



# To accelerate the elimination of child labor in the fishing sector in Africa' Emerging good practices in the fight against the worst forms of child labor in the fishing and aquaculture sectors



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Casablanca 28 Feb 2024



# Introduction



- ❑ The fishing sector
  - ❑ is notorious for severe decent work deficits and
  - ❑ has come under scrutiny over the past years for **the use of forced labour and child labour**, as well as **links to human traffickers and people smugglers**
- ❑ The fight against the exploitation of children is universal, and draws together a wide variety of actors and nations
- ❑ There are a growing number of initiatives to tackle the problem at every level (local, national, regional and international)
- ❑ Individuals, civil society organizations, governments, parliaments, trade unions, international organizations and industries supporting these initiatives constitute a de-facto alliance and a full and varied spectrum of activities should indeed be encouraged



# The European Union's approach



- ❑ The European Commission set out a 'zero tolerance policy on child labour' for every new trade agreement with the highest standards of climate, environmental and labour protection
- ❑ The aim is to bring sustainable development to the center of the bilateral trading relationship
- ❑ Accordingly, the EU is currently reviewing its due diligence legislation throughout the supply chain on human rights, environmental impacts, as well as child labour
- ❑ The legislation would affect partnerships agreements with producing countries and set out time-bound-measurable and enforceable roadmaps
- ❑ The EU's external assistance also contributes to reduce child labour through various thematic and geographic programs, bilateral and regional cooperation



# What the does the EU do to end child labour?



- 1 -

- ❑ Helps strengthen the capacities of partner countries in better designing and improving the regulatory and legislative framework and policy implementation.
  - ❑ This also facilitates the effective implementation of the ILO Conventions
- ❑ Supports employment and labour protection policies and strengthens community prevention mechanisms and social support structures that are instrumental to improve family livelihoods



Effective implementation of the ILO child labour Conventions is a must so that no child is left behind.

Universal ratification of the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (C182).







# What the does the EU do to end child labour?



-2-

- ❑ **Supports** local governments, public service providers, and other relevant stakeholders to **take effective action to combat child labour**
  - ❑ The EU also **supports the programs of international organizations**
- ❑ **Promotes** strategic and comprehensive interventions addressing the **root causes of child labour in value chains**, in particular through projects in cocoa, cotton, garment, mining and fisheries sectors
- ❑ **Promotes** youth employment and partnerships in the area of **traineeships and apprenticeship** systems to provide young people with the skills required to **ease their transition from education to the labour market**
- ❑ **Promotes** access to **quality and inclusive education** by reaching out to marginalized children and **those in vulnerable situations**



2021 International Year on the elimination of Child Labour



# The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child

*In the framework of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child the European Commission will:*

- allocate 10% of humanitarian aid and funding to education in emergencies and protracted crises
- maintain a zero tolerance policy for child labour
- support efforts towards affordable and accessible healthcare, healthy nutrition, psycho-social support, education and leisure activities
- seek to address domestic and gender-based violence, and harmful practices against women and girls
- strengthen integrated child protection systems
- support the training of justice professionals on child-friendly justice
- work with the Council of Europe to implement their 2010 guidelines on child-friendly justice





# EU normative framework



- ❑ EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child
- ❑ EU Action Plan on Democracy and Human Rights
- ❑ EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection on the Rights of the Child (2017)
- ❑ EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- ❑ EU Directive on the protection of young people at work (94/33/EC)
- ❑ EU Council Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict (2003)
- ❑ European Consensus on Development
- ❑ European Commission - Political Guidelines 2019-2024

# Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labor

## Action point 2: End child labor in agriculture

- ❑ During the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labor, which took place in Durban, South Africa from 15 to 20 May 2022, speakers at a high-level panel on agriculture addressed the roots of child labor in this sector and how serious the situation is
- ❑ Speakers agreed that agriculture needs cross-sectoral solutions, which include
  - ❑ social protection,
  - ❑ women's empowerment, and
  - ❑ collaboration between ministries
- ❑ Delegates adopted the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labor, published on June 8th.
- ❑ The document has a specific section related to **ending child labor in agriculture**







# Immediate and effective measures



- 1 -

To achieve that goal, there are eight immediate and effective measures to take:

- ❑ increasing investment in the economic and social development of rural areas as a strategy for reducing poverty, recognizing that the elimination of child labor is an essential prerequisite for decent work in the sector and can contribute to sustainable food systems
- ❑ facilitating increased access to finance and credit, including for smallholder farmers, particularly in Africa, to promote investment and innovation
- ❑ creating mechanisms to improve the labor conditions of smallholder and family farms in order to end their functional dependence on child labor, as well as of families who earn their livelihood in fishing, forestry and livestock herding, and to secure adequate incomes for small producers and owner-operators, through, for example, increasing productivity and supporting diversification; supporting, in line with relevant ILO instruments including:
  - ❑ the Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193)
  - ❑ the establishment and functioning of cooperatives, as well as representative organizations of small producers



# Immediate and effective measures



-2-

- ❑ adopting an action plan to eliminate obstacles to the establishment, growth and the pursuit of their lawful activities of organizations of rural workers, to give agricultural workers a role in economic and social development, in line with **ILO Rural Workers' Organizations Convention, 1975 (No. 141)**, in law and in practice
- ❑ ensuring the participation of agriculture-related ministries and other agricultural stakeholders, including employers' organizations and workers' organizations, in national policy and legislative frameworks and action plans, and cooperation between agricultural extension services and labor inspection and other relevant authorities;
- ❑ enabling and encouraging, through regulatory measures and other approaches, agricultural stakeholders and communities
  - ❑ to adopt safe agricultural practices and
  - ❑ to eliminate or minimize work-related hazards and risks, including exposure to harmful substances, such as hazardous pesticides
  - ❑ promote increased availability of more efficient and safer machinery, equipment and tools, and employing the use of sustainable technologies in order to improve **occupational safety and health and eliminate the need for child labor**



# Immediate and effective measures



-3-

- **strengthening agricultural labor markets and creating decent work opportunities for youth, women and men and supporting innovative vocational education and training in agri-food production and processing services;**
- **improving data collection and collaborating with relevant United Nations Agencies such UNICEF and the FAO, to jointly progress towards the elimination of child labor in agriculture, including in fisheries and aquaculture and supporting the 2020 FAO Framework on Ending Child Labor in Agriculture and the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labor in Agriculture**



# How to stop child labor

- 1 -



Stopping child labor requires a multi-faceted and comprehensive approach:

## 1. Education:

- ✓ Promote and improve accessibility, quantity, and quality of education to discourage child labor

## 2. Awareness:

- ✓ Educate individuals about child labor issues
- ✓ Engage with businesses to encourage responsible practices in supply chains.

## 3. Fair Trade Practices:

- ✓ Support fair trade products and companies committed to ethical production.

## 4. Government and Civil Society Involvement:

- ✓ Advocate for strong government policies against child labor.
- ✓ Collaborate with civil society organizations to implement effective measures

## 5. Living Wage:

- ✓ Work towards paying a living wage to address poverty, a significant driver of child labor





# How to stop child labor

## -2-



### 6. Discourage Employment of Children:

- ✓ Sensitize trade organizations and discourage the employment of children in various settings.

### 7. Financial Support:

- ✓ Contribute to reputable organizations working globally to protect children from labor and exploitation.

### 8. Child Sponsorship:

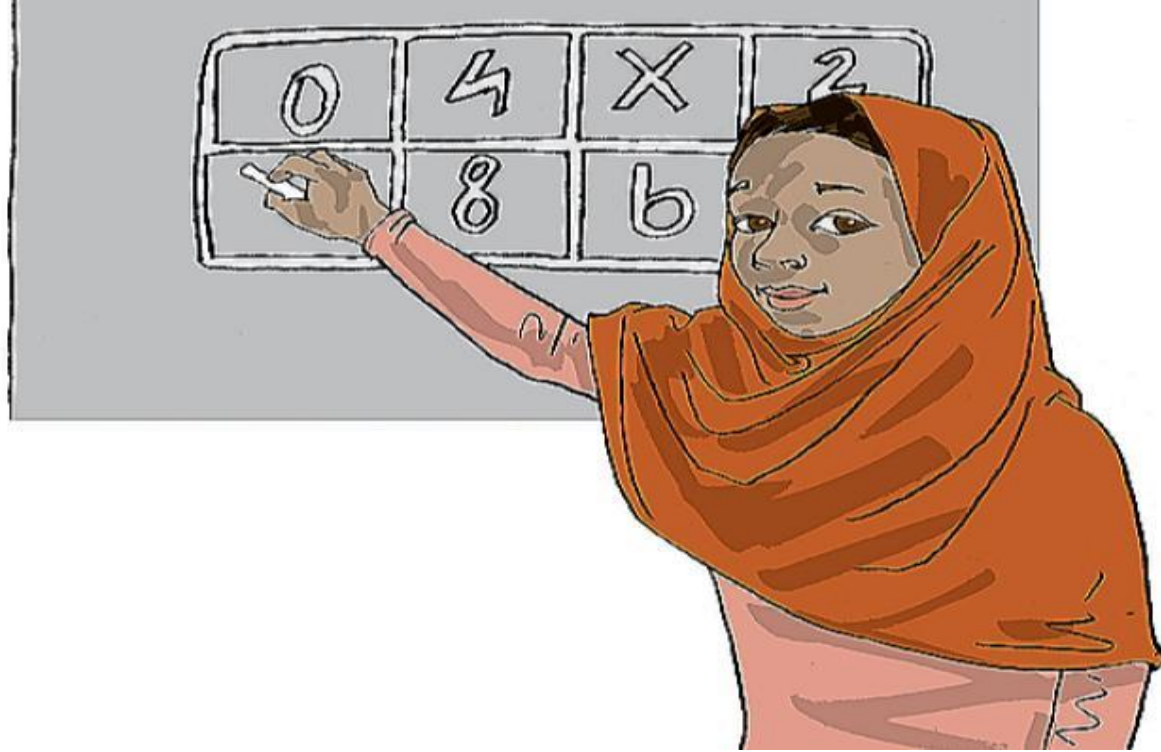
- ✓ Sponsor a child to support their education and overall well-being.

### 9. Ethical Investments:

- ✓ Assess the ethical impact of investments to discourage support for companies exploiting child labor

### 10. Certification Initiatives:

- ✓ Advocate for a universal labeling initiative certifying products free from child labor



**By combining these strategies, individuals, businesses, governments, and civil society can collectively work towards eradicating child labor and building a fair, just, and compassionate society**



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**THANK YOU**

