

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

The 2026 Theme

Red card to child labour: Fair play for children, decent work for adults.



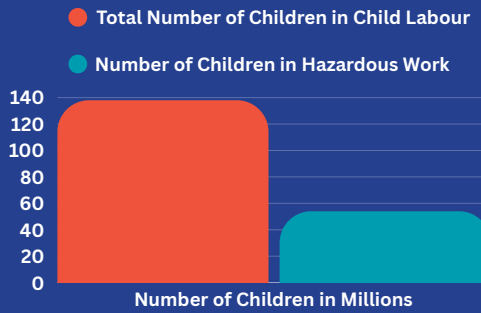
12 JUNE 2026



KEY FACTS

138 million

Children were engaged in child labour in 2024.

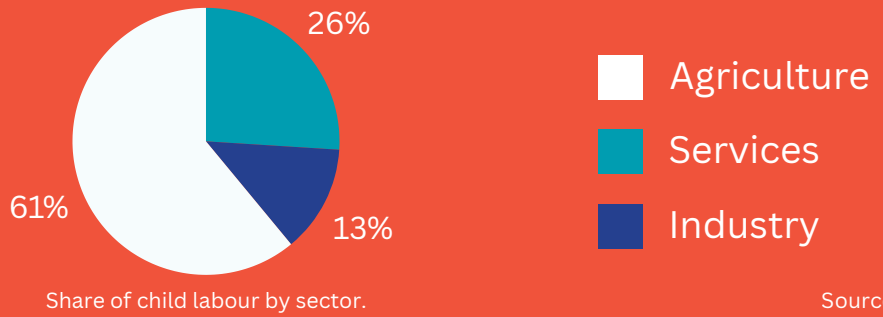


54 million

Of the 138 million children in child labour were involved in hazardous work.

Source: UNICEF

Child labour remains concentrated in a few sectors, mainly agriculture, followed by services and industry.



Source: UNICEF

More than **one in four** children aged five to 11 engaged in child labour is out of school.



Studies show that **children in child labour develop less reading skills** compared to children not submitted to child labour.

More than **one in three** children aged 12 to 14 in child labour is out of school.



Source: UNICEF

WHAT IS THE WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR?



World Day Against Child Labour, observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO), raises awareness of the scale of child labour and the urgent need to eliminate it. Observed annually on 12 June, the day brings together governments, employers, workers, and civil society to **protect children and uphold ILO standards**, including Conventions No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Employment and Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Source: [United Nations](#)

CLASSROOMS INSTEAD OF CHILD LABOUR

Child labour harms a child's health, development, and education. Access to quality education is one of the most effective ways to prevent child labour and equip children with the knowledge and skills needed for decent work and economic independence.

As ILO Special Partner, GWI supports the ILO to:

- Keep children in school and learning.
- Protect children from exploitation.
- Expand decent work opportunities for adults.
- Eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

Global Engagement in the Elimination of Child Labour

In February 2026, the [Marrakesh Global Framework for Action against Child Labour](#) renewed global commitments to end child labour. It calls for stronger laws, investment in protection and education, and decent work for adults, better enforcement of labour standards, and action to ensure every child is in school rather than at work.

Source: ILO

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Linkage

World Day Against Child Labour underscores the importance of achieving the SDGs, particularly those addressing poverty, quality education, gender equality, and decent work, to eliminate root causes of child labour.



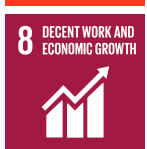
Reducing poverty helps **prevent children from being pushed into work**. Additionally, providing social protections can be a key driver out of child labour.



The access to **free, quality education** helps to keep children in school and out of labour. Access to education is the tool that **targets the root causes** of child labour.



It ensures girls are not pushed into hidden, unpaid, or exploitative work and **supports broader social change** that offers protection from child labour.



Especially target 8.7 calls for **inter alia ending the worst forms of child labour** and promoting decent work opportunities for women.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

The 2026 Theme

Red card to child labour: Fair play for children, decent work for adults.



Graduate Women International (GWI)

12 JUNE 2026



GWI International Advocacy

GWI addresses the root causes of child labour by advancing and protecting girls' and women's education rights.

GWI World Day Against Child Labour Engagement

GWI raises awareness of child labour and its impact on girls' education through advocacy, communications, and engagement with international partners including:

- Publishing **United Nations statements** and **awareness-raising materials** on the role of education in eliminating child labour.
- Marking World Day Against Child Labour through **communications** and **awareness activities**, including a press release (available [HERE](#)).

GWI Global Network in Action

GWI advocates through its **international network of graduate women** in **48** countries to advance girls' right to education and address issues linked to child labour. Through joint advocacy initiatives, GWI seeks to influence policies that protect children and expand access to quality education. GWI United Nations representatives actively cover and report on the issue as found [HERE](#).

GWI Programs Supporting Education as a Means to Eliminate Child Labour

Access to **quality education** is one of the most **effective ways to prevent** child labour. GWI addresses the root causes of child labour by advancing educational opportunities for girls and women through projects, scholarships, fellowships, and teacher training by:

- ✓ Supporting livelihood skills development through Bina Roy Partners in Development projects.
- ✓ Sponsoring young female teachers through the Teachers for Rural Futures program.
- ✓ Assisting displaced graduate women through Hegg Hoffet Fund grants.
- ✓ Supporting doctoral research through fellowships.
- ✓ Providing webinars and workshops on leadership, life skills, and community engagement.

Source: GWI



Support GWI education initiatives such as the GWI Girls Education for Brighter Futures and Teachers for Rural Futures.



Choose products and services from companies that follow fair labour standards and child-rights protections.



Share messages that promote education and decent work for all women and girls. Subscribe to the GWI Update newsletter [HERE](#).



Join the GWI movement to eliminate child labour. Click [HERE](#) to make a donation to GWI projects.



Graduate Women International (GWI)

GWI thanks intern Ida Niemeier for her contributions to this infographic.



@GraduateWomenInternational



@gradwomen



@GraduateWomenInternational



@gradwomen



@GraduateWomenInternational