



WORKING TO END CHILD LABOR

They are everywhere but invisible, toiling as domestic servants in homes, laboring in workshops, hidden from view in plantations. **One in six** children in the world aged 5–14 is engaged in child labor. Millions of children are engaged in hazardous situations or conditions, such as working in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture, or working with dangerous machinery. The worst forms of child labor include those that harm the health, safety, or morals of children. Child labor drains a childhood of joy and crushes the right to normal physical and mental development, and often interferes with children’s education.

Working children are more at risk of illness and injury on the job than adults, because they are less mature and less aware of dangers. Working children do not have the same opportunities for rest and recreation and often receive less education than nonworking children do.¹

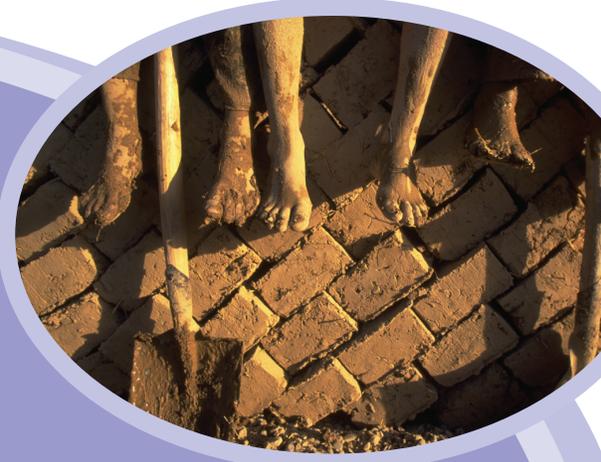
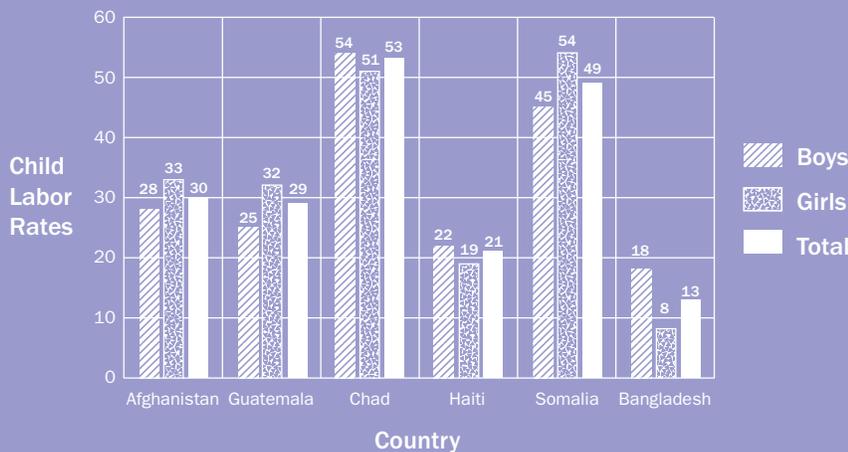
LEARN MORE
 about child labor and other global issues at www.teachunicef.org.

- 1) What do you think the writer means when saying, “They are everywhere but invisible...”?

- 2) List three things that a child laborer has *less* time for because of his or her work.
 - a).....
 - b).....
 - c).....

Child Labor Statistics²

Worldwide Child Labor



- Which country has the highest total rate of child labor?
- Which has the lowest total rate of child labor?
- Which country has the second lowest rate of girls affected by child labor?
- Which country has the second highest rate of boys affected by child labor?
- What is the total average child labor rate of all six of the countries?



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Tackling the Problem

Fill in the missing words in the following paragraph with the words from the list at right.

Providing safe, _____ and high-quality education encourages families to send working children to _____. However, education programs for working children must take into account the fact that these children often provide essential _____ for their families. Classes that are designed around the _____ of working children or that provide _____ to families for lost income help children pursue learning without jeopardizing the financial _____ of the family.

stipends
schedules
income
school
accessible
security



Ensuring that all children go to school and that their education is of good quality are keys to preventing child labor.



DID YOU KNOW?

- 150 million children 5–14 years old are engaged in child labor.³
- Boys are more likely to be engaged in child labor than girls because they are more likely to be engaged in economic activity.³
- Those burdened with household chores are overwhelmingly girls.³
- 30 percent of all children are engaged in child labor in the least developed countries.³

What Is UNICEF Doing?

Here are just a few of the things UNICEF is doing to end child labor:

- **Improving laws:** UNICEF urges governments to pass laws to stop child labor.
- **Making sure all children get an education:** UNICEF works with governments to make sure all children go to free, good-quality schools.
- **Raising awareness:** UNICEF assists community members and the media in raising awareness of the dangers of child labor and how it violates children’s rights.

What Can You Do?

- Write an article for the school newspaper or a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
- Create a podcast or a webpage for your school or class website.



Answers

Tackling the Problem: 1. accessible; 2. school; 3. income; 4. schedules; 5. stipends; 6. security
Child Labor Graphic: 1. Chad; 2. Bangladesh; 3. Haiti; 4. Somalia; 5. 32.5

Sources

1. www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index_focus_exploitation.html
2. Adapted from *The State of the World's Children report, 2008*, Table 9. Child Protection, pp. 146–147.
3. www.childinfo.org/labour.html