



Eliminating child labour in agriculture



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Outline

1. Child labour in agriculture
2. Main causes of child labour in agriculture
3. A vicious cycle
4. Policy focus on poverty
5. International partnership
6. Principles of an approach
7. Examples of solutions

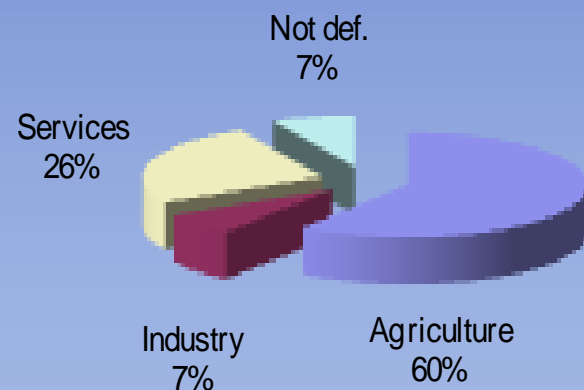


Child labour in agriculture

Key facts:

- 129 million child labourers in agriculture (60%)
- Working mostly in subsistence agriculture: family-based and small-scale
- Conditions: Informal, hazardous, unpaid, invisible, no unions

Child labour by economic activity (in %, 5-17 yrs)



Source: ILO 2010

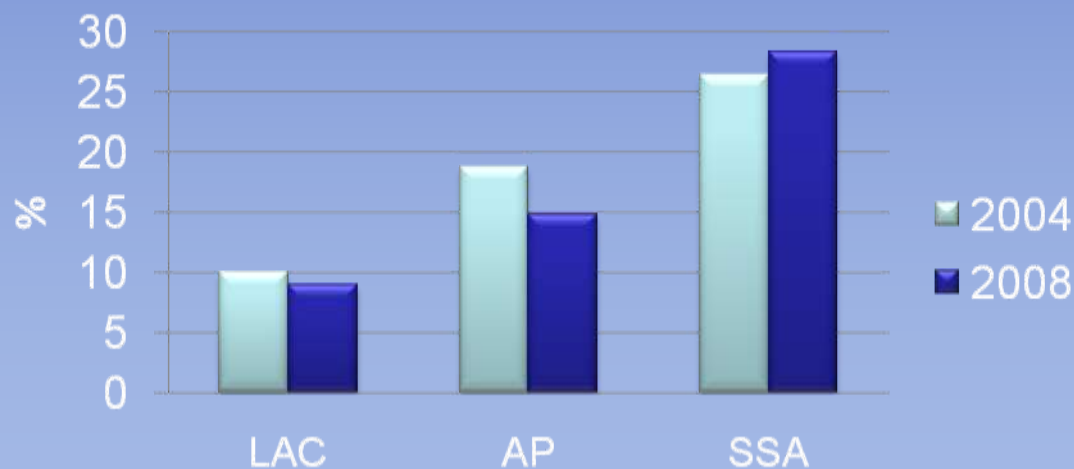




Regional trends

Children's work is declining in the Asia-Pacific region and in Latin America and the Caribbean, but it is increasing in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Incidence of working children (5-14) by region





Conditions - farming

- Toxic pesticides, unsanitary conditions
- Sharp tools, heavy loads, dangerous machinery and tools
- Sun, extreme temperatures
- Falls from trees
- Long hours





Conditions - fisheries

- Long hours, mobility/migration
- Hazardous techniques
- Boys: extreme temperatures, rough seas, water pollution, waterborne diseases
- Girls: sharp tools, smoke





Conditions - livestock

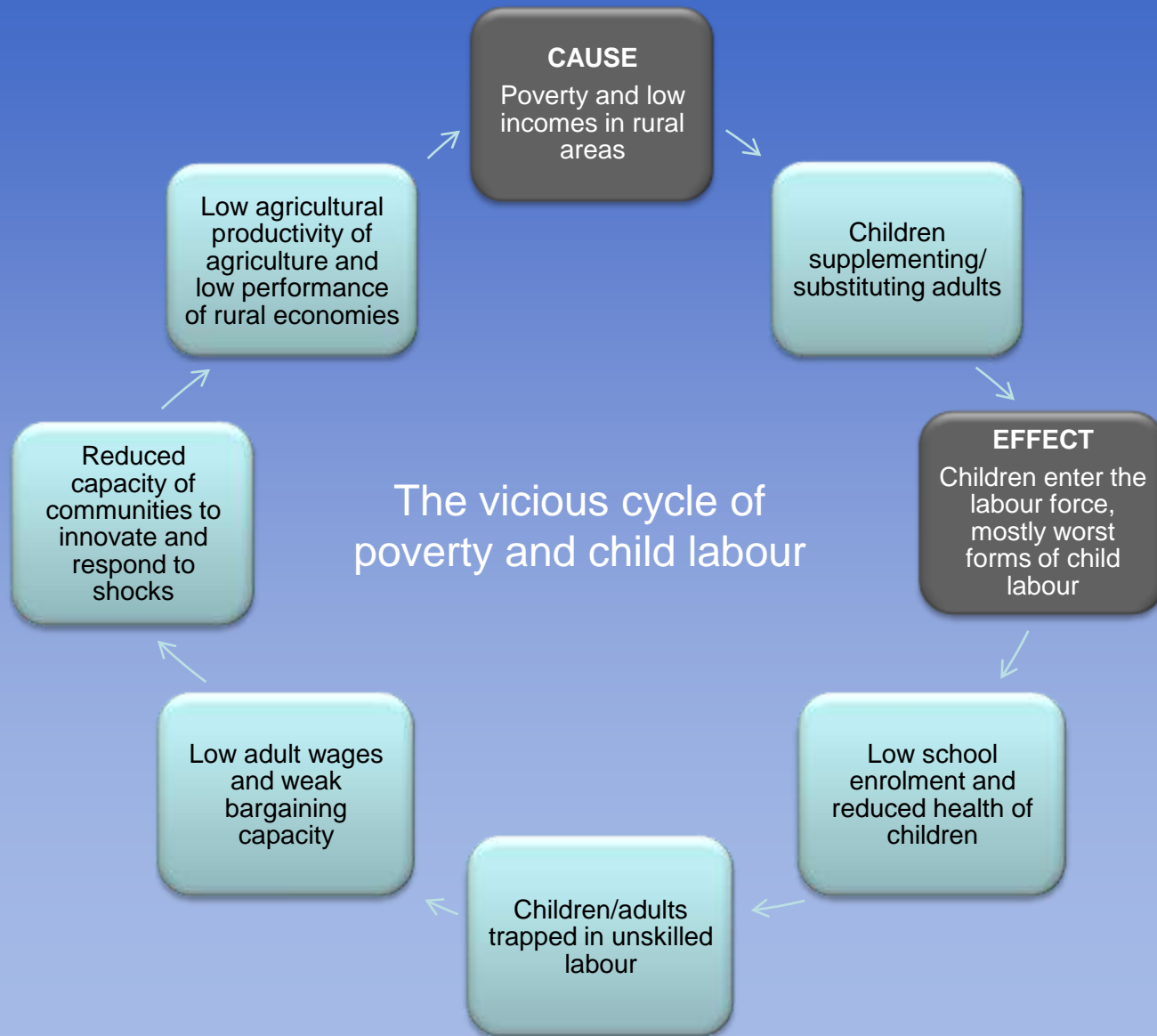
- Long hours
- Extreme weather, snake/insect bites, injury, disease transmission from livestock and wild animals
- Long-term herding contracts impede schooling





Main causes

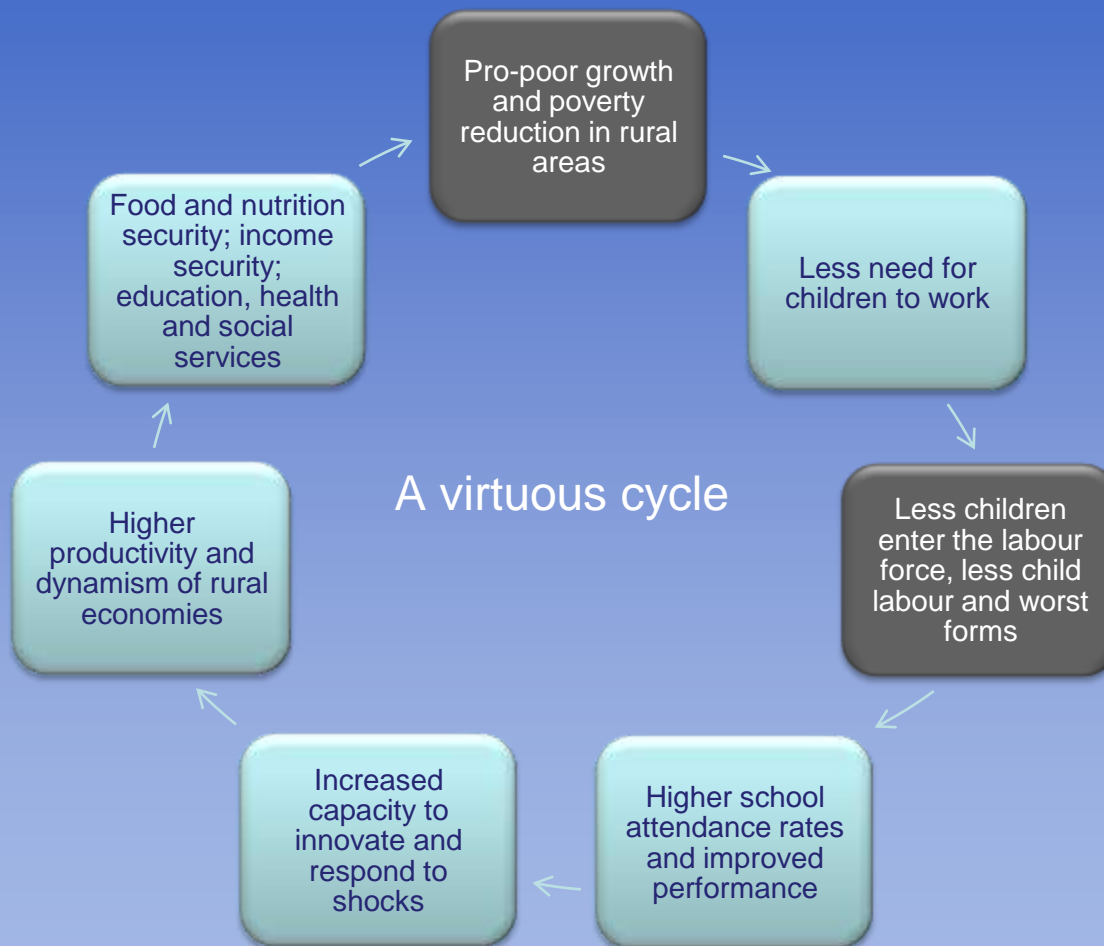
- Poverty, few livelihood alternatives
- Insufficient education systems
- Seasonal work, migratory lifestyles
- Low levels of awareness
- Cultural practices
- Absence of appropriate national policies
- Inadequate or un-enforced labour laws
- Weak capacities to inspect and enforce
- Few channels for legal assistance/appeal





Policy focus on poverty reduction

- Food production, income generation and poverty reduction is a means of reducing child labour
- Sustaining the withdrawal of children from CL is a challenge; collaboration between agricultural and labour stakeholder could provide a pathway
- Agriculture and rural development main entry points for poverty reduction in agriculture-based economies

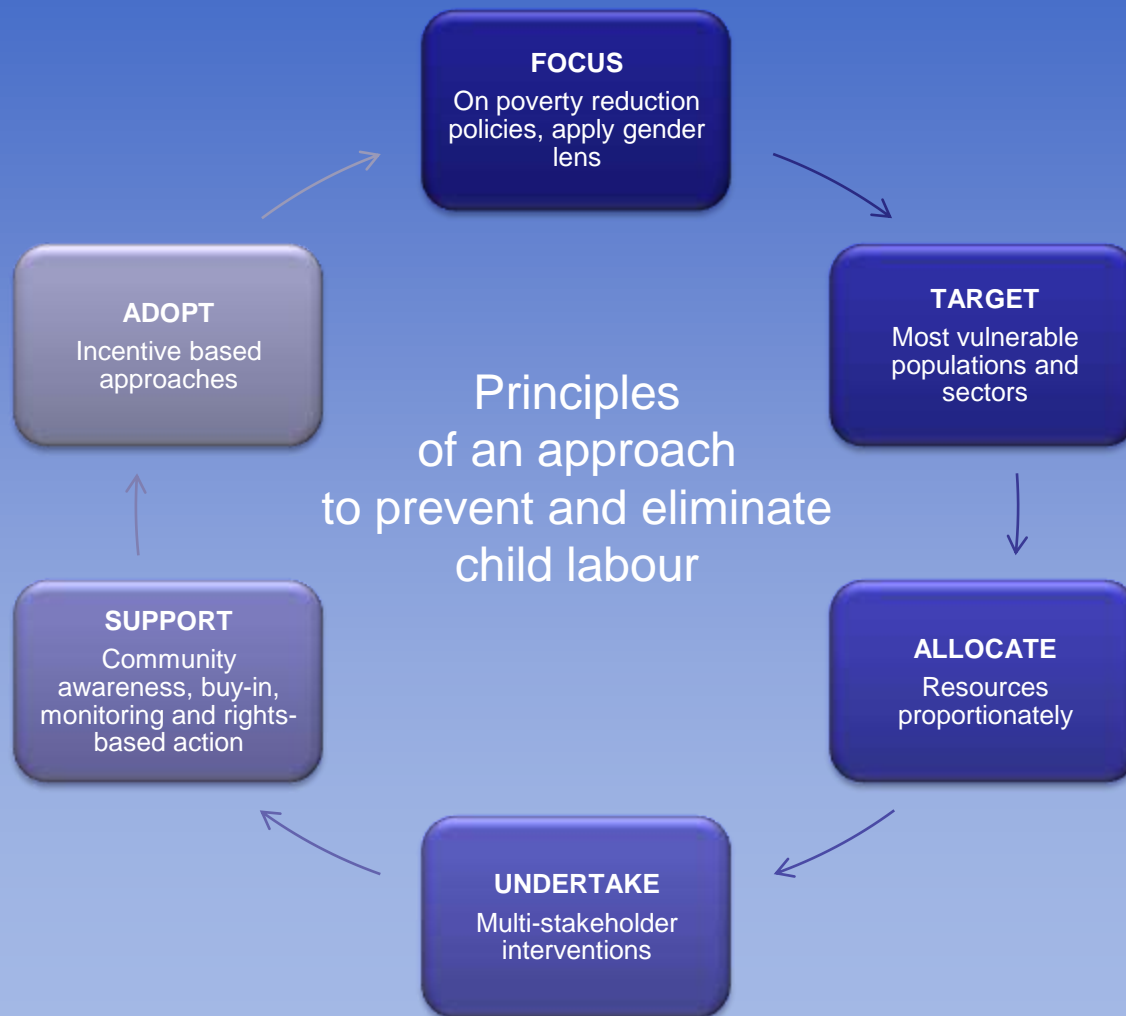




New global momentum and fora to reduce child labour in agriculture

- The Hague Global Child Labour Conference 2010
- Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016
- International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (FAO, ILO, IFAD, IFPRI (CGIAR), and IUF)







Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, FAO have an important role

- Mainstream child labour concerns in agricultural policies, programmes and capacity development
- Engage in inter-ministerial cooperation and multi-actor programmes on child labour in agriculture
- Build knowledge and raise awareness in particular on how to address child labour in the informal economy





FAO comparative advantage

- Long term holistic approach to fighting hunger
- Strong focus/expertise on small-scale, self-employed and informal agriculture
- Close contacts with Ministries of Agriculture, small producer organizations and cooperatives, partnership with other international agricultural organizations
- Wealth of experience with vocational training models for low literacy agricultural populations





Examples of solutions

- Promote cooperation and achieve policy coherence
 - Working towards integrated UN responses
 - Support approaches combining community ownership with rights-based action
- Create awareness and mainstream child labour concerns
 - Mainstreaming in agricultural and rural development policies and programmes



Examples of solutions

- Promote operational activities to improve rural livelihoods
 - Strengthen programmes for livelihoods diversification, labour-saving technologies, and health and safety training
- Promote opportunities for decent rural youth employment
 - UN joint programmes for youth employment and entrepreneurship



Examples of solutions

- Promote operational activities to eliminate hazardous work in agriculture
 - Identify worst forms in agriculture through informed risk assessment
 - Identify substitutes for hazardous substances, technologies and practices
 - Develop more relevant school curricula and promote alternative vocational and life-skills trainings



Tackle child labour in agriculture at its roots!

www.fao-ilo.org

Thank you!

