Millions of children work to help their families in ways that are neither harmful nor exploitative. However, UNICEF estimates that around 150 million children aged 5-14 in developing countries, about 16 percent of all children in this age group, are involved in child labor. The International Labor Organization estimates that throughout the world, around 215 million children under 18 works, many full-time. In Sub Saharan African 1 in 4 children aged 5-17 work, compared to 1 in 8 in Asia Pacific and 1 in 10 in Latin America. Although aggregate numbers suggest that more boys than girls are involved in child labor, many of the types of work girls are involved in are invisible. It is estimated that roughly 90 per cent of children involved in domestic labor are girls. Even though the prevalence of child labor has been falling in recent years everywhere apart from Sub Saharan Africa where it is actually increasing with regard to children aged 5-14, it continues to harm the physical and mental development of children and adolescents and interfere with their education

Child labor reinforces intergenerational cycles of poverty, undermines national economies and impedes achieving progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. It is not only a cause, but also a consequence of social inequities reinforced by discrimination. Children from indigenous groups (non-western, native born peoples) or lower castes are more likely to drop out of school to work. Migrant children are also vulnerable to hidden and illicit labor.

Global Child Labor Violations

Placard J



