



United Nations
Zimbabwe

ALLIANCE



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Background



“Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.”

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Goal 8, which stands at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, seeks to “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. Among the substantive targets set under goal 8, target 8.7 seeks to “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.”

This call to action presents a unique opportunity to bring about a world free of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. The ILO, FAO, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNICEF and other key partners are in the process of co-creating a global Alliance to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. The aim is to bring all concerned parties together to join forces in achieving target 8.7. Alliance 8.7 was officially launched in New York on 21 September 2016.

The focus on child labour: World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL)

Originally launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002, the World Day Against Child Labour draws attention to the global extent of child labour and the efforts needed to eliminate it. Every year on 12 June, the World Day brings together national governments, employers’ organizations, trade unions, civil society and millions of children and adults throughout the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and advocate for change. The annual observances have been focused on such as agriculture, mining and quarrying, domestic work, child trafficking; or the role of education and social protection, to shine the light on the particular sector.

2017 Theme

The 2017 WDACL theme is “In conflicts and disasters, protect children from child labour.” Globally, over 1.5 billion people live in countries that are affected by conflict, violence and fragility. At the same time, around 200 million people are affected by disasters every year. A third of them are children. A significant proportion of the 168 million children engaged in child labour live in areas affected by conflict and disaster. Whilst Zimbabwe may not have an obvious record of recent conflict at the scale of war, the recent past years have been characterised by health and natural disasters.



Disasters in Zimbabwe



Families displaced by flooding struggle to walk in the mud in Tsholotsho following heavy rains in the area in this Saturday, March, 4, 2017 photo.

The Zimbabwean government, UNICEF and other partners have spearheaded assisting the displaced by offering shelter, food and clean water. To date 246 people have died due to the floods with the country now appealing for funds to support the emergency relief efforts.



A series of drought years, including the 2016 effects of the El Nino phenomenon and floods have claimed lives and left many more people displaced, a fraction of whom are children. Furthermore, the disasters destroyed people's livelihoods and increased poverty and starvation levels as well as the risk of violation of human rights. Children are most affected as schools are destroyed and basic services are disrupted. Many children are displaced and lose out school time and end up in economic or non-economic child labour.

What is child labour?

Child labour refers to work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; forcing them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, unaccompanied migrant children, exposed to

serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child's age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries.

How many children are involved in child labour?

Globally 168 million children are involved in child labour, 59 million of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa. Several studies conducted in recent years have confirmed the existence of child labour and the worst forms of child labour in Zimbabwe. Evidence is available on children's participation in prostitution, mining, agriculture, hazardous domestic work and the targeted illicit activities such as drugs and alcohol abuse (MoLSS, 2008, RA on the WFCL.) According to Zimbabwe's last Child Labour Survey Report (2014), about 50 percent of the 4 500 000 children aged 5 to 17 years are involved in economic activities. The Zimbabwe Child Labour Report defines working children as those involved in either economic activities



(supply of labour for the production of goods and services for sale) or non-economic activities such as unpaid housekeeping, unpaid care work for the sick or and/or children. Findings of the Child Labour Survey Report reveal that 168 760 of the 3 563 057 children aged 5 to 14 years are in economic child labour and 32 068 are in non-economic child labour. Four percent of those in economic child labour had never attended school, whilst 33.3 percent had left school.

Child labour is a complex problem driven by poverty and lack of decent work for adults who are supposed to look after them. Children are manipulated, exploited, abused and neglected. 55 percent of the children in economic child labour live in households where the head earned between US\$1 and US\$100 per month whilst about 40 percent of children in non-economic child labour were from households where the head earned between US\$201 and US\$300. 92 percent of the children in economic child labour are not paid at all. Almost three quarters of the children were working so as to assist in household enterprise while 13.9 percent were working in order to supplement household income.

What is the call to commitment?

The Alliance 8.7 call to action presents a unique opportunity to bring about a world free of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. This commitment is also reflected in the theme for the 2017 theme for the Day of the African Child (DAC) - “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for children in Africa: Accelerating protection, empowerment, and equal opportunity”. The child friendly version of the theme is simply “Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030”. From 22 to 23 June 2017, Alliance 8.7 will host a 2-day consultative meeting on child labour and forced labour in Sub-Saharan Africa, in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. The

conference in Addis Ababa will be attended by stakeholders drawn from Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The objectives of the consultation is to identify common challenges, priorities and good practices in eliminating child labour and forced labour in sub Saharan Africa in preparation for the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour to be hosted by Argentina in November 2017; and to provide a forum to discuss operationalization of Alliance 8.7 in Africa and to provide concrete recommendations on the way forward.



To combat child labour, multi-faceted approaches are required such as: adopting and enforcing laws that safeguard children from child labour; education: children need good quality education and training if they are to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in the labour market and a sound social protection system that enables access to education, health care, protection and nutrition and plays a critical role in the fight against child labour.

What is being done in Zimbabwe?

The needs of children for care and protection are basic and constitute the rights of the child provided by law under international laws like the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The ILO commends the Government of Zimbabwe for ratifying the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) which seek to protect children from child labour.



**Families displaced by floods
are seen inside a tent at a
camp set up for them in
Tsholotsho following heavy
rains**

More needs to be done in terms of applying the various International Labour Standards in law and practice that protect children.

The UN through its agencies like the ILO, UNICEF, IOM, FAO and UNHCR; and in collaboration with various international and local organizations, is complementing the efforts of the Government of Zimbabwe towards taking children out of labour through supporting research, advocacy, policy and programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

This includes the UNHCR's current interventions to assist, protect and find solutions for 5 699 refugee children displaced by conflict, currently residing in Tongogara refugee camp in Chipinge; providing care and access to family tracing and reunification for

unaccompanied or separated children, ensuring that new-borns are registered at birth, and children with disabilities are supported. UNICEF, on the other hand, continues to work with other child protection actors to ensure child labour is addressed in the context of emergency response. UNICEF supports Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare to strengthen community surveillance to identify risks and needs of affected children and adolescents to prevent and respond to harmful coping mechanisms.

UNICEF also works closely with the Government to enhance child-sensitive social protection systems so that children at risk of falling into child labour or trapped in it have adequate safeguards and protection.



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