

# CHILDREN SHOULDN'T WORK IN FIELDS, BUT ON DREAMS!



**100**  
1919-2019

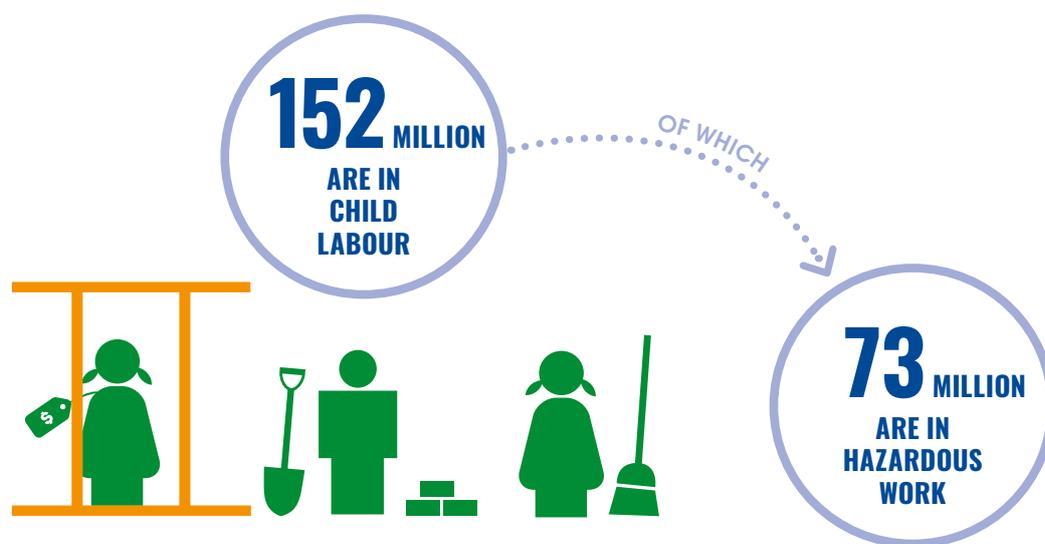
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
DECENT WORK



**WORLD DAY  
AGAINST  
CHILD LABOUR**  
12 JUNE 2019

Child labour is a global human rights issue that affects us all. Child labour refers to work that has been prohibited for children either because of their age or because of the nature of the tasks involved. Children are denied their right to a childhood, to a good education and to grow up safe and protected from harm. The ILO's vision is of a world in which communities, sectors and countries are increasingly free of child labour and where all children have access to quality education.

## Today, of all children aged 5-17 years



# 1919-2019

In this ILO Centenary year, the World Day Against Child Labour will look back on progress achieved over a **100 years of ILO support to countries on tackling child labour**. The effective abolition of child labour is one of the principles on which the ILO was founded in 1919, and has remained a key objective ever since.

## Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams!

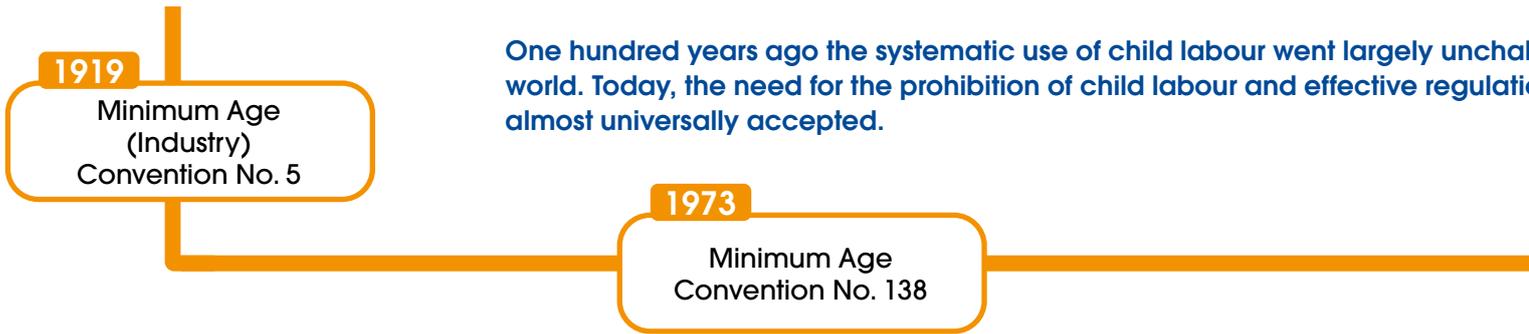


On this World Day, we will also look forward towards the **2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development** that in its **Target 8.7** makes a call to the international community to put end to child labour in all its forms by 2025. In support of **Alliance 8.7**, whose main aim is to achieve SDG Target 8.7, we call for immediate action to address the remaining challenges so that the world community can get firmly on track towards eliminating child labour in all its forms.

2019 marks 20 years since the adoption of the ILO's **Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)**. With only a few countries still to ratify, this Convention is close to universal ratification. More than 99.9 per cent of the world's children aged 5-17 are now covered by it. On this World Day we call for universal ratification and full implementation of Convention No. 182 and of the ILO's **Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)**. We also encourage ratification of the **Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention (P029)**, which protects both adults and children.

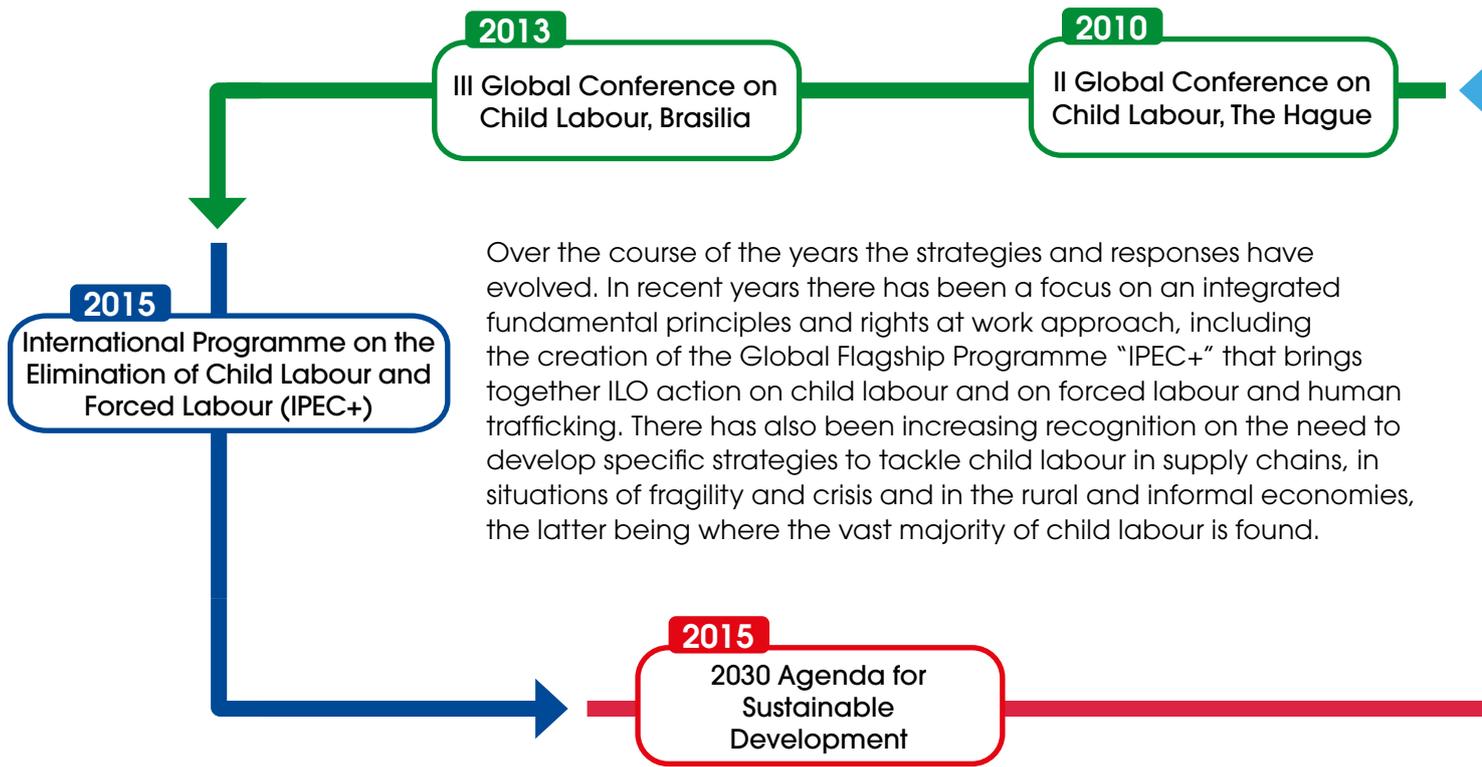


# ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF TACKLING CHILD LABOUR – THE ROLE OF THE ILO



One hundred years ago the systematic use of child labour went largely unchallenged in the world. Today, the need for the prohibition of child labour and effective regulation is almost universally accepted.

The standards set on child labour in the ILO's early years were the first international standards concerning children's rights. The series of sectoral Conventions on Minimum age adopted were consolidated in 1973 with the adoption of the Minimum Age Convention (No.138). Today, this Convention, together with the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999 (No. 182) are widely accepted as important human and labour rights standards.



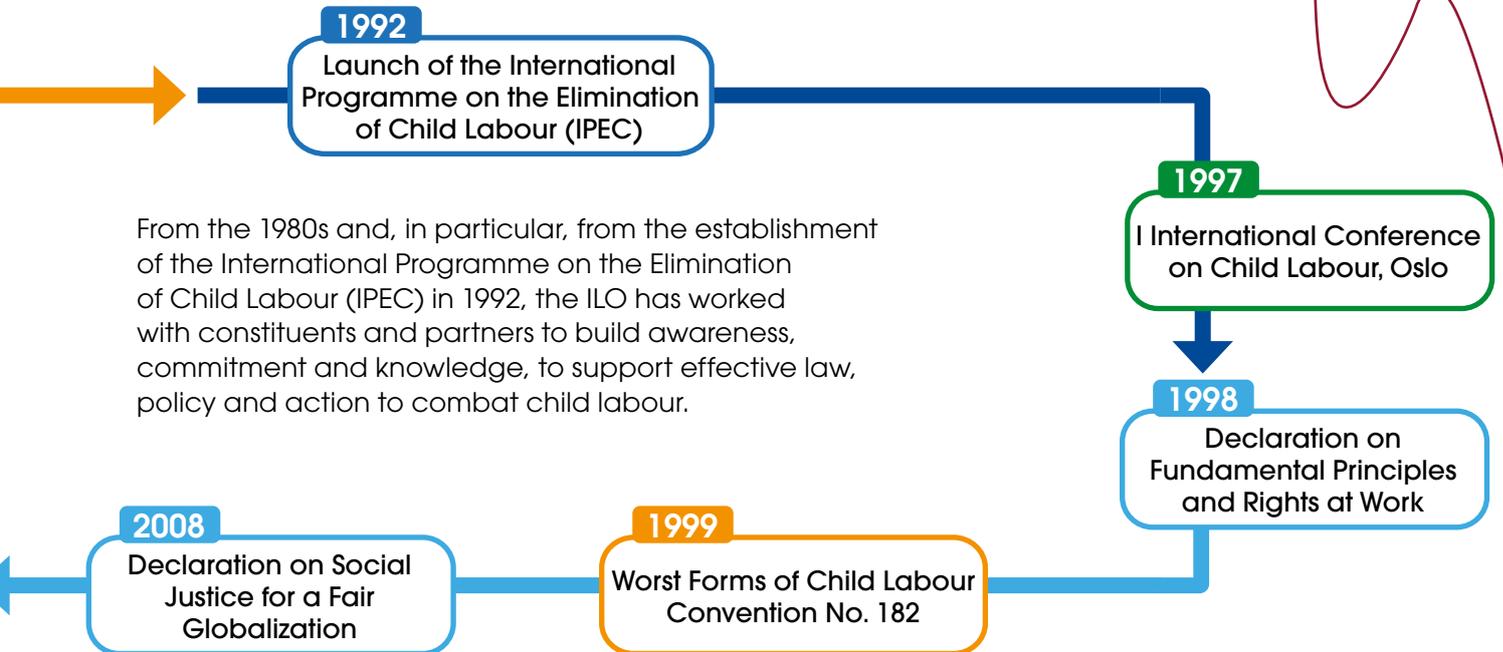
Over the course of the years the strategies and responses have evolved. In recent years there has been a focus on an integrated fundamental principles and rights at work approach, including the creation of the Global Flagship Programme "IPEC+" that brings together ILO action on child labour and on forced labour and human trafficking. There has also been increasing recognition on the need to develop specific strategies to tackle child labour in supply chains, in situations of fragility and crisis and in the rural and informal economies, the latter being where the vast majority of child labour is found.

The adoption, in 2015, of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and in particular of its Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, and of its Target 8.7, which calls for the effective elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025, represents a renewed commitment.

The launch, within this context, of Alliance 8.7 in 2016 and the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour in 2017 are two recent landmarks in moving towards the goal of a world free of child labour.

# ILO AND ITS PARTNERS

Challenged in much of the  
portion of children's work is



From the 1980s and, in particular, from the establishment of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in 1992, the ILO has worked with constituents and partners to build awareness, commitment and knowledge, to support effective law, policy and action to combat child labour.

The 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, and the International Labour Conference resolutions on fundamental principles and rights at work of 2012 and 2017 reaffirm the importance and indivisibility of these rights, including the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, and the right to freedom from child labour, forced labour and discrimination at work.



Alliance 8.7 is a global strategic partnership committed to achieving SDG Target 8.7. Under this Alliance, the ILO works with partners to accelerate action to tackle child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking. The Alliance's Working Groups (migration, supply chains, rule of law and governance, and conflicts and humanitarian settings) and the pathfinder countries set the course for action at global and country levels.

The IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour saw the adoption of the Buenos Aires Declaration which contains the key principles and actions to accelerate efforts to achieve Target 8.7. Almost 100 pledges spell out government, workers' and employers' organizations, as well as civil society commitments going forward.



## ROAD FORWARD TO 2025

Evidence shows that measures in the main four policy areas below – underpinned by social dialogue - hold promise for eliminating child labour and offer the key elements of a strategy for efforts from today until 2025.

These policy areas are linked not only to the SDGs concerning poverty eradication, quality education, and decent work, but also to the foundational objective of the 2030 Agenda to achieve “peaceful, just and inclusive societies”.

### LEGAL REGULATION

With the widespread ratification of the child labour Conventions most countries have now also put in place the legal regulation of children’s work. Strategies need to be developed to strengthen enforcement and reach areas beyond the reach of labour inspection services and in particular “hidden” parts of the economy in which some of the worst labour abuse may occur.



### LABOUR MARKETS

Most children in child labour work unpaid on family farms or in other family enterprises. Child labour is also concentrated in the informal economy. Labour market policies that promote decent work for adults and youth of legal working age, improve rural livelihoods and incomes and promote the transition from the informal to formal economy are key to tackling child labour.



### SOCIAL PROTECTION

Poverty at the community or family level is one of the root causes of child labour. Access to social security programmes can help prevent child labour by mitigating the vulnerabilities that can lead families to resort to child labour.

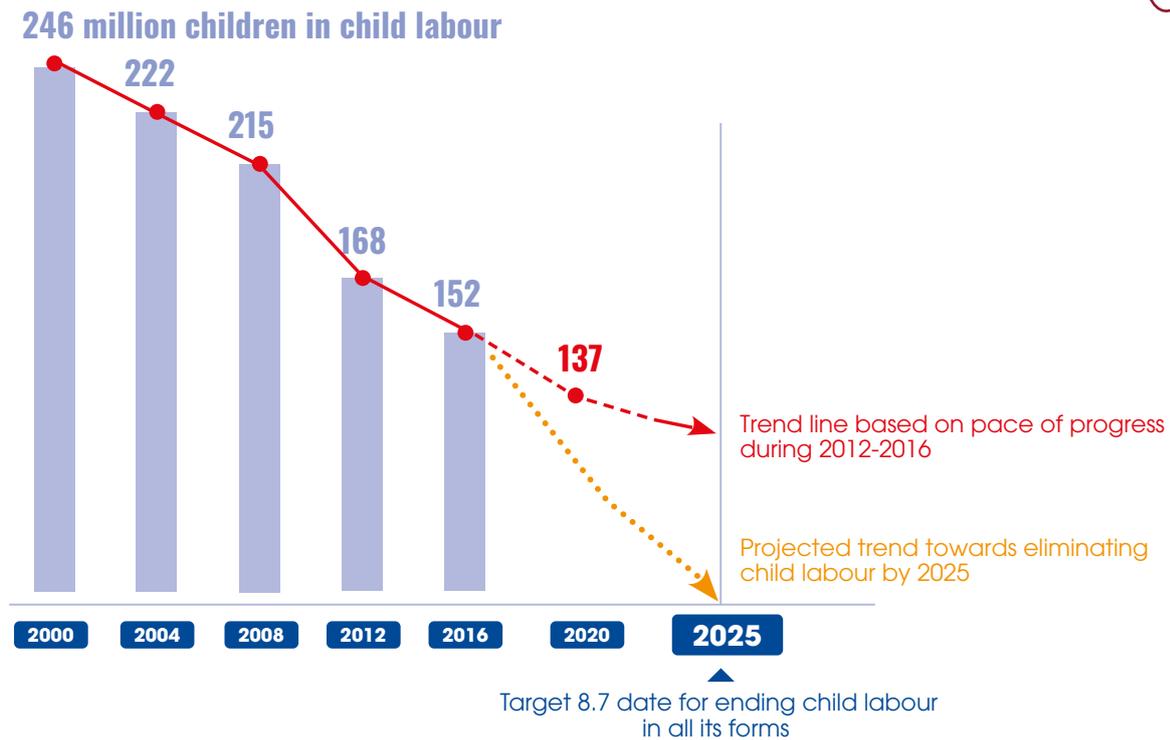


### EDUCATION

Ensuring that children, both boys and girls, can access quality education at least to the minimum age of employment remains a key policy tool in tackling child labour. At a time when automation is changing the future of work, the need for quality education and ensuring children have the basic skills they need is greater than ever.



The persistence of child labour in today's world is unacceptable. We must act now!



## A FUTURE OF WORK **WITHOUT CHILD LABOUR**

A future of work that provides decent and sustainable incomes for all cannot be achieved without the elimination of child labour. While great progress has been made in industry since 1919, the future of work we want and the eradication of child labour on which it depends require renewed and concentrated focus on the rural economy, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa where the situation has deteriorated. This major child labour challenge and the effects of the fourth industrial revolution on labour markets everywhere, urban and rural, indicate that the crucial link between the Future of Work, all fundamental rights, and education reform must be at the heart of the response to both. Universal, free, quality, relevant education must equip children with the knowledge and skills they need for a fulfilling life in a future world of work that, for many, will be very different from today.

## JOIN US

The World Day Against Child Labour is widely supported by governments, employers' and workers' organizations, UN agencies, and many others who are concerned with tackling child labour. We would like to invite you and your organization to be part of the World Day 2019.

Join us and add your voice to the worldwide movement against child labour.

If your country has not already done so, call on your Government to ratify the child labour Conventions. Find out about the "One for All" Centenary Ratification Campaign:  
[www.ilo.org/100ratification](http://www.ilo.org/100ratification)

For more information, contact  
[childlabour@ilo.org](mailto:childlabour@ilo.org)



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The International Labour Organization is celebrating 100 years of advancing social justice and promoting decent work. Find out how ILO works on issues such as child labour at [ilo.org/100](http://ilo.org/100)



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 #NOChildLabour

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