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Pope Francis speaks out on child labour

Addressing crowds in Rome on 7th June, 2015. Pope Francis spoke about the World Day Against Child Labour which takes place on 12th June. "Many children in the world do not have the freedom to play, to go to school, and end up being exploited as cheap labour," he said, adding, "I hope the international community will remain attentively and steadfastly committed to the active promotion and effective recognition of children's rights."

http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/news/WCMS_374198/lang--en/index.htm

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR - 12TH JUNE, 2015

The World Day Against Child Labour will be celebrated on the 12th of June, 2015. With the focus on the provision of quality education as a key step in tackling child labour the ILO theme for this year's World Day is; "**NO to Child Labour, YES to Quality Education!**" with particular emphasis on the following areas:

- free, compulsory and quality education for all children at least to the minimum age for admission to employment and action to reach those presently in child labour;
- new efforts to ensure that national policies on child labour and education are consistent and effective;
- policies that ensure access to quality education and investment in the teaching profession.

Involving the tripartite partners across the Pacific activities planned for this year's World Day Against Child Labour include school based activities encouraging more awareness on child labour issues. Awareness will also be raised through the media through radio and tv talkback shows, newspaper publications and specific tv programmes intended for children. Dialogue and information sessions with union and employers representatives and workshops with teachers and students have also been organized in an effort to raise awareness at different levels of the community.

A high level discussion will also be taking place in Geneva on the 12th of June involving; Mr. *Kailash Satyarthi*, co-winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on children's rights, Ms. *Lorena Castillo de Varela*, First Lady of Panama, Mr. *Alfonso Navarrete Prida*, Secretary of Labour and Social Welfare, Mexico, Ms. *Jacqueline Mugo*, member of the ILO Governing Body and Executive Director of the Federation of Kenyan Employers and Ms. *Sharan Burrow*, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation. You can follow the discussions at: www.ilo.org/ChildLabourWorldDay



Fighting Child Labour with Quality Education Statement by Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General for the ILO

Mr. Guy Ryder, the Director General for the ILO issued a statement in regards to the fight against child labour highlighting the importance of quality education and developing effective strategies to break the cycle of poverty.

Mr. Ryder further called for inclusive development policies integrating decent work for adults, social protection floors and sound education systems. "With political will and determination at all levels of development, priorities can be set, policy choices can be made and integrated action can be taken. A key challenge for the post-2015 development agenda and for action at

global, regional and national levels is to secure sustainable and significant change."

"The ILO and its government, employer and worker constituents have been in the forefront of the fight against child labour for nearly a century. We remain committed to working nationally, internationally and with the multilateral system to ensure children's right to education and freedom from child labour as well as its corollary, the dignity of decent work for adults."

The full statement is available on the ILO Pacific website: www.ilo.org/suva

World Report on Child Labour 2015

The 2015 World Report on Child Labour focuses on the twin challenges of child labour elimination and decent work for youth. The Report makes the case that achieving decent work for all, one of the likely core Sustainable Development Goals for the post 2015 period, will not be possible without the elimination of child labour and erasing the decent work deficit faced by youth.

Evidence from ILO School to Work Transition Survey (SWTS) programme indicates that adolescents and young adults in the low income countries complete their labour market transition by the age of 15 years, i.e. as young labourers. It also indicates that more youths from these countries leave school prior to this age due to poverty, social vulnerability, problems of access to education and quality and gender related social pressure.

The survey indicates that those leaving school prior to the age of 15 years are generally at a greater risk of remaining outside the world of work altogether, i.e. of never transiting to a job. Early school leavers also take longer to find jobs and are less likely to secure stable jobs for 12 months or more. The Report highlights that poor youth employment prospects can serve as

a disincentive to investment in children's education earlier in the life cycle while a more positive youth employment outlook can have the opposite effect.

Although youth are employed at the age of 15 years and onwards, the report finds that child labour still exists in the 15 to 17 year age categories as adolescents working at this age are found to be involved in hazardous work. The Report highlights that it will not be possible to achieve overall child labour elimination without addressing child labour amongst older children, i.e. those adolescents who are 15 to 17 years of age. Similarly, adolescents aged 15 to 17 years trapped in hazardous work stand as a major obstacle to achieving decent work for all youth.

The latest ILO global estimates (2012) shows adolescents aged 15 to 17 years in hazardous work total 47.5 million and although this age category are of critical importance to both child labour and youth employment, they are rarely provided with priority attention.

The Report concludes with the following recommendations;

- Intervening early and getting children out of child labour
- Facilitating the transition from

Expanding child labour research in the Pacific

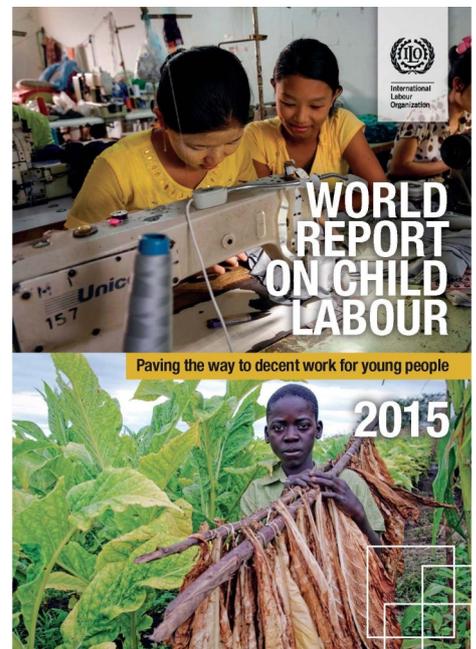
Since the first comprehensive child labour studies were carried out in Fiji in 2009, requests have been received to conduct child labour research in other Pacific Island Countries. Consequently, research studies on child labour supported by the ILO have also been conducted in PNG (Port Moresby), Kiribati (Tarawa), Solomon Islands (Honiara) and Samoa (Apia).

Children in child labour were found in hazardous work in agriculture, scrap metal scavenging and construction, in street vending, transport of goods, as traffic controllers, working in supermarkets and shops and other activities in the informal sector. Children in the 'unconditional worst forms of child labour' were found in commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities such as drug trafficking, begging and pick pocketing. Many

children were working under the minimum age of employment, and had dropped out of school, with some having never been to school.

The dangers that children face varied with the kind of work that they do. Some examples of these included:

- Working too young and lacking the physical, mental and psychological maturity necessary for the kind of work they were in, and in many cases young children were also working late at night.
- Working for long hours, especially on the streets where children may work from 12 to 16 hours a day, sometimes for 7 days a week.
- Working in hazardous conditions that can cause serious injuries, disease and even death.



school to work

- Addressing adolescents in hazardous work and eliminating child labour amongst those aged 15 to 17 years
- Mainstreaming gender and accounting for special vulnerabilities or female children and youth and
- Ensuring the necessary conditions for progress through building an enabling environment.

The full report can be download at:

http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_358969/lang-en/index.htm

- Being engaged in physically demanding and strenuous work.
- Being exposed to and exploited for sexual purposes, prostitution and sexual abuse and vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS and psychological trauma.
- Suffering from harassment, beatings, physical punishment and verbal abuse from families, communities, employers, drunkards, other street kids or the public.

Although many push and pull factors leading children into child labour were identified, poverty, illiteracy, early school dropout, family breakdown, parental neglect, children living away from home, and the lack of employment opportunities were identified as factors aggravating risk and vulnerability of children to exploitation and abuse.

Sub-regional Child Labour and Trafficking Forum 2015

The Sub-regional Child Labour and Trafficking Forum was held in Nadi from the 13th to 16th of April, 2015. The Forum brought together government ministries from Labour, Social Welfare and Education, Workers Unions and Employers Federations as well as the media from five countries in the Pacific; Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. One of the major outcomes of the forum was the sharing of knowledge between participants and across countries.

“It has been a great experience for us. We have been able to learn from the experiences in Fiji as well as from counterparts from other countries and now the onus is on us to go back home and implement some of these strategies.” said Winston Yuka, the Employers Federation representative from PNG. “It is also a good opportunity for us to network and build relationships between similar organizations across the Pacific to share best practice methodologies”.

The Labour Commissioner for the Solomon Islands, Mr. Josaiiah Manehia also stated that “it is good for us to discuss the issues emerging from child labour and more importantly, issues which are specific to our context here in the Pacific. We need to be able to work together and pool resources as this is not an issue that can be tackled by one agency

alone, it has to be a collaborative effort, not only in countries but also across borders to share resources as well as technical cooperation”.

Participants also valued the inclusion of social partners in the Forum who shared practical experiences in dealing with child labour cases. The Fiji Trades Union Congress (FTUC) and their counterparts from the Samoa Workers Congress made presentation on the challenges of withdrawing children from child labour and researching in agricultural sectors respectively.

Innovative approaches were also discussed on how to engage children involved in and those at risk of becoming involved in child labour. A pilot Bridging Programme was also discussed as a necessity as children who had been out of school for a period of time would not be able to re-integrate into the formal education system straight away and would need special attention.

Mr. Juita Korovolavula from the Foundations of the Peoples of the South Pacific discussed the setting up of a technical studio by the organization to engage children after school hours as well as involving children at risk of child labour — a strategy that other countries showed interest in replicating.

Homes of Hope Director Lynn

Roche also discussed their involvement in assisting and withdrawing children in commercial sexual exploitation. Ms. Roche emphasized the need for patience as a key necessity in dealing with children involved in these cases as well as being able to cater for their needs on a constant basis. These examples highlighted the need for a collaborative approach in tackling cases of child labour.

A presentation was made by government through the Human Trafficking Unit in Fiji, which had successfully prosecuted Fiji’s first child trafficking case and the difficulties and nuances faced when having to deal with instances for which operational procedures were not developed.

In closing the Forum, Mr. David Lamotte, Director for the ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries, emphasized the need for cooperation between agencies. “The forum provided a platform for the rich exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences – I hope you have taken full advantage of this opportunity and will continue to network and share resources when you leave”.

The full Forum report can be found at the following link:

http://www.ilo.org/suva/areas-of-work/WCMS_360458/lang-en/index.htm

South to South Cooperation

The Child Labour Unit (CLU) for the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations (MEPIR) in Fiji has been involved in sharing resources and experiences with their counterparts from Papua New Guinea and Kiribati.

The PNG Department of Labour and Industrial Relations (DLIR) also visited the CLU office in Lautoka on a study tour to determine the processes and operations involved in running the Unit.

The DLIR has also recently established a Child Labour Unit at the Department and hopes to enhance their knowledge and capacity in being able to administer and cater to the requirements of unit. The importance of the visit was emphasized by Mr. Kornet Sapulai, Executive Manager, International Relations & International

Cooperation (DLIR), “South to South cooperation between Fiji and PNG has helped us (PNG) a lot in terms of our social reforms, the usefulness of the information that we have gathered from the forum and our discussions with the Fiji government is invaluable, and we hope that this collaboration and sharing of information, especially on child labour issues will continue well into the future.”

The MEPIR Child Labour Unit has also conducted training sessions in Kiribati as part of a joint workshop conducted by the ILO and organized by the Ministry of Labour & Human Resource Development. Practical training experience was provided during the workshop by Mr. Atish Kumar, Assistant Director Labour



PNG DLIR staff discuss issues with their colleagues from the Ministry of Education, Employers Federation, Workers Unions, the Media and ILO PNG staff during the Sub-regional Forum. April, 2015.

Standards and Services from MEPIR, who assisted participants on how to conduct child labour inspections, challenges faced and steps to take to address cases of child labour. As a result of this training and sharing of experiences the participants were able to participate meaningfully and formulate their action plan for implementation.

Currently, Fiji is the only country in the Pacific with a fully functioning Child Labour Unit.

Media spotlight on child labour around the Pacific

News items from around the Pacific in the print, radio, tv and online media have been illustrating the broad social issues related to child labour. The ILO acknowledges and commends the contributing journalists and media outlets who have also been part of the awareness campaign on child labour.



This newspaper article by the West Bureau Chief for the *Fiji Times*, Margaret Wise highlights the number of children assisted by the EU funded TACKLE project in Fiji. It also discusses the critical role of social partners and their involvement in the process of identifying and withdrawing children from instances of child labour. The report can be found at the following link:

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=302174>

Child exploitation



The newspaper article by the West Bureau Chief for the *Fiji Times*, Margaret Wise highlights the link between education and child labour. It discusses the social and economic difficulties that children face in having to drop out of school and engage in child labour to assist with their family income. The report highlights the need for quality education as a strategy for combating child labour and reducing poverty. The report can be found at the following link:

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=302187>

Newspaper report by Senior Journalist for the *Post Courier*, Maureen Gerawa sheds light on young domestic workers in Papua New Guinea. The report highlights that most of the children, mostly girls, work as baby sitters but are also expected to do a wide range of chores including household duties. Many of the young girls work in their extended family homes and are below the minimum age for work and have dropped out of school. The report can be found at link below:

<http://dev.postcourier.com.pg/archive-list/>



Newspaper article by Samoa Observer journalist Sarai Ripine showing Samoa Education officers and Police enforcing the compulsory education laws for Samoa. It highlights that there are still some children involved in street vending and helping out their families despite the laws and penalties in place. In Samoa, children of school age are required to attend school and complete their education up to year 8 or until they reach 14 years of age.

Inspection targets vendors in Savai'i



THEY SHOULD BE AT SCHOOL. These are photos from the visit that covered the whole of Savai'i conducted by the Ministry of Education in partnership with the Ministry of Police to enforce compulsory education laws and to identify children who are not attending school.

Decrease in Child labour cases - Ministry of Labour

By Ravai Vafo'ou
The Ministry of Labour has recorded a decrease in child labour cases. A total of 114 hundred and 74 cases was reported in 2011, with only four cases recorded in 2014. The Ministry of Labour's Child Labour Unit under the Labour Standard Services deals with under-aged children employed in the labour work force. And to ensure child labour is eradicated, the unit has embarked on an ISO certified policy reform process to make their work easier. "ISO is all about customer satisfaction. So this is why we are going for ISO. It will speed up the process of identifying child labour and having our team address it right there," said Tomasi Keni - Acting Assistant Director, Labour Standard Services. The agriculture, wholesale, retail, domestic duties, construction to packing and food selling are industries where children are found doing unpaid work. However, the unit has recorded a dramatic decrease in the number of child labour cases with the state's free education and welfare support schemes contributing factors. "There was a total of 114 cases from 2011 to 2014 and last year 2014 we started off in 2011 there were 64 cases. Until last year it has been decreased to 4 cases of child labour," he said. With ISO certification to be granted in July by a visiting audit team, the unit is hopeful this will pave the way for the complete eradication of child labour in the employment sector. "In years to come, we hope that when people will be going around and looking at children employed they will be able to come out and say that is child labour and be able to report to the Ministry and other institutions," he said.

TV report by *Fiji TV* Media Journalist Ravai Vafo'ou highlights the decrease in the number of child labour cases reported to the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations. It also highlights the ISO Certification being sort by the Child Labour Unit which will be a milestone achievement for the Unit if this is granted in July, 2015.

The report can be found at: <http://fijione.tv/decrease-in-child-labour-cases-ministry-of-labour/>

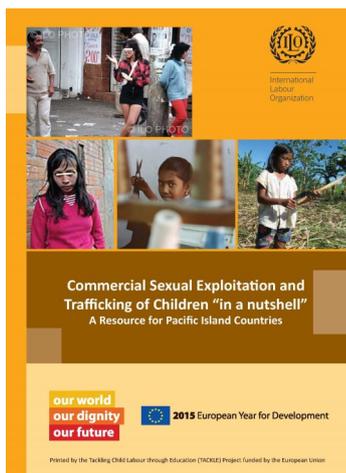
Sub-regional hub needed to tackle child labour

Child labour and trafficking is a cross-cutting issue in the Pacific Islands that needs a sub-regional hub to seriously look into and find ways of addressing the issue. International Labour Organisation sub-regional director David Lamotte highlighted this at the close of an ILO subregional Child Labour and Trafficking in Nadi, Fiji, Friday. "We all want a world free of child labour and trafficking," Lamotte said. "The vision of having a child labour and trafficking free environment in the Pacific region is a realistic one that needs a multi-sectoral approach," he added. He said the establishment of a regional hub on the issue "is a must." "Establishment of a technical hub for the Pacific region would allow coordination work from Pacific islands to send in their national reports and a way forward of eradicating the problem." Meanwhile, Solomon Islands' Commissioner of Labour, Josiah Manehia said having a regional hub would allow each country to look at the issue in its cultural setting, backgrounds, perspective and context. "We are not denying the issue and it needs to be taken up from the governments level to regional levels," Manehia said. According to the International Labour Organisation, worst forms of Child labour and trafficking were found in the Asia Pacific region. Worst forms on child labour and trafficking include commercial sexual exploitation of children, scavenging, begging, street vending, and involving in child armed to cases of child labour," he said. By CHARLEY PIRINGI in Nadi, Fiji

Newspaper article by Solomon Star Journalist emphasizing the need for a sub-regional hub for child labour through which actions and the sharing of information and resources around the Pacific can be coordinated. It also highlights the need to define child labour in the context of Pacific Island Countries.

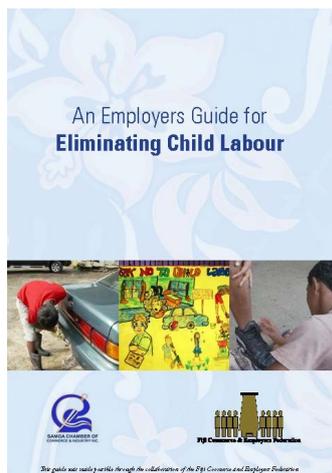
The article can be found at: <http://www.solomonstarnews.com/news/national/6700-sub-regional-hub-needed-to-tackle-child-labour>

PUBLICATIONS



Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children in a Nutshell

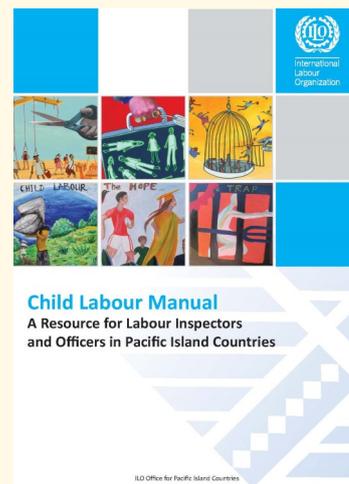
A 40 page resource booklet which highlights some of the concepts and dynamics of children in commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. The resource also provides a country contact list for assistance or further information.



An Employers Guide for Eliminating Child Labour in Samoa

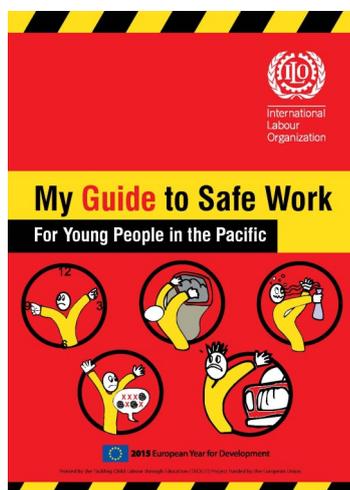
The Employers Guide to Elimination Child Labour looks at the international and national laws on child labour, causes and consequences, the reasons why employers should eliminate child labour and guiding principles for employers. The guide has been adapted for use in Samoa with permission from Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation.

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS



Child Labour Manual

A training manual designed to assist Labour Inspectors and Officers in Pacific Island countries dealing with Child Labour. The manual also provides sample forms developed specifically for child labour inspection in Fiji.



My Guide to Safe Work for Young People in the Pacific

A resource booklet developed for young workers in the Pacific which looks at the protection of young workers and their rights. The guide also highlights safety issues for young workers in 10 different work sectors and safety issues for young workers on moving heavy loads.

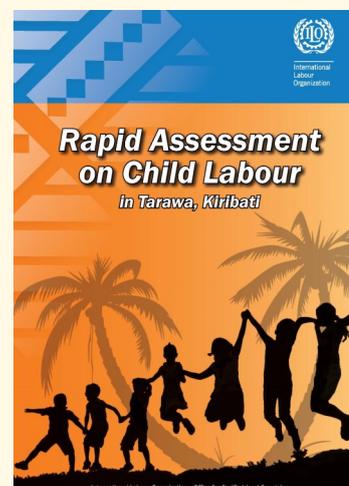
UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

A Booklet for Trade Unions on Child Labour

The booklet for trade union members discusses the critical role of trade unions in the fight against child labour and what actions can be taken. The booklet also looks at how child labour undermines decent work opportunities for adults emphasizes the ability of trade unions to mobilize resources to raise awareness as well as assist young workers and children in instances of child labour.

Download publications from:

<http://www.ilo.org/suva/areas-of-work/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>



Rapid Assessment of Child Labour in Tarawa, Kiribati

The Rapid Assessment Report for Tarawa highlights the type of work children are involved with in Tarawa. The report also discusses the reasons given by children for working as well as the challenges and the hazards that they face.

Gallery



Child Labour Courses at the ILO International Training Centre, Turin in 2015

- Achieving education for all and eliminating child labour; 28 Sep 2015 - 02 Oct 2015
- Laws, policies and reporting tools: supporting the fight against child labour; 02 Nov 2015 - 06 Nov 2015
- Harvesting a future without child labour: eliminating harmful practices in agriculture; 30 Nov 2015 - 04 Dec 2015
- *Review the full calendar at <http://www.itcilo.org/calendar>*

Coming Up!

- World Day Against Child Labour (June)
- Sub-regional training on skills and livelihoods (July)
- SCREAM Camp (July)

Caption: (1) L-R: Mr. David Lamotte (Director ILO), Mr. Felix Anthony (General Secretary, Fiji Trades Union Congress), Mr. Howard Politini (President, Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation) Mr. Andrew Jacobs (Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific), Hon. Rosy Akbar (Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation) and Hon. Jioji Konrote (Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations) officially launch phase II of the TACKLE project in Fiji (2) Participants from the Sub-regional Forum, 2015 (3) Media participants from the Sub-regional Forum, 2015 (4) Fiji Participants at the Sub-regional Forum, 2015 (5) Participants at the Samoa Dialogue on Child Labour (6) Participants from the training on Careers Counselling in Kiribati, 2015

All photos © ILO

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