



unicef

unicef  | for every child

## **Letters From the Chairs of JMUNICEF**

Distinguished delegates of the JMUNICEF committee,

This year will be my first chairing experience and I am more than happy to see you in the JMUNICEF committee. As your chair, I will be moderating the committee sessions and I look forward to seeing what all of you will come up with throughout the conference. I hope it will be a memorable experience for all and I'll be happy to answer any questions before, during and after the conference. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me, I would be glad to help. I encourage you all to read this chair report and do your research carefully. Looking forward to having an amazing experience with all of you.

Good Luck,

Ayşe Maya KADIKÖY

President Chair of JMUNICEF

Dear distinguished delegates of JMUNICEF Committee,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to TBMUN'20. My name is Defne and I will be serving as your Deputy Chair and it is such a great honour to be serving at this admired committee. Prepare yourselves for two days of heated and fruitful debates while being challenged as a delegate. I am looking forward to seeing you all.

Kind Regards,

Defne BALAY

Deputy Chair of JMUNICEF

## **Introduction to UNICEF**

UNICEF was created in 1946 to provide relief to children in countries devastated by World War II. After 1950 the fund directed its efforts toward general programs for the improvement of children's welfare, particularly in less-developed countries and in various emergency situations. The organization's broader mission was reflected in the name it adopted in 1953, the United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965. It is headquartered in New York City. UNICEF has concentrated much of its effort in areas in which relatively small expenditures can have a significant impact on the lives of the most disadvantaged children, such as the prevention and treatment of disease. In keeping with this strategy, UNICEF supports immunization programs for childhood diseases and programs to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS; it also provides funding for health

services, educational facilities, and other welfare services. Since 1996 UNICEF programs have been guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which affirms the right of all children to “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.” UNICEF’s activities are financed by both government and private contributions. UNICEF continues to be one of the most important intergovernmental organizations (IGO) in the world.

## **Topic: Child Labour and Inequality**

### **Introduction**

Child labour has always been a distressing topic. Millions of children around the world are trapped in child labour, depriving them of their childhood, their health and education, and condemning them to a life of poverty and want. Of course, there is work that children do to help their families in ways that are neither harmful nor exploitative. But many children are stuck in unacceptable work for children – a serious violation of their rights.

### **Definition of Key Terms**

- **Child labour:** The term “child labour” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that: is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children
- **Enslavement:** To enslave someone is to force that person to work for no pay, to obey commands, and to lose his or her freedom.
- **Abuse:** Abuse is the improper usage or treatment of a thing, often to unfairly or improperly gain benefit. Abuse can come in many forms, such as: physical or verbal maltreatment, injury, assault, violation, unjust practices, crimes, or other types of aggression.

### **Information About the Topic**

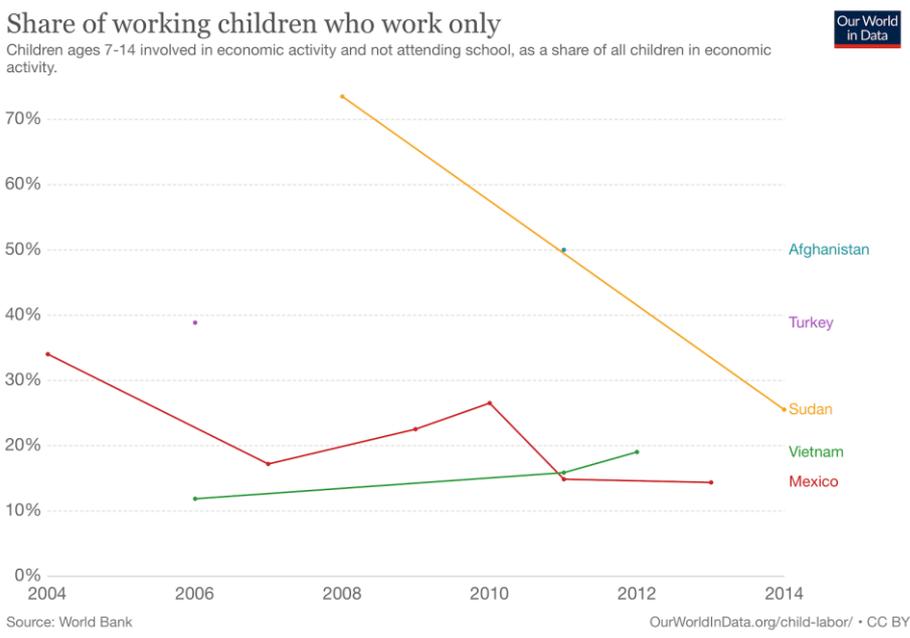
Child labor is not an easy issue to resolve; while it seems noble to immediately withdraw investments and cooperation with firms and factories that employ child labor it may do more harm than good. Many of these children are from very poor families and work to pay for their family and/or their education. Depriving them of this income has led to some children seeking different, lower paid work, and even prostitution in some cases. Other ways with schemes to help children would likely be

needed so that this labor can be phased out. The same has been suggested by the International Labor Organization (ILO), at a meeting in Mexico City in 1999, who also pointed out that child labor affects over 250 million children, 30 percent of which are in Latin America. A gradual phase out is said to be a more preferable solution. Poverty is the most common factor contributing to child labor.

The contributions prove that violence against children happens everywhere, in every society, country and across all social groups. Extreme violence against children may hit the headlines but children say that daily, repeated small acts of violence and abuse also hurt them. While some violence is unexpected and isolated, most violent acts against children are carried out by people they know and should be able to trust: parents, boyfriends or girlfriends and partners, schoolmates, teachers and employers. Violence against children includes physical violence, psychological violence such as insults and humiliation, discrimination, and maltreatment. Although the consequences may vary according to the nature and severity of the violence inflicted, the short- and long-term repercussions for children are very often grave and damaging.

Child labour is by definition problematic whenever it interferes with the children’s development. Because of this it is informative to study child labour specifically when it is coupled with absence from school.

The visualization here shows the share of children in employment who work only. Again, there is wide variation across countries; while in Latin America the majority of children who are economically active also attend school, in sub-Saharan Africa this is not the case. However, trends are encouraging on the whole, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where the problem is most acute.

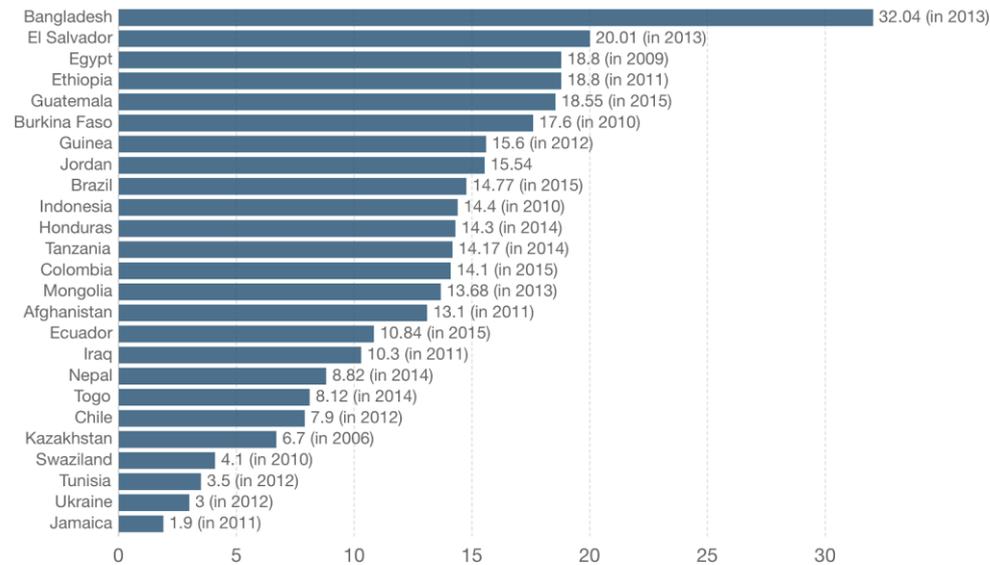


The harmful consequences of child labor are partly determined by the intensity of work, and how it affects time allocation in other activities, such as playing or learning. Hence, to understand child labor it is crucial to understand time allocation. Sometimes child laborers have to overcome the work pressure that even adults can't. They are spending the time that they have to spend at schools or parks at working places. Here is a chart shows that average weekly working hours of children;

### Average weekly working hours of children



Average weekly working hours for children ages 7-14 who are involved in an economic activity for at least one hour in the reference week of the corresponding survey (irrespective of school attendance).



Source: World Bank

OurWorldInData.org/child-labor/ · CC BY

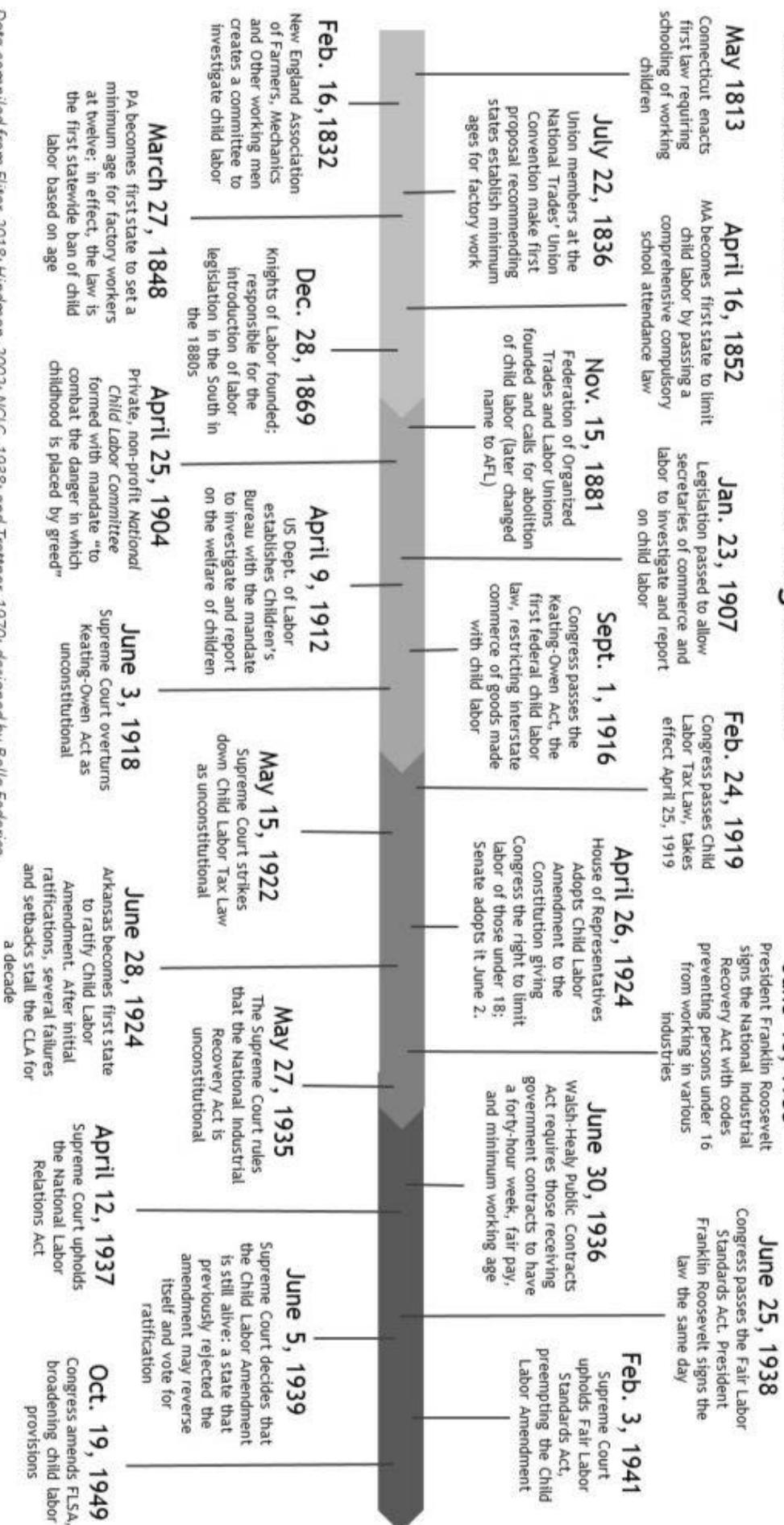
### Types of Child Labours

- All sorts of slavery or practises similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bandage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

### Timeline of Major Events



# U.S. Child Labor Policies and Legislation



Data compiled from *Filmer, 2018; Hindman, 2002; NCLC, 1938; and Trattner, 1970; designed by Bella Federico*

## Questions to Ponder

- What causes child labour?
- What causes Inequality between children?
- Which conditions force kids to work?
- How is a child Central Africa different than a kid in United States?
- How can we help children in these types of situations?

## Bibliography

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