



International  
Labour  
Organization

# Child labour and how you can help

▶ 1 in 11 children are trapped in child labour in Myanmar, with half of these children subjected to hazardous conditions.

Child labour : Deny children education, is harmful to their health and development, and can be deadly. It prevents children, communities and the country from progressing. It is also illegal.

At the International Labour Organization (ILO), we believe in a brighter future for children and for Myanmar. There is a pressing need to eliminate child labour.

Read on to find out more about the issues and how you can play your part.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

# Child labour in Myanmar



Globally, there are **160 million** children trapped in child labour.



In Myanmar, **1.13 million** 5- to 17-year-olds are subject to child labour.



Around **half** of Myanmar child labourers perform hazardous work.



A **quarter** of 12- to 17-year-olds in child labour in Myanmar work **60+** hours per week.



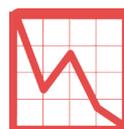
There are higher incidences of child labour in Myanmar's **rural areas**.



Child labour is concentrated primarily in **agriculture** (61%), **manufacturing** (12%) and **trade** (11%).



In Myanmar, girls bear a larger burden of household chores, with **90%** of 5- to 11-year-old girls helping one hour a week, compared to **34%** of boys.



ILO Myanmar and its partners **reduced** child labour **by 55%** over three years in three pilot areas.



The **COVID-19** pandemic threatens to increase child labour, as more households suffer economic hardship.

Political instability caused delay of concerted effort to eliminate child labour.

# What is child labour?

Child labour is work that:

- ▶ deprives children of their childhood, their potential or their dignity, or
- ▶ is harmful to their physical, mental or moral development, or
- ▶ interferes with their education by preventing them from attending school, making them stop education early, or requiring them to combine school with long or heavy work

In Myanmar the legal minimum working age is 14.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

Myanmar has ratified both fundamental International Labour Conventions on child labour. The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) was ratified in 2013 and the Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) in 2020. Additionally, the Forced Labour Convention (No. 29) was ratified in 1955.



It is a top priority to eliminate the worst forms of child labour that can result in lifelong trauma and serious physical harm.

This covers:

- ▶ all forms of slavery, including the sale and trafficking of children and the use of children in armed conflict
- ▶ the use of a child for prostitution or pornography
- ▶ the use of a child for illicit activities, such as producing or trafficking drugs
- ▶ Work that is hazardous to children, risking to their health, safety, morals or lives

**In Myanmar it is illegal for children under 18 to carry out any form of hazardous work.**

# The law in Myanmar

Although there is no standalone child labour law in Myanmar, children are protected by national laws including the Child Rights Law (2019), the Education Law (2014), the Factories Act (2016) and the Shops and Establishments Law (2016) as well as international law including the Minimum Age Convention (No. 138), the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and more.



## DID YOU KNOW...?

If you spot child labour, or are concerned about the welfare of a child at work, you can report this to labour organization or civil society organizations in your area.



# Working together for change

Child labour is a complex problem, caused by poverty and a lack of quality education options, among other issues.

However, momentum is building for change. New laws have recently been passed in Myanmar to protect children under 14 from work, and a National Action Plan to eliminate child labour was adopted in 2019.

In 2021, countries around the world have marked UN's International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.

There is a real opportunity to protect Myanmar's children and advance the development of the nation if everyone plays their part.



Photo: Ping Non and Aye Aye Khin

- ▶ Parents should value education and give children a chance to thrive.
- ▶ Teachers can speak up for children at risk of dropping out of school early.
- ▶ Community leaders can help remove the stigma around child labour and use their local influence to advocate for children.
- ▶ Employers must ensure the law is followed.
- ▶ Worker organizations should protect children vulnerable to child labour, as well as youth of legal working age that are currently employed.
- ▶ Law makers can lead an ambitious, transparent with parliamentary structure that support children's futures, through law and actions.

The ILO is on hand to support these efforts offer technical expertise and help advocate for change – from the village to the global stage.

**Whatever your role, we can all make a difference.  
Act now to help combat child labour.**

Find out more at [www.ilo.org/yangon/areas/childlabour](http://www.ilo.org/yangon/areas/childlabour)  
and by following the ILO on Facebook.