
We are
Putting an
End to
Child Labour



This booklet belongs to

_____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Mtoto News

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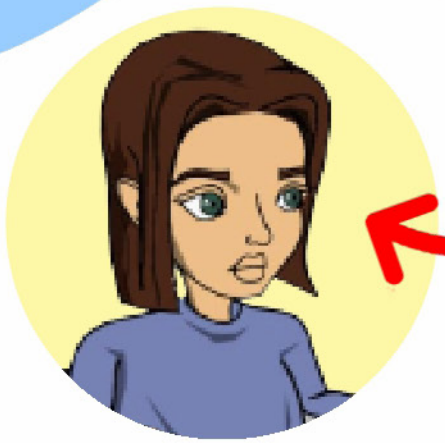
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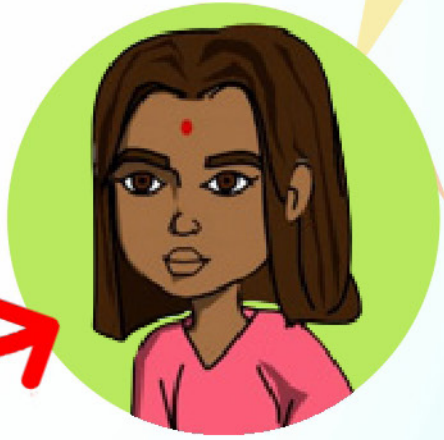
The results of the 5th Global Conference on Ending Child Labour

Hello, My name is Mateo
and these are my friends Natalie,
Sarah, Ahadi and Luke.
Today we will be talking about
Child labour!

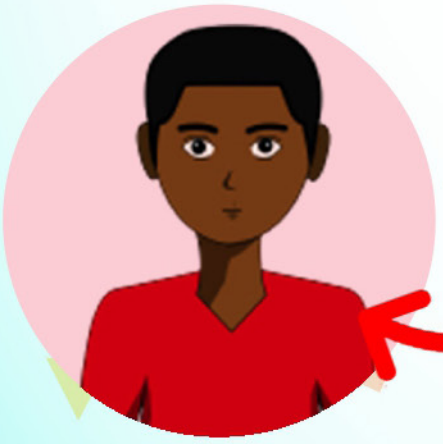




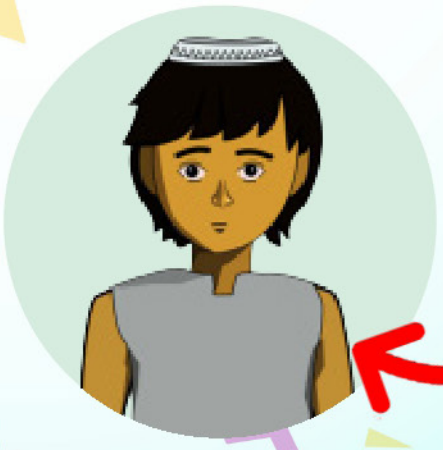
Natalie



Sarah



Ahadi



Luke



Child labour is when children do work that is harmful to them. It is work that is mentally or physically dangerous, work that children are too young for which can affect their growth and development.





In many cases, children who work for long hours find it difficult to continue their studies. Many drop-out of school, miss school or feel too tired to focus on their studies. Heavy work and working in risky situations also causes health problems.



Hence, child labour threatens children's rights like education and health.





Did you Know?

160 million children are still involved in child labour? And 112 million of them are in agriculture that is working in farms and fields, child soldiers are recruited too. In just 4 years, almost 9 million children were pulled into child labour, some children were even only 5 years old!!!





And that is why, the Durban Call to Action is fighting very hard to make sure that no child is involved in child labour, especially forced labour.

But what is the Durban Call to Action?



The Durban Call to Action is a document that emphasizes the need for urgent action to end child labour. Members of the governments from all over the world, representatives of employers, workers and civil societies meet regularly every 3-5 years for a global conference and talk about child labour.



Find the differences in the images!





These meetings are used to check if the situation of children has improved in the past years or not. It is a good opportunity to agree on next steps to make so that no child is harmed through child labour. The last conference took place in May 2022 in South Africa in a city called Durban. This conference was organised by the South African government and the International Labour Organization(ILO).



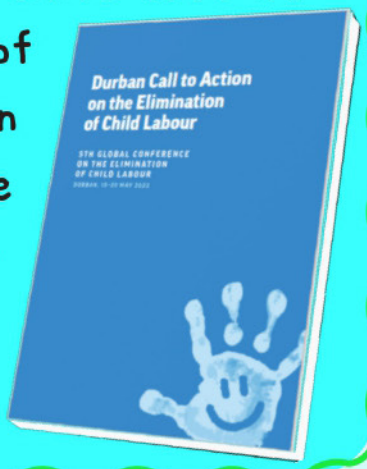
The ILO is a big global organisation with three groups of members:

a) Governments

b) Workers

c) Employers

They all work together to ensure good working conditions in the world and to fight against child labour. 187 states of the world are member states of the ILO - that means almost all countries in the world. At the end of the conference, the participants wrote down all agreements in a final document called the "Durban Call to Action".





Do you know what the ILO Convention Number 138 says?

Yes, it says that the minimum age for being hired for any type of employment is 14 or 15, and for work which is likely to endanger the health or safety of a young person, shall not be below 18 years.



The ILO convention number 182 also mentions what are the worst forms of child labour. They include:



1. **Children working under slavery like conditions.**
This means forcefully recruiting child soldiers, selling and trafficking children and forcing children to work as a payment of debt.

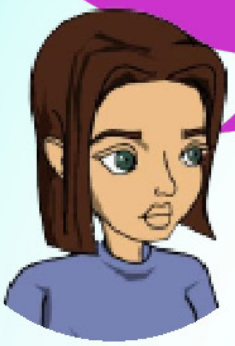
2. **Making videos**, pictures or writings **of child sexual activities** for payment

3. **Using children to transport drugs** or to do anything illegal

Or even work that is **likely to harm the health**, **safety** or **morals of children**.

Let's go back to learning more about the Durban Call to Action.

And that is not all, children also participated in this conference.



Its goal is to speed up progress on ending child labour because the problem has increased in the past years mostly because of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global vulnerabilities.



The Durban Call to Action includes action points with regard to six key topics.

1. Ensure **Decent Work** and Employment for adults and children above the minimum age for work (usually 15)

2. End child labour in **agriculture**.

Each country and each government needs to implement these Key Points in order to end child labour.



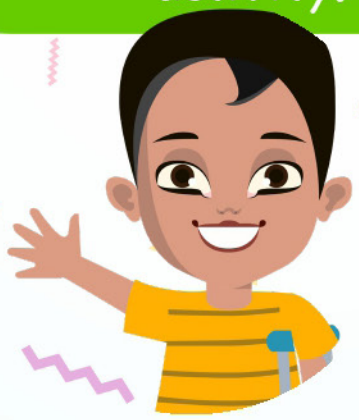
3. Use data and the experience from former child labourers to inform policy.

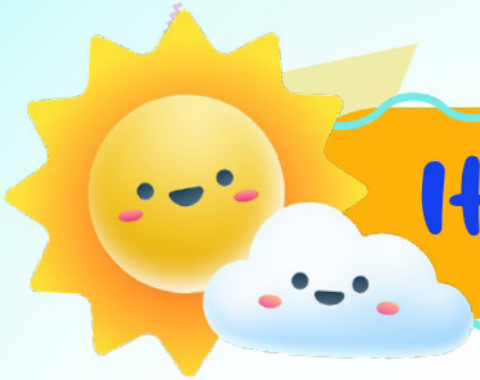
4. Realise children's right to education.

5. Achieve access for all to systems that protect the poor.

6. Provide more money and work together to end child labour.

Hello, MATEO is here again, let us refresh our minds with this small activity.





It's trivia time!

1. How many children are still involved in child labour?

2. Can you identify some work that can harm children?

4. Why do you think child labour is harmful to children?

3. How do you help your parents at home?



Let's learn the meaning of some hard words!

Word	Definition
Civil societies (page 8)	These are groups of people that are separate from the government that work to ensure people's human rights are upheld.
Global conference (page 8)	This is a large meeting that brings people together from all over the world to share information.
ILO Convention (page 10)	These are a set of laws that were founded to ensure people who are seeking jobs are well paid, well taken care of and are of the legal age (18 years old) in order to be working.
Convention (pg10)	These are guidelines that explain basic principles that are to be followed.
Employers (page 10)	This is a person or organization that hires people or a person to perform specified duties.
Member states (page 11)	This is a country that is part of an international organization.
Global vulnerabilities (page 12)	These are natural disasters that occur in the world like earthquakes, floods, outbreak of diseases e.t.c.

Let's have a look at each of the six topics in more detail!

1. Decent Work and Employment for Adults and Youth

If more adults and young people are in jobs which have good income and security, then children would not have to work because their families have enough money to pay for basic needs, for example, school fees. Which means: child labour will reduce so much. But what can the world do to help adults and young people get jobs which have good income, protection and security?





By creating a good environment for companies to grow, support and create opportunities for jobs which have good income and protection. Also young people need safe and healthy working conditions and enough salary for their needs.

By making efforts to promote and respect all principles and rights at work and end unfairness at work, by encouraging fairness and good conditions for everyone, whatever their gender, ethnicity or race.



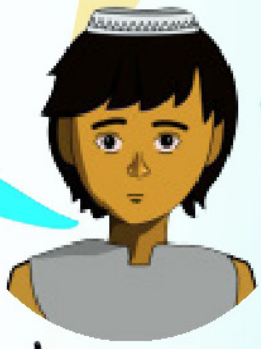


By checking out the risks of child labour and strengthening the prevention of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, which is selling of children or people to work somewhere else. The world should also support the protection of victims and survivors.

2. End child labour in agriculture



A lot of children are working in farms and that is why The Durban Call to Action has outlined plans that need to be taken without delay in order to end child labour in agriculture. Children who work in agriculture can be exposed to many dangers in the farms, such as:



- **Pesticides**, which are medicines used to control and kill insects that harm crops.



- **Poor farm hygiene** whereby machines, farm boots or even farming clothes are not cleaned well.



- working for many hours under the hot sun.



Such harmful working conditions cause poor health.



Governments of each country should help their farmers to be able to borrow money from the government and banks with low or no interest rates, so as to defeat the problem of worst debts that cause children to enter the worst forms of child labour.



Governments should also help farmers in creating modern machines to help them in their farms so that they can stop depending on children to work for them. This includes fishing, livestock herding, farming and many others.

Every government in each country should support the creation of good jobs in agriculture that have a good salary that is high enough to meet the family's needs and good security to youth, women and men equally.



Also, world leaders should work together with United Nations such as UNICEF and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) in setting plans to provide education, child protection and tackle child labour in agriculture.

Do you Know what UNICEF and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) does?



Well...UNICEF works in more than 190 countries in order to save children's lives and defend their rights, while FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) is working hard to improve nutrition and increase productivity in agriculture, which will raise the standard of living of rural people by having regular access to enough and good food.





It's trivia time!

1. What is child labour?

2. What are some of the reasons that forces children to engage in child labour?

3. What is the Durban Call to Action?

4. What is the Durban Call to Action doing to end child labour?

3. Use data and the experience from former child labourers to inform policy makers

So children who have been rescued from child labour can communicate with policy makers and share their experiences. Perhaps they can help in finding which situations put children at risk of being pulled into worst forms of child labour and how this can be prevented.





Yes, and research projects could note down these suggestions of children from different countries and then know if the risks are the same in all these countries. This can help to make better policy decisions.

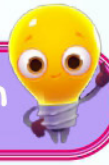
Wow, very impressive. This can also help the children that have been rescued. By sharing their experience and contributing to better solutions, perhaps they can also cope better with what they experienced and strengthen their skills!



Yes, I am sure that children currently involved in child labour also have important things to share too. Listening to them will help design and implement policies and practices to improve their lives.



4. Realise children's right to education



As we all may know, every child has a right to education. This includes free, fair and good basic education for every child. But do you know what happens when children are forced to work in farms, factories or any other place? Well, many leave their studies in order to work, and that is bad for their health and also their future...How can the Durban Call to Action help to improve this?



The Durban Call to Action is calling everyone to help remove obstacles that hold back quality and compulsory education for girls and boys.



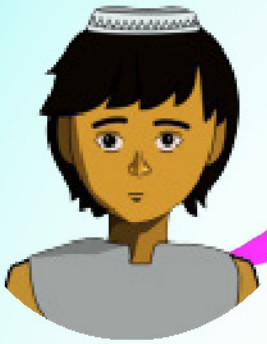


They are: lack of security, conflicts, differences between the offers made to girls and boys, high school fees and distance between schools and communities where children live.





Everyone including the governments must make sure that no child will be removed from schools. So action needs to be taken to give every child the opportunity to attend school to learn how to read and write. Good schools should be built and education should not cost money. Girls and children in vulnerable situations, including children with disabilities must also be able to go to school and get a good education.

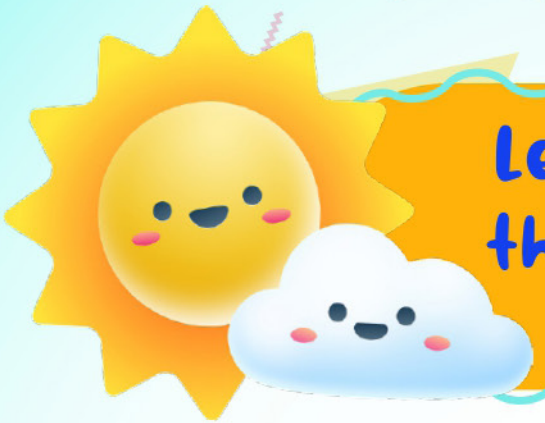


Also, all forms of violence and harassment in schools should be prevented, such as prohibiting physical punishment such as caning and flogging. As youth, they should choose to begin any training of what they want to do in life or continue with further education.





All governments should also make sure that children and young people are being supported when they move from school to work.



Let's write down all the words we didn't understand!

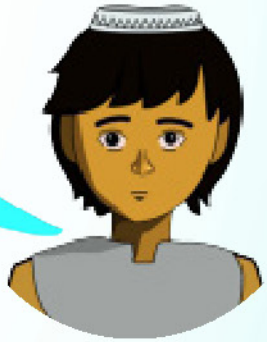
Word	Definition

5. Achieve access for all to systems that protect the poor

There are a lot of poor families around the world who want their children to do well in life, to be educated and protected. However, due to poverty some families may need their children to work to help their family survive and take care of one another. Which is not good for children. So how can the world help these families?



They can develop and make easy access to systems which protect the poor and those who are vulnerable. Such as making sure that everyone can get enough food, water, and medication when they are sick.





Poor countries should get support from countries that have money to make sure that the basic needs of children and their families are met. By improving the income that families can get from agriculture so that they do not need to rely on child labour.

Or by encouraging the payment of child benefits such as providing cash money directly to poor families and supporting programmes for children, especially those with special needs





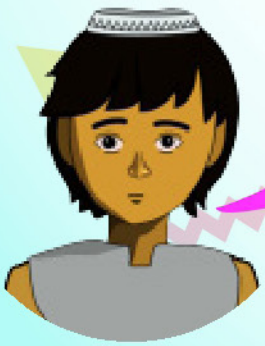
Or by improving systems to monitor how many children are in labour and if they or their families receive the support they need.

6. Provide more money and work together to end child labour



The **Durban Call to Action** also explains how joining hands with world leaders and getting more money and support from organisations and governments will make sure that child labour is ended.





Every government should raise funds for support programmes and make policies on child labour stronger and better.

Every government should make sure that all plans go in the direction of putting forward the needs and worries of their citizens in order to stop child labour and forced labour in the future especially in trading, agriculture, finance, work, economy, education and in the environment.





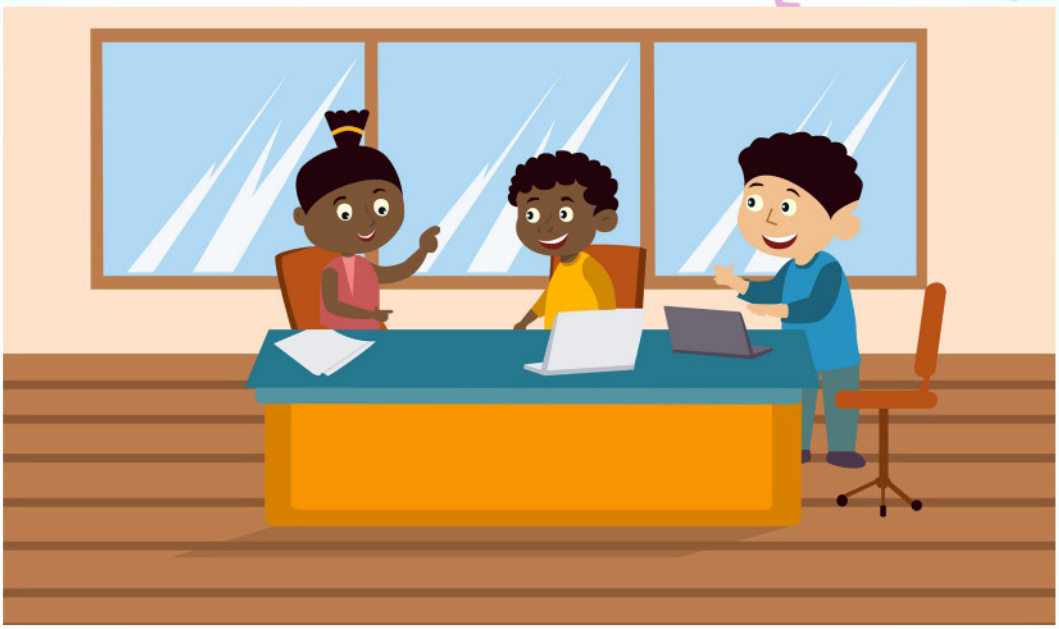


Every government and global financial institutions like banks should help poor countries to get a loan which they can pay for a long time without putting the future generation at risk, and governments should also make the ability of these countries stronger in fulfilling the needs of the current generation in order to eliminate child and forced labour.

Wow, that has been a lot of information. I know that we may be all tired but we are almost done! But first, let us do something fun.



Find the differences in the images!





So what do we do with all this information now? How can these ideas be put into practice to improve the lives of children?





Our governments can make good use of the country's laws and policies and take action against corruption and people who trade and abuse children and also make sure that every worker is protected and has a good medical cover. Governments should also collect information about child labour in their country and inform their people about it.



They should call on them to promote and support fairness between girls and boys, good education, child protection, good nutrition and cheap and good child care. Moreover, they should support fair and safe jobs for parents to ensure that their children do not need to work.

Moreover, it is important to work together! Governments, employers, workers and also members of the communities have agreed to strengthen and increase joint activities towards goal 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals {SDG}, which also speaks about ending child labour in all its forms.





What are these goals?



The Sustainable Development Goals include 17 goals that are supposed to be met by the year 2030. All 17 goals affect children's lives in one way or another. This includes ending all forms of child labour and forced labour by year 2025. This means that by 2025 no child should be forced to work. We know that there is not much time left to realise this. So if we fail, we need to develop a new Action Plan beyond 2030.



Let's learn the meaning of some hard words!

Word	Definition
Policy (page 22)	This is a set of rules that an organization comes up with so as to achieve the objectives set by the organization.
Vulnerable situations (page 24)	This is a state where a person or people are in a situation that requires assistance from other people.
Flogging (page 25)	This is a beating where a person is hit with a whip or rod.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) (page 33)	These are 17 objectives that were put in place by United Nations member states so as to achieve global health and education, reduce racial inequality and to encourage economic growth.

I heard that also the International Labour Organisation plays a key role in making the promises of the Durban Call to Action real. This is the organisation that organised the conference in South Africa.





Government representatives from different countries, workers, children and employers contributed to develop this document. The Durban Call to Action is also calling on all governments and the world to respect children's right to be heard. Children should be allowed to participate and express their thoughts and views freely in every concern that is or may affect them.

It seems we all have a lot to do to make sure that the Durban Call to Action is put into practice! Let's go for it!











ACTION BOX

How can children help to implement the Durban Call to Action?

Children themselves can take many steps to help improve their situation. For example:

Activity	Achievement
Invite their fellow children to a meeting and discuss main causes of why children are pulled into child labour and how these problems can be addressed. Then after that, they can make a list of potential solutions and discuss what they consider to be most important.	
Identify the people that can help implement the solutions that you have in mind. These can be parents or caregivers, teachers, employers, local authorities, police officers or also traditional and religious leaders.	

If possible, ask the key people for a meeting to discuss your suggestions and identify next steps together with them	
You can also try to raise awareness in your community or school by developing a creative piece such as a theatre play, a comic, a song or a dance. You can easily transport your message in these creative ways.	
Invite your community to a public event on the **World Day against Child Labour**, the **12th of June** to inform them about child labour and the solutions that you have in mind!	

Please only take these actions if you and your peers are sure that this does not cause any risk for you or your families!

RAISE YOUR HAND FOR CHILDREN!!!



