



CHILD LABOR

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From the cocoa fields of West Africa to the cotton mills of South India, one in 10 children are laboring in the global economy today. Often forfeiting the chance to ever begin school, these children

have the highest illiteracy rates in the world. Victims are five to 17 years of age, and **nearly** half of them, 72 million, are in hazardous work that spans mining, fishing, manufacturing, and agriculture. Some of these children have been kidnapped or sold, with the International Labor Organization (ILO) further estimating 6.3 million of them as victims of modern slavery. Slavery, human trafficking, prostitution, and activities that directly harm the physical, mental, and moral well-being of a child are considered “Worst Forms of Child Labor.”



The **UN's Sustainable Development Goal 8.7** (SDG) challenges the world to eradicate forced labor, modern slavery, and “by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.” Without addressing child labor in global supply chains, SDG 8.7 will fail to achieve its goal.

The child laborers working in manufacturing and other industrial sectors, as well as the millions working in export-oriented agriculture, demand that businesses, consumers, and governments unite to realize the promise of SDG 8.7.



152 million children are trapped in child labor globally. According to the ILO:

72 million are in “hazardous work,” which poses immediate danger to a child’s health, safety and moral well-being.



25 million people are living in forced labor and **6.3 million** are children.



7.4% of children in Asia and the Pacific are in child labor, and **19.6%** of children in Africa are in child labor.