

## **Firelight Newsflash! 12 June 2007 - Mark the International Day to End Child Labour**

### **World Day Against Child Labour on June 12, 2007**

GENEVA (ILO News) - This year's World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June is to focus on the elimination of child labour in agriculture, which accounts for a staggering percentage of the world's working children and is one of the most dangerous forms of work for children and adults like.

The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) estimates that over 100 million boys and girls aged 5-14 work as child labourers on farms and plantations the world over, where they are often exposed to hazards and risks that run the gamut from the mixing, handling and applying of toxic pesticides to using dangerous cutting tools, to working in extreme temperatures and operating powerful farm vehicles and heavy machinery.

To strengthen the worldwide movement against child labour, the ILO is to launch a new partnership on 12 June with five international agriculture-based organizations: the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF).

The aim of this new partnership will be to develop common policies, programmes and activities at international and national levels against child labour in agriculture. These partner organizations will play an important role in working with ministries of agriculture, agricultural advisory services, research bodies and other offices involved in agricultural policy issues. It may also be expanded in the future to include other agricultural-based organizations.

The ILO stressed that not all children working in agriculture can be considered child labourers under the terms of ILO conventions No. 138 and No. 182 if they perform tasks appropriate to a child's age and that are a normal part of growing up in a rural environment.

The World Day Against Child Labour is observed worldwide on or around 12 June each year. It serves as a catalyst for the growing worldwide movement against child labour.

A substantive press release, and a set of fact sheets and other background information, will be issued on 8 June for use by the media on the world day. The press release will be for publication on or after 2300 GMT on 11 June. The ILO has also prepared digital news and information material for use by broadcasters on or after the World Day.

**For more information, media materials and other background on child labour, see [www.ilo.org/childlabour](http://www.ilo.org/childlabour).**

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*" Wherever change needs to occur, advocacy has a role to play"*

***Civil Society Advocacy Programme is a joint programme of the South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission for Gender Equality, the Office of the Public Protector and the European Union, funded under the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development***

For additional information and resources aimed at ending child labour, please also consult the following organizations:

UNICEF report on Ending Child Labour (1997)  
<http://www.unicef.org/sowc97/report/ending.htm>

International Initiative to End Child Labor  
<http://www.endchildlabor.org/>

ANPPCAN initiative to end child labour  
<http://www.anppcan.org/new/projects/childlabour.htm>