 23 malnourished children, including babies, in a house in southern Mexico. The children were forced to walk the streets in a tourist center selling trinkets. In addition, three women were arrested at home on charges of human trafficking for forced labor.*

Estimates of trafficking victims in Mexico range from 50,000 to 500,000; according to the National Human Rights Commission, the discrepancy revealing the absence of reliable data. More than 73,000 people are missing in Mexico, including more than 12,000 children. The disappeared suffer crimes from kidnapping to homicide, but authorities have said some are most likely the victims of human trafficking. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Child Labor Trafficking and Healthcare

As with many victims of human trafficking, child survivors of labor trafficking report having seen a healthcare provider at some point during their victimization, so health professionals are uniquely positioned to identify and care for victims of trafficking. Child victims may present with work-related injuries, such as exposure to toxins, or symptoms related to workplace abuse, including bruises and scars, exhaustion, or malnutrition.

Healthcare professionals should be trained to identify child labor trafficking victims and proceed when child labor trafficking is suspected. They are more likely than many other professionals to be trusted by victims. All trafficking education for health professionals should include child labor trafficking and training on mandatory reporting of this form of child abuse and the potential harms associated with reporting. Even in cases where young people do not disclose they are victims, suspected children and youth victims or those at risk of trafficking should be provided referrals and trauma-informed healthcare. This approach should reflect an awareness of the harms of trafficking and information that could help prevent potential or further victimization.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Children as young as ten years old are being recruited to fight in armed conflicts

Although the recruitment of children under eighteen to fight in war is forbidden by international law, this crime is rampant in several world regions. Children as young as ten years old are being recruited to fight in armed conflicts. According to the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, adopted by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in 1999, recruiting children as soldiers is one of the worst forms of child labor. Globally, more than 300,000 children are members of armed groups and forces.

In 2019, the United Nations published the Children and Armed Conflict Report. Children are recruited by abduction or coercion. They are then terrorized into obedience and deployed in direct combat, support, and logistical roles. Trafficking of children as child soldiers is especially prevalent in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan,

Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen and occurs in at least 20 countries worldwide.

Non-state extremist groups recruit many child soldiers. The children are deceived by false images of prosperity and happiness within the organizations' ranks. These groups specifically target and indoctrinate children because they are easy to manipulate and control.

In societies where children are being recruited as soldiers, they and their families often live in poverty. Lured by the promises of good salaries in militant groups, children volunteer to help their loved ones. In addition, tired of living in conflict zones, children sometimes think joining armed groups will provide them with shelter, protection, and safety. Often, they become child soldiers to escape maltreatment at home or abuses by the state's forces.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



# Advocacy

## Child Soldiers Prevention Act List

*Section 402 of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act (CSPA) requires publication in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report of a list of foreign governments identified during the previous year as having governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces, or government-supported armed groups that recruit or use child soldiers, as defined in the CSPA.*

These determinations cover the reporting period beginning April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021. For the CSPA, and generally consistent with the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the term “child soldier” means:

- any person under 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities as a member of governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces;
- any person under 18 years of age who has been compulsorily recruited into governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces;
- any person under 15 years of age who has been voluntarily recruited into governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces; or
- any person under 18 years of age recruited or used in hostilities by armed forces distinct from the armed forces of a state. The term “child soldier” includes any person described above who is serving in any capacity, including in a support role, such as a “cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard, or sex slave.”



Governments identified on the list are subject to restrictions, in the following fiscal year, on certain security assistance and commercial licensing of military equipment. The CSPA also prohibits the issuance of licenses for direct commercial sales of military equipment to such governments.

Beginning October 1, 2021, and effective throughout Fiscal Year 2022, these restrictions will apply to the listed countries, absent a presidential waiver, applicable exception, or reinstatement of assistance according to the terms of the CSPA. The determination to include a government in the CSPA list is informed by a range of sources, including first-hand observation by U.S. government personnel and research and credible reporting from various UN entities, international organizations, local and international NGOs, and international and domestic media outlets.

The 2021 CSPA list includes governments of the following countries:

Afghanistan, Burma, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Venezuela and Yemen. (2021 Trafficking in Persons Report)

## Action

*Consumers will pay a premium for cage-free eggs, free-range chicken, rBGH-free milk, pesticide-free peaches, GMO-free corn. Labels tell us which salmon is wild-caught, which tuna is dolphin-safe. They tell us when our meat is “certified humane” and “animal-welfare approved.” But who tells us no child was trafficked or deprived of an education to lower our cost? Andrea Delgado, legislative director for healthy communities at the California-based non-profit Earthjustice, says we need a fair farm work label to say, “This product came to you, and no child was made ill or injured or poisoned before it got to you.”*



## “Threads of Exploitation: What Risks Are Investors Exposed To and How Can They Be Addressed?”



### Webinar hosted by ICCR/KnowTheChain

This event, moderated by ICCR's David Schilling, featured experts from KnowTheChain, Principles for Responsible Investment, Christian Brothers Investment Services, and the Clean Clothes Campaign. The panel discussed the value of shareholder action, especially during the COVID 19 crisis, and introduces the 2021 Apparel and Footwear/KnowTheChain benchmark report. Speakers highlight action items for investors in response to the report's findings.

The webinar recording is available [here](#).

## A practical tool for integrating children's rights into responsible sourcing frameworks

Globally, more than 60 million workers are employed in the garment and footwear sector. Many of them are parents and caregivers who support families. UNICEF estimates that more than 100 million children are affected in the garment and footwear supply chain globally – as workers, children of working parents, and community members near farms and factories. While child labor is a critical concern, children are also impacted in many other ways – from weak maternity protection for working mothers, absence of childcare and breastfeeding support in factories, and poor living conditions in garment worker communities.

This document provides practical steps on how companies can integrate children's rights into their sustainability strategies and responsible sourcing frameworks. It was developed as part of the Network on Children's Rights in the Garment and Footwear Sector, which was established by UNICEF and Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM) in 2017. Click [here](#) to access the publication.



## International Focus to End Child Labor

A webinar on the International Focus to End Child Labor sponsored by the Maryknoll Sisters, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, the Maryknoll Lay Missioners and the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, was recorded on June 9, 2021.

To access the recording of the webinar, please click [here](#).

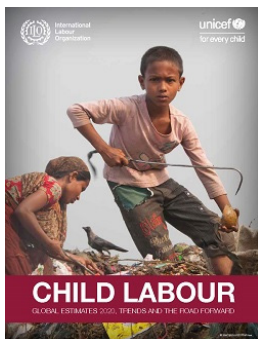


# Action

## The ABC's of Child Labor

Engaging kids tell us about the wide range of products that 168 million children trapped in child labor produce.

Please click [here](#) to view this 2-minute video.



## Child Labor: Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward

Published for the first time jointly by the International Labor Organization and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, as co-custodians of Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the report *Child Labour: 2020 global estimates trends and the road forward* provides information on where we stand in the global effort to end child labor.

Click [here](#) to access publication.



## Trafficking of Children for Labor and Sex: The Health Care Professional's Response

This webinar recorded in February 2019 by the American Hospital Association provides an in-depth look into trafficking of children for labor and sex. The session will discuss the adverse health consequences experienced by children when trafficked and how health care professionals need to provide trauma-informed care when victims present in health care facilities. Click [here](#) to access the recording of the webinar.





## Ending Child Labor of Goods Imported into the United States

*US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Pledge to End Child Labor of Goods Imported into the US*

### DESCRIPTION:

We will work to address child labor in the supply chain of products coming into the United States in two ways: one, through an education campaign to raise awareness about child labor in the products we buy, particularly through chocolate; and two, by following national legislation that will create stronger laws preventing importing products made with child labor.

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

We will begin by gathering data and resources about child labor in common products purchased by people in the United States, in particular chocolate. We will also share information about fair trade products which ensure no child labor as an ethical purchasing option. For the legislation, our advocacy team will look for national legislation that could positively impact preventing child labor in products, and when identified will encourage our members to contact their legislators in support.

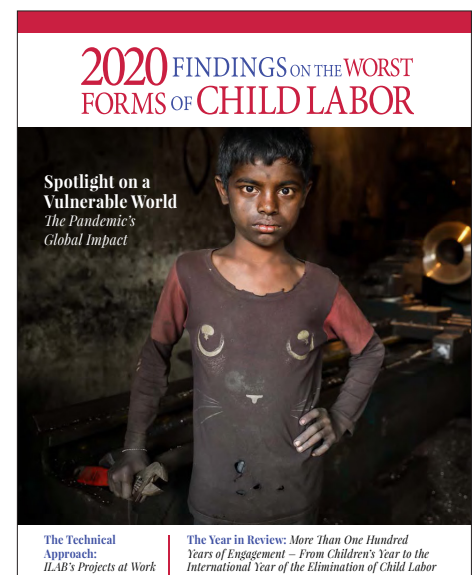
### IMPACT:

It will hopefully shift people's purchasing power to buy goods free of child labor and will support the creation of stronger laws to prevent companies from profiting off of child labor.

## Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

On September 29, 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor released its annual report, *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, which details the state of child labor in 131 countries and territories. This report details how COVID-19 is exacerbating risks for the world's vulnerable children. The pandemic and subsequent economic downturns threaten to reverse decades of progress on child labor. In fact, the International Labor Organization and UNICEF forecast that by 2022 the increase in poverty associated with COVID-19 is likely to increase child labor by 8.9 million.

To learn more about global trends, data and countries' efforts to combat child labor, read the [2020 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor](#) report or click [here](#).







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