



12 JUNE 2011

World day against child labour



WARNING!

Children in hazardous work

End child labour

Outline



1. What is child labour?
2. Vicious cycle
3. Child labour in agriculture
4. Hazardous child labour
5. FAO and Ministries of Agriculture
6. Reducing child labour



What is child labour?

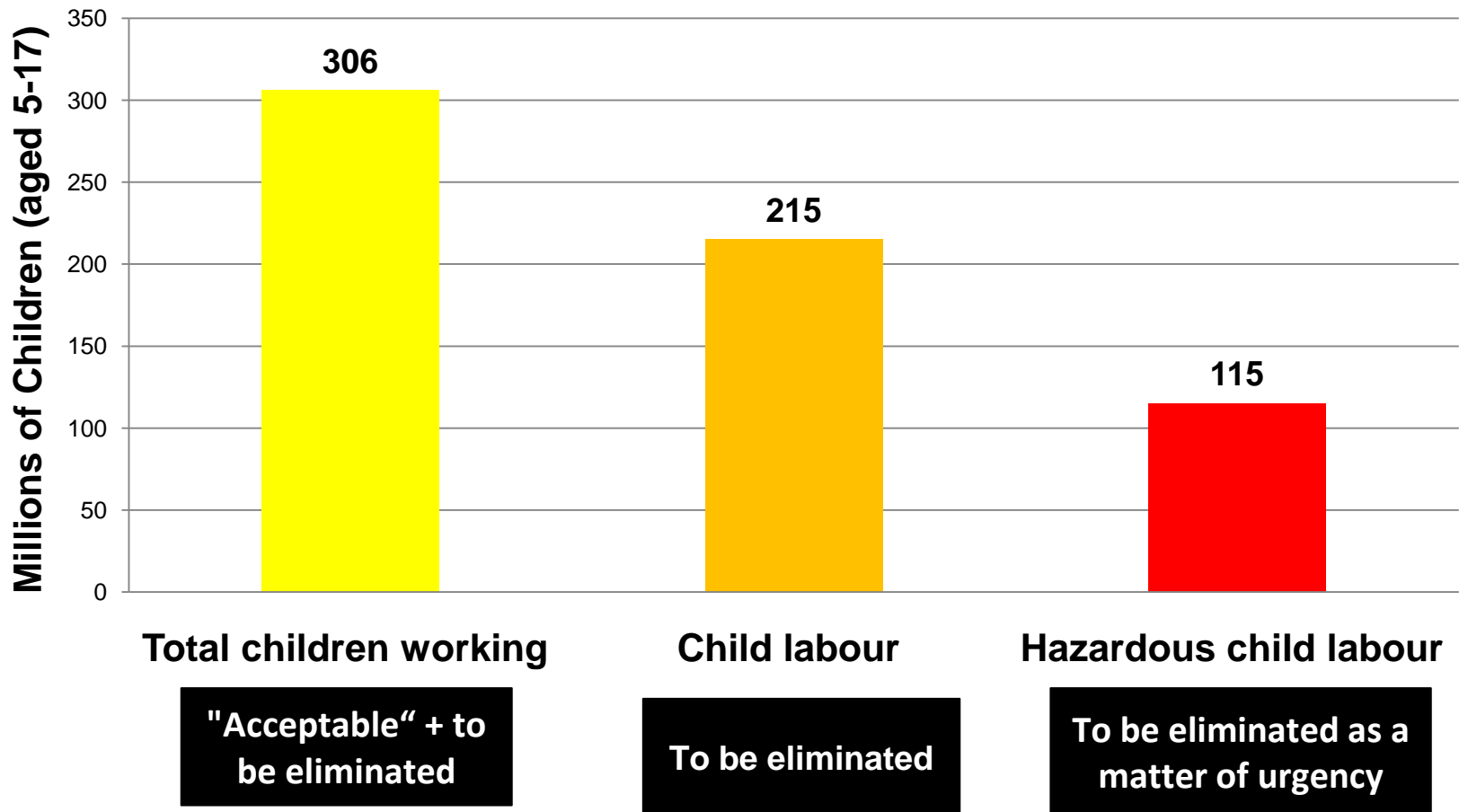
Child labour is...

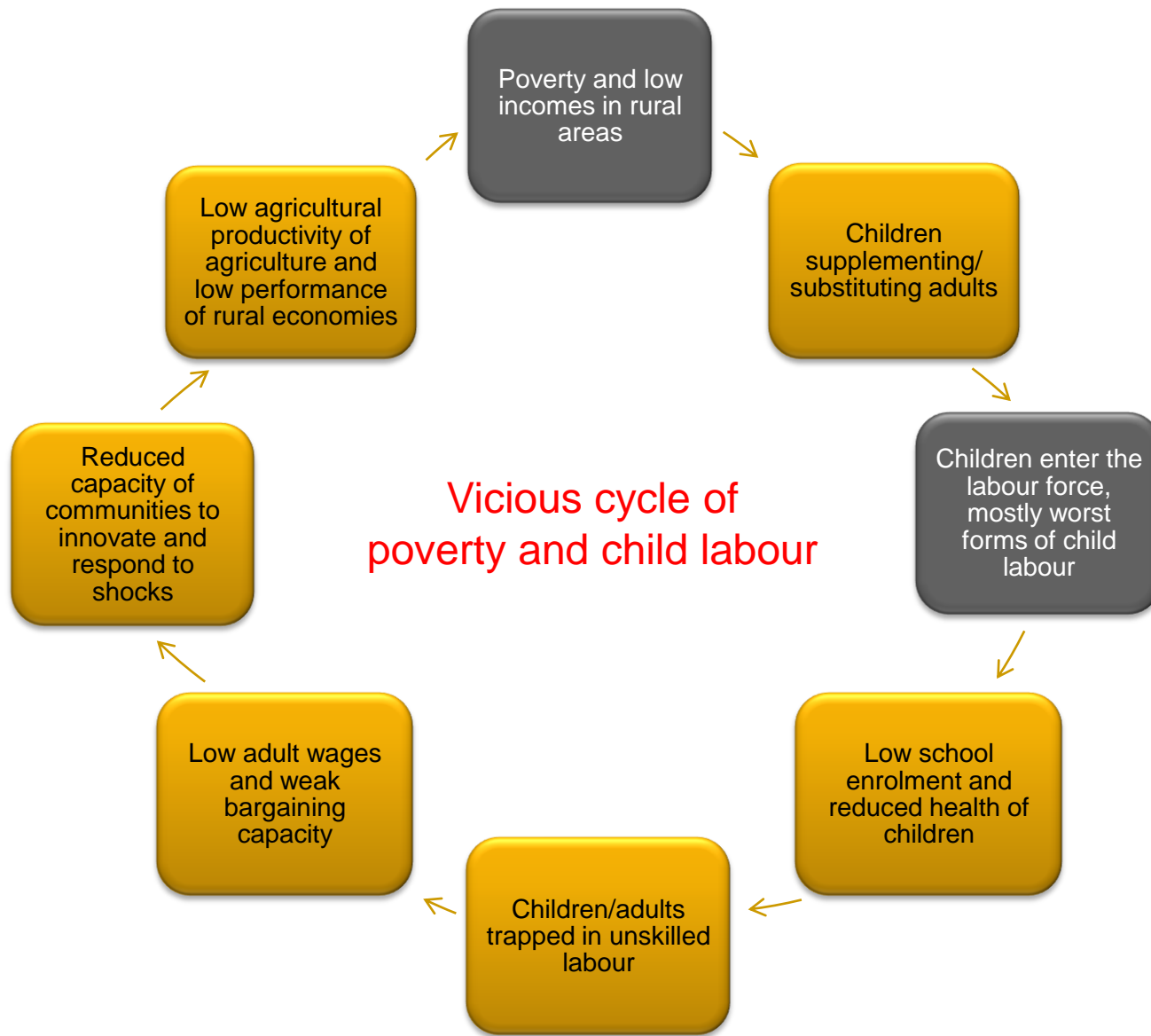
work that harms, abuses and exploits a child or deprives a child of fully participating in compulsory education. It refers to working children below the national minimum employment age, or older children in hazardous work.

Child labour is not...

age-appropriate tasks that do not present hazards and do not interfere with a child's schooling and right to leisure

Updated global statistics



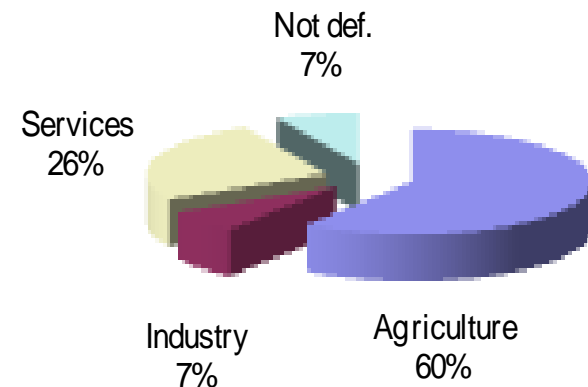


Child labour in agriculture

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)

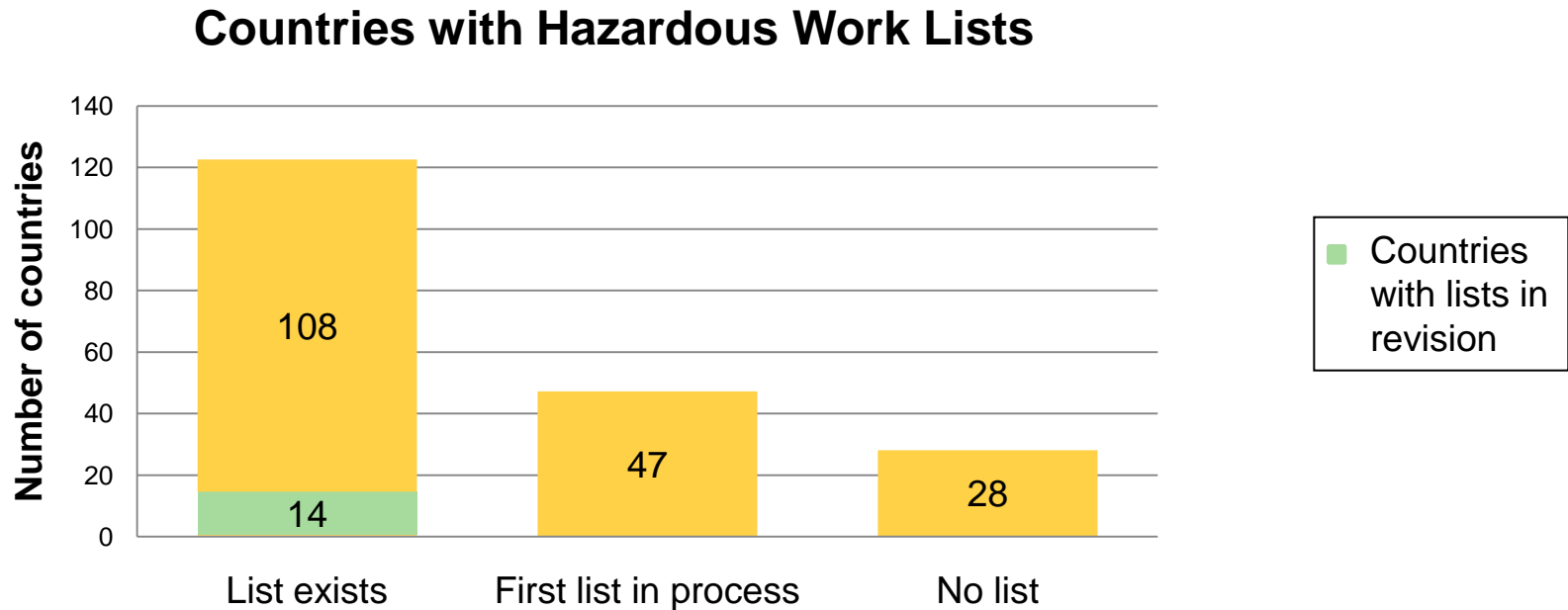


Source: ILO 2010

Children in hazardous work

- 115 million children estimated to be in hazardous work
 - 64% boy and 36% girls
 - **59% in agriculture**
 - 30% services
 - 11% industry
 - This is work that by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm children's **health, safety or morals.**
 - Hazardous work: a **worst form of child labour**
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National hazardous work lists



National Hazardous Work Lists for children - obligation under ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ratified by 173 countries).

Hazardous work in agriculture

Work:

- **under water** or at **dangerous heights**
- with **dangerous machinery, equipment and tools**
- which involves the manual handling or **transport of heavy loads**
- in an **unhealthy environment**
- that exposes children to **hazardous substances, agents or processes**
- in **temperatures** damaging to children's health
- for **long hours** or **at night**

ILO Recommendation No.190

Hazards in fisheries and aquaculture

- ❑ Long hours, **night work**
- ❑ Hazardous techniques, e.g. **diving**
- ❑ **Heavy loads, sharp tools,**
- ❑ **Mobility/migration**
- ❑ Boys: extreme temperatures, **rough seas**, water pollution, **waterborne diseases**
- ❑ Girls: **sharp tools, smoke**



Hazards in livestock rearing

- ❑ **Long hours**
- ❑ Extreme weather
- ❑ Work in **isolation**
- ❑ **Lack of drinking water**
- ❑ Injury and **disease transmission** from livestock and wild animals



Hazards in farming

- ❑ Use of **sharp tools** designed for adults
- ❑ Carrying too **heavy loads**
- ❑ Operating **dangerous machinery** and tools
- ❑ Exposure to **toxic chemicals** and unsanitary conditions
- ❑ **Sun** and **heat** exposure (sun stroke and skin cancer)



Hazards in forestry

- ❑ **Falls** from trees
- ❑ Injuries from **cutting tools** or falling fruit
- ❑ **Skin abrasions** and **eye damage**
- ❑ Musculoskeletal injuries from **repetitive and forceful movements**, and lifting and carrying heavy or awkward loads
- ❑ Sun exposure and **heat exhaustion**
- ❑ Exposure to **pesticides** and **herbicides**



Children labour and pesticide exposure

- ❑ Mixing
- ❑ Spraying
- ❑ Manually applying
- ❑ Guiding spray planes
- ❑ Working in treated fields
- ❑ Washing clothing and equipment



Children and pesticide exposure

- Chemical poisoning
- Nerve and neurological disorders
- Rashes / dermatitis
- Allergic reactions
- Liver damage
- Eye irritation
- Breathing difficulties
- Reproductive disorders
- Cancers
- Decreased intelligence



Children are at greater risk

- Children's minds and bodies are still developing
 - Brains and reproductive systems particularly susceptible
 - During rapid growth, damage to bones, joints, ligaments and muscles, especially likely
 - Less able to detoxify and excrete toxins
- Children have a higher capacity to absorb toxic substances, inhale more pathogens and dust
- Children have a lower capacity to assess risks
- Children often cannot read warning labels

Children make up a disproportionate percent of workplace injuries, poisonings and fatalities in agriculture, including on small farms



Making work safer for children of working age

- Removing hazards from the workplace
- Substituting a less hazardous task or substance
- Training, protective gear and supervision
- Safe technologies to reduce weight of loads or number of hours to perform a task
- Adequate rest periods, no night work
- Health and safety education
- Monitoring mechanisms
- Graphic warning labels & instructions, literacy



Role of Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and FAO

- 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, including on hazardous work lists
- Build knowledge and raise awareness in particular on how to address child labour in the informal economy
- Create enabling environment for producer organizations and other agricultural stakeholders to be actively involved



How FAO can contribute

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
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Integration in agricultural development programmes

- CL sensitive targeting of food security and nutrition programmes
- Targeting of women farmers and promoting decent work for youth
- Incentive-based approaches (grants, cash transfers, subsidies)
- Combining livelihoods diversification / income-generation approaches with Community Based Information and Monitoring Systems
- Private Cos. working with suppliers to find viable alternatives to CL
- Integrating CL concerns into community based natural-resource management (e.g. co-management in fisheries, range land management , forest use)
- Strengthening coordination mechanisms/structures

Technologies and practices

- Promote safe labour-saving technology
 - Targeting children's activities
 - Time-saving
 - Maintaining or increasing production
- Examples
 - Row planting
 - Jab planters and seeders



Technologies and practices

- Identify substitutes for hazardous substances, technologies and practices
 - e.g. Integrated Production and Pest Management as alternative to using pesticides
 - e.g. Weed wipes instead of knapsack sprayers for herbicides
- Build capacities of agricultural extension services to train farmers on labour-saving and productivity-increasing practices and technologies and on occupational safety and health

<http://teca.fao.org/>

Integrated approaches

Infrastructure development and natural resource management to reduce demand for child labour

- Water
 - Wells
 - Multiple Use Services (MUS)
- Fuel
 - Forest management
 - Improved cookers e.g. bio-stoves
 - Electricity
- Roads



How FAO can contribute...

Education and training

- Support relevant curricula for primary and secondary schools e.g. support adoption of agricultural, business, life-skills modules
- Adjust school holidays to seasonal agricultural calendar where possible
- Support pre-vocational & vocational (and life skills) training for low-literacy agricultural populations, including children and youth
- Vocational training for youth needs to consider strategies beyond training (labour market analysis, entrepreneurship, microfinance, job placement)



How FAO can contribute...



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Tackle child labour in agriculture at its roots!

www.fao-ilo.org