

# ILO

*Advanced  
Specialized*



**TOPICS:** Combating Human Trafficking in the Informal Labor Force, Addressing Child Labor in Latin America

**CHAIRS:** Ella Claire Interian, Joaquin Orquiola

LAIMUN XXIX

*December 2-3*

# ☛ LAIMUN XXIX ☛

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## Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXIX of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXIX will take place on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 of 2023 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 120 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 24 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, November 30 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Akash Mishra and Lily Stern  
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXIX  
[secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org)



## Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates!

My name is Aidan Tacinelli and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXIX! In my fourth and final year of Model UN at Mira Costa, I am the Under Secretary-General of the Specialized Branch, and I cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

In the Specialized Branch, we have selected extremely current and pressing topics that will require research and preparedness. Be sure to bring your creative solutions, accurate country policy, and active enthusiasm to each of your respective committees. All of our chairs are excited to see the level of debate brought about by delegates, and are ready to accommodate you in any way that they can.

With that being said, we want to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas and form solutions as a community. Please do your part in being respectful to other delegates and your chairs. Every staff member is held to a high level of professionalism, which you can return by dressing appropriately and following LAIMUN's guidelines.

We do not tolerate plagiarism or pre-written resolutions in any aspect. If any delegate is found to have plagiarized on their position paper, resolutions, or even speeches, they will be disqualified from receiving committee awards.

Don't forget to submit your position papers, prepare your speaking, and print out any papers you may need.

I can't wait to see each committee's resolutions and the passion that comes along with them. If you have any questions, you can reach me at [specialized@mchsmun.org](mailto:specialized@mchsmun.org)! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXIX website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of luck,

Lily Stern and Akash Mishra  
Secretaries-General

Aidan Tacinelli  
Under-Secretary General

## Introduction to the Dias

Hi Delegates!

My name is Ella Claire Interian and I am a senior at Mira Costa High School. I am super excited to be one of your chairs for LAIMUN'S Advanced ILO committee! I have been a part of the Mira Costa Model UNited Nations program for the past 4 years and have loved debating in places such as Chicago and New York. MUN has strengthened my public speaking skills, expanded my knowledge of current events throughout our international community, and allowed me to meet great people.

Outside of MUN, I am on the Varsity Mira Costa Dance Team, ASB's Public Relations Commissioner, and on Legacy Dance Academy's Senior Elite Competition team. I have been dancing since I was 5 and plan to join a dance team in college. Another fun fact about me is I have a twin brother, Brody, and we don't know which of us is older. I also love going to the beach, watching sunsets, pilates and yoga class, hanging out with friends, and traveling!

This year in LAIMUN's Advanced ILO, I will be looking forward to accurate and detailed country policies, in-depth and creative solutions with well-researched information, and the understanding of several subtopics and the topic on an international scale. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Yours truly,

Ella Claire Interian

# ΦΨ LAIMUN XXIX ΦΨ

Hello Delegates!

My name is Joaquin Orquiola and I will be one of your co-chairs for Advanced ILO! I am in my junior year and I have been in the MUN program since freshman year. Throughout these three years, I have been to many local and travel conferences, some including Yale and UC Davis. Last year at LAIMUN, I was on the dais for UNESCO Novice and I loved running committee, which is why I am so excited to be a chair again this year for all of you.

Outside of Model UN, I am on the Mira Costra Track and Field team where I run the 100, 200, and long jump. I have been on track since freshman year and plan to continue with it all four years. I am also in Link Crew here at Costa which has been a great experience getting more connected to the school and helping out new students. Outside of school, I work at a restaurant called Zane's in Hermosa Beach. I have been working there for a couple months now and I am a host/food runner. I have met a lot of great people and it pays well! Some of my hobbies include going to the beach, hanging out with friends, going to concerts, and eating good food!

During debate, I am looking forward to a large range of solutions considering these topics have aspects in common with each other. I expect speaking to be clear, concise, and assertive considering this is an advanced debate. As a chair, knowing how to maintain good content while also being able to display that information well is crucial. I am looking forward to chairing this conference and seeing all of the interesting things you guys will bring to the table! If you have any questions please email us!

Sincerely,

Joaquin Orquiola

## Committee Description

Migrant labor, and its resulting consequences, is not as heavily addressed throughout the international community. In fact, the only United Nations body that is truly addressing this issue, particularly in reference to the World Cup taking place in Qatar in 2022, is the International Labor Organization. This supranational organization is wholly dedicated to the privileges of laborers, whether it be through trafficking, child labor, or simply a repression of workers' rights, and thus, has attended to the current matter in the Middle East.<sup>1</sup>

After World War I, countries were distraught, and many were left with major labor unrest. Therefore, beginning in 1919 with the Treaty of Versailles, the International Labor Organization was founded as an autonomous body. It has since played a vital role throughout the international community, creating and frequently amending guidelines through its various committees. The ILO was created to enable laborers, employers, and governments to be equally represented, and therefore, it remains unique among supranational organizations.

In addition to decreasing the chaos and stigma toward organized labor, such as unions, the ILO was established to institute international social and labor standards. Prior to its founding, labor conventions were not internationally ratified or even recognized, so the organization changed the lack of enforcement and unity internationally to become much more effective in its goal. Conventions became regular, and the tripartism enabled nations to compromise on every document, improving the ratification rate of vital documents. Since its creation, the International Labor Organization has managed to adopt almost two hundred labor conventions, and set a

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<sup>1</sup> "The Nobel Peace Prize 1969." *NobelPrize.org*, [www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1969/labour/history/](http://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1969/labour/history/).

similar number of guidelines. In creating a universal set of standards, the ILO is able to cover basic human rights, including the reduction of forced labor and discrimination, as well as the freedom to assemble.

Additionally, the ILO may provide technological aid to developing nations in dire need of assistance. Resources dedicated to this task are spread throughout four areas of concentration, including the development of human resources and social institutions, planning and promoting employment, and setting conditions for work and general life of laborers. In order to achieve these four main goals, the organization created the World Employment Program, which helps provide basic training and employment opportunities for developing states.

The third and final task of the International Labor Organization involves the research aspect of the body. This includes training, education, and publications, as the ILO is the source of many documents and official papers on both labor and social areas of concern. While this may seem to be a trivial or unimportant aspect of the ILO, research is the foundation of the ILO's work, and must therefore be pursued and constantly updated.<sup>2</sup>

As the International Labor Organization nears its centenary, it continues to be an ambitious body, focusing on providing decent work for all, while ensuring societies enable access to these efforts. Thus, it has established the Global Commission on the Future of Work, which researches and subsequently delivers social justice globally.<sup>3</sup> As the workforce

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<sup>2</sup> "The International Labour Organization (ILO) - Creation." *Encyclopedia of the Nations*, [www.nationsencyclopedia.com/United-Nations-Related-Agencies/The-International-Labour-Organization-ILO-CREATION.html](http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/United-Nations-Related-Agencies/The-International-Labour-Organization-ILO-CREATION.html).

<sup>3</sup> "Global Commission on the Future of Work." *Global Commission on the Future of Work*, 14 Aug. 2017, [www.ilo.org/global/topics/future-of-work/WCMS\\_569528/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/future-of-work/WCMS_569528/lang--en/index.htm).



modernizes, and technology becomes a priority in labor, the world and its workers must adapt to the changing circumstances. The Declaration outlines various solutions to different aspects of this issue, concerning elements from investment into industries and individuals to providing protection for workers.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>“ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019.” *Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019*, [www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/mission-and-objectives/centenary-declaration/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/mission-and-objectives/centenary-declaration/lang--en/index.htm).

## Topic A: Combating Human Trafficking in the Informal Labor Force

### I. Background:

Throughout the international community, human trafficking is a rigor issue to address and solve. Human trafficking is frequently a practice for forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation, and is a major issue worldwide. The multifaceted issue of human trafficking is defined as the transfer and transport of humans through violent courses of action for various reasons, coming about through exploitation from large groups. Modern trafficking that has been recognized as primary forms are the use of forced labor and sex trafficking. Sex trafficking comes along with forced labor and vast issues in the informal labor force. However, Forced labor is a widespread concern which typically corresponds with economic motives to exploit labor services that can be committed in a long range of sectors. Globally, human trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise based on profiting alone, with traffickers and their groups said to generate over 150 billion dollars per year.<sup>5</sup> The profits organizations make off of this practice increasingly grows because of low risk for punishment and increasing demand - therefore an increase in money. The scale and range of traffickers is vast, seeing it can include criminal rings but also legal corporations. Certain trends have shown that traffickers usually need someone who

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<sup>5</sup>“Who Are Human Traffickers?” *Human Rights First*, 10 Nov. 2022. [humanrightsfirst.org/library/who-are-human-traffickers/](https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/library/who-are-human-traffickers/).

is considered an enabler to conduct the flow of business by providing goods and services, therefore allowing for these crimes to be committed.

The informal economy is a term describing those who engage in productive or economic activity that is not verified or registered through the government. The informal market is on a large scale of economic activity, ranging from home renovation groups to street vendors, which are all quasi-legal and fall under the unregulated economy due to of paid taxes. Similar employment opportunities contribute to over 2 billion people or 60 percent of the adult labor force who participate in some form of unregulated labor.<sup>6</sup> The main causes of the informality in this sector are centered around the economic situation and context of the respective country. Along with this, frameworks implemented through these countries on a subordinate level exacerbates levels of financial inability, poor education, and discrimination. With this number only growing, the informal market is a difficult sector to measure. The methods of clarification are primarily categorized into two methods, direct and indirect. The direct method is followed through surveys and compliant methods while the indirect method focuses on continuous characteristics and patterns throughout unregulated business trends.

Despite the uncertainty of this market, it is crucial in the development of international economies. This field promotes the diversity of professions and occupations, with the informal sector takes up 70% of employment and accounts for a third of the GDP in developing economies.<sup>7</sup> The popularity of activity with large informality shows trends that correspond with

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<sup>6</sup>“Five Things to Know about the Informal Economy.” *IMF*, 28 July 2021, [www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/07/28/na-072821-five-things-to-know-about-the-informal-economy](http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/07/28/na-072821-five-things-to-know-about-the-informal-economy).

<sup>7</sup>*The Challenges of Informality*, [blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/challenges-informality](https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/challenges-informality). Accessed 15 June 2023.

poverty, low productivity, and little to no economic growth. As of 2010-2017, the largest rates of participation of the informal sector fall in regions in sub-saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.<sup>8</sup> The growing number poses a threat to enterprises and balanced competition which leads to a detrimental effect on an equitable economy. At the same time, 90 percent of micro-enterprises (MSEs) represent businesses worldwide. However, it is said that these outweigh the positives, and in order to move towards a sustainable market and promote financial development, more people need to be employed in the regulated economy.

With the effects of Covid-19, the practice of modern slavery has seen a large escalation of informality in the economy. An estimated 110 million jobs were globally dissolved from 2019 to the end of 2020<sup>9</sup>. This led to an uncontrollable amount of employment, but during this time, a survey from the World Bank stated that workers with tractable jobs were less likely to become unemployed. This means that jobs that are flexible and able to efficiently transfer to telework were able to retain their status of employment. Specifically pertaining to countries in Latin America, those who kept their job saw their annual income drop an estimated 30 percent. After mass layoffs from large corporations, social protection that was placed onto those informal workers seemingly disappeared, making it difficult for the sectors of informality to recover from the economic downturn. During the Covid-19 pandemic, approximately 40% of the population in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) with significant informal employment

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<sup>8</sup> *Latin American and Caribbean Competition Forum - OECD*, [one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP/LACF\(2018\)8/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP/LACF(2018)8/en/pdf). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>9</sup> *The Human Capital Project - World Bank*, [openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/9b478ffa-2027-5290-bb62-816f6d385027/content](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/9b478ffa-2027-5290-bb62-816f6d385027/content). Accessed 15 June 2023.

would fall below the poverty line if they had to pay for healthcare services directly from their own pockets.<sup>10</sup> The rising price for Covid hospitalization made it difficult for financial stability which forced masses of people to flood into the informal economy.

With the participation of the informal workforce comes a large flexibility, leading to unproductive and dangerous conditions such as the unprotection of labor laws, extended working hours, and low wages. The most prominent method and occurrence of human trafficking comes with the issue of forced labor in the informal economy. For example, women who are employed in domestic and gendered jobs with a staff of predominantly women are susceptible to these crimes. This includes places such as hair and nail salons that are common in developing areas because of poor working hours, along with exposure due to lack of clothing that protects them.

Along with that, the substandard gender-based laws that protect women in the labor force and the lack of diverse occupations for women put them at a natural disadvantage. These issues have shined light on trends such as the fluctuating flow of migration, sexual violence, and fear of deportation. These schemes are commonly found in involuntary work because of a vast range of punishments or consequences are placed upon victims- such as various methods of coercion, physical violence, and physiological effects.

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<sup>10</sup>Ohnsorge, Franziska, et al. "The Informal Sector: Compounding the Damage of Covid-19." *CEPR*, 27 Jan. 2022, [cepr.org/voxeu/columns/informal-sector-compounding-damage-covid-19](https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/informal-sector-compounding-damage-covid-19).

The trends regarding the reasons are differently seen for men and women, as 83 percent of females were trafficked for sexual exploitation while 82 percent of men were trafficked for forced labor.<sup>11</sup>

## **II. United Nations Involvement:**

The United Nations is extremely dedicated to the halting of human trafficking, specifically in the informal labor force. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, against Trafficking in Persons is one of the foremost pieces of legislation to address and control human trafficking. This additionally establishes the global international definition of “trafficking in person”.<sup>12</sup> Currently, 121 nations have signed the new UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and 80 nations have signed its subsidiary protocols. This document was a combined effort of the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), recognizes the primary issue that “Many governments are still in

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<sup>11</sup>*Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Forced Labour - United Nations*, [icat.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1461/files/publications/20-02107\\_icat\\_brief\\_9\\_ebook.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/cat.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1461/files/publications/20-02107_icat_brief_9_ebook.pdf). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>12</sup>United Nations. *Special Treaty Event Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000)*. 2000.

denial. There is even neglect when it comes to either reporting on or prosecuting cases of human trafficking.”<sup>13</sup>

The preamble to the 2011 International Labor Organization Domestic Workers Convention notes how the sector of domestic work is often underrepresented, but presents extreme risks when the workers are victims of human trafficking. The ILO also recognizes the severity of this issue upon women, as they have detected that 80 percent of domestic workers forced in the informal labor source by human trafficking are women. ILO sees the primary exploitive economic sectors to be domestic work, construction work, fishing industries, agricultural sectors, catering and food delivery, street trading, and mining.

South African human trafficking has been a sector of United Nations focus for preventing human trafficking in the informal labor force. The lack of legislation in this nation creates an environment more susceptible to human trafficking, especially for women and children. The UN Committee on the rights of the Child urges the county to stabilize law enforcement and improve the current inadequate legislation for persecuting offenders of human trafficking.

UNICEF pronounced June 16, 2007 as the Day of the African Child to increase efforts to terminate human trafficking. Statistics show Sub-Saharan African countries target girls and boys for the purpose of forced labor.<sup>14</sup> However, globally, the UNODC records from 106 countries,

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<sup>13</sup> ““Denial and Neglect Undermine the Fight against Human Trafficking”, Says UNODC Director.” *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2009/February/2009-02.12.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2009/February/2009-02.12.html).

<sup>14</sup>*United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, [www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP\\_2020\\_Chapter5.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_Chapter5.pdf). Accessed 15 June 2023.

that 28 percent of victims for forced labor are men, 26 percent for women, 21 percent for young boys, and 15 percent young girls.

The ILO-published Global Estimates of Modern Slavery records that out of nearly 50 million people living in human trafficking conditions, 22 million were in nonconsensual labor and 28 million were forced into the informal labor force. Furthermore, the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), created March 2007, was established to spread awareness of human trafficking while simultaneously improving the current global regulations. UN.GIFT was implemented in areas such as Brazil in October 2007 to tackle the complex issue of human trafficking. Additionally, UN.GIFT organized the February 2008 Vienna Forum, gaining participation from 116 countries, with goals to increase cooperation and implement partnerships within the global community.

### **III. Topics to Consider:**

#### **A. Forced Labor**

The connection between poverty and discrimination aligns with the conditions of forced labor in the informal economy through the consistent exploitation of these workers. Citizens in need of work are manipulated into labor that disproportionately outweighs the sum of their labor. In certain instances, depending on severity and prominence of trafficking organizations, armed guards have routinely monitored the flow of forced work. Despite this practice, the suppression of marginalized groups where opportunity and the ability of decision-making is nonexistent. A majority of countries where this occurs have legislation placed against this act but most nations lack enforcement because of corruption in government and law enforcement.



In relation to this, bonded labor is an issue that follows the issue of debt repayment inside of forced labor. A standard example of bonded labor is through seasoned labor in the agricultural sector in traditional feudal relationships. The laborer who is hired for a short period is often replaced for debt protection or security against a loan. Over 660,000 people in Sub-saharan Africa live in debt bondage while 260,000 reside in the Middle East<sup>15</sup>. However, the people that are widely active in debt restitution are indigenous groups coming from low caste denominations of Nepal and India. This further fuels these traditional patterns of bonded labor in forced work.

## B. Sexual Exploitation

In the informal economy, women are stated to participate less than half compared to all employment, but in 55% of countries, their presence is greater<sup>16</sup>. Women have considerably inferior opportunities when in relation to men. A majority of the opportunities for women are domestic employment and fall under the category of being family workers. These are groups of people who worked in a regulated profession under a relative. They received the lowest rate of payment, generally being unpaid, or they receive profit from their familial status. In Brazil, a survey was conducted where 366 domestic workers were asked if they had ever experienced any form of sexual harassment. To no surprise, 27% of them had experienced sexual harassment in

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<sup>15</sup>*Forced Labour - OECD*, [www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/44896368.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/44896368.pdf). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>16</sup> *Protection of Workers' Personal Data: General Principles*, [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms\\_844343.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_844343.pdf). Accessed 15 June 2023.

their career of work<sup>17</sup>. In spite of that, more people did not respond or answer truthfully because of social stigmas regarding the employment of females in EMDEs.

The nature of informality leads to the disregard of male behavior and persecution towards female co-workers. A lot of these cases of sexual exploitation fall under the category of mediocre organization and structure of working atmospheres. The main reason is the lack of attentiveness regarding worker's relationships, as through trends it is seen that the idea behind power superiority leads to a reasoning of excuse. Along with that, domestic workers are consciously working to get out-of-pocket payments that cover basic needs for a family. Therefore leads, to these domestic workers most likely not calling out their employers who give them financial assistance and support in the first place. Rather, they will continue to work with them out of the fear of financial consequences if they were to speak up against these crimes of sexual exploitation.

In correlation with the issue of debt bondage labor's prominence in the agricultural setting of the economy, this furthers women's risk at sexual violence. Similar to other methods used by traffickers, sexual abuse is practiced to compel domestic workers for more labor. People working specifically in the informal agricultural setting are often not applicable to the labor laws implemented through the weak agendas of corrupt countries. Thus, this further elevates women's risk at sexual exploitation and leaves them with no protection surrounding labor laws.

### C. Transition into Formal Economy

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<sup>17</sup>*Global Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality & the ... - Headquarters*, [www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Gender-mainstreaming-Strategy-for-achieving-gender-equality-and-empowerment-of-women-girls-en.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Gender-mainstreaming-Strategy-for-achieving-gender-equality-and-empowerment-of-women-girls-en.pdf). Accessed 15 June 2023.

The conversion of the informal economy to the formal economy is a difficult process to address and measure. The International Labor Organization gave a summary and an encompassing framework to grasp the understanding of this transition. It attempts to create an understanding for certain sectors, social protection, and types of informality. For larger enterprises and corporations, the verification of this transition falls under the legal recognition and required agenda for the legitimate governmental agenda. In underdeveloped regions with high informality, businesses often manipulate the informal economy to promote themselves without facing government regulations. It is said that for every 1% increase in the regulation burden there is a 12% expansion of the unregulated economy. But, for employers not affiliated with large corporations, the requirements for validity in the formal sector include standard working conditions like quality hours, reasonable wages, and legal protection. Also, single workers are guaranteed social protection regarding social insurance and compliance with legal regulation and laws.

Informality does not only accompany developing nations, but also other countries with sustainable economies. The informal economy is estimated to generate about 18.4% of the gross domestic product in the European Union and averaging about 8.6% amongst other developed nation such as Japan, the United States, and Canada<sup>18</sup>. The transition of sizable enterprises into the formal economy benefits governmental frameworks. The importance of this transition allows for a better grasp for governments to maintain a stable economy through national competition in

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<sup>18</sup>*A in the Balance - International Labour Organization*, [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---actrav/documents/publication/wcms\\_722482.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---actrav/documents/publication/wcms_722482.pdf). Accessed 15 June 2023.

markets. The recession from Covid-19 will be greatly improved after the growth of the formal economy, because of the government's aim to shift focus from helping people under the poverty line for basic necessities, to topics regarding the redevelopment of the international economy.

#### D. Legislation

Human Trafficking in the informal labor force is often referred to as “the economy of coercion.” In 2018, the United Nations recognized that trafficking for forced labor cumulates to around 38 percent of total human trafficking cases.<sup>19</sup> The lack of sufficient legislation is a major issue in the informal labor market, because it is extremely difficult to address. There is a desperate need for improved labor inspections of all economic sectors and companies throughout the international community. Traffickers avoid labor regulations by separating their victims into remote areas.<sup>20</sup> Offenders even use an “invisibility tactic” such as catching fish in the open sea or working in private houses to deceive those inspecting for a violation of human trafficking and human rights regulations. As perpetrators believe the chance of getting caught is low, the percentage of human trafficking increases.

These confined spaces and resistance against UN legislation by federal governments make labor inspections difficult. It is imperative to improve the accuracy of labor inspections and ensure that this trafficking does not go unpunished. The 2000 United Nations General Assembly of the Protocol to Prevent and Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women

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<sup>19</sup>marcos.santos. “UN.GiFT - United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.” *Unodc.org*, 2019, [www.unodc.org/lpo-brazil/en/trafico-de-pessoas/ungift.html](http://www.unodc.org/lpo-brazil/en/trafico-de-pessoas/ungift.html).

<sup>20</sup> “Federal Law | National Human Trafficking Hotline.” *Humantraffickinghotline.org*, [humantraffickinghotline.org/en/human-trafficking/federal-law#:~:text=The%20Trafficking%20Victims%20Protection%20Act](http://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/human-trafficking/federal-law#:~:text=The%20Trafficking%20Victims%20Protection%20Act).

and Children was a valuable milestone in stopping human trafficking, but there is a significant amount of work left to do. Human trafficking in the informal labor force is a very complex crime, and as traffickers operate under the radar, it is extremely difficult to catch. It is recorded that between 73-77% of local, state, and county law enforcement believe human trafficking is rare or non-existent in their communities– which is never the case. A major issue related to improving law enforcement is the lack of acknowledgement by governments.<sup>21</sup> The lack of efforts also decreases victims' access to resources and prosecuting services to determine and punish offenders. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 was one of the original national regulations set in place to provide a long-term solution for protecting victims of human trafficking. TVPA separates its legislation into two separate categories: labor and sex trafficking. The United States legislation focuses on the prevention of “recruitment, transportation, harboring, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for involuntary servitude, peonage, or slavery.” Since TVPA was released, legislation has been improved throughout the international community, but still has an extremely long way to go.

#### **IV. Case Study: Philippines**

One notable location that is experiencing large scale human trafficking is the Philippines. It is predominantly women and girls who are enticed and promised with employment overseas but then are forced into exploitative practices. These practices include pornography, prostitution,

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<sup>21</sup>*The Author(s) Shown below Used Federal Funds Provided by the U.S ...*, [www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/222752.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/222752.pdf). Accessed 17 Sept. 2023.

sexual labor, or bonded labor. The key issue in the Philippines is the lack of legislation and laws that facilitate the return and reintegration processes of these women. There have been effective efforts to maintain their rights and status but these victims are struggling after overcoming the main issue. Along with this, the cultural stigma in the Philippines exacerbates these groups after the fact because of familial rejections. Oftentimes, this leads to victims in poverty and without a job because of their lack of qualifications and resources. This matter was tended to by the ILO in the Philippines through a multi-bilateral program including the funding of the Japanese Government and the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. They designed a program that supported regional integration for Thai and Filipino people who have gone through human trafficking. This program highlighted social and cultural empowerment as well as long-term economic sustainability to aid the reintegration process.

The informal labor sector in the Philippines is composed of small scale and independent workers in the field of goods and services. According to the ILO, around 38.3 percent of people employed are vulnerable and lack legal social protection.<sup>22</sup> The ILO and the government in the Philippines have promoted the transition from the informal sector to the formal sector. The utilization of technology to formalize workers has been named “e-formality”. This has highlighted how digital innovation can substitute informality which accommodates for the variety of jobs in the future.

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<sup>22</sup>“ILO, EU, Stella Maris Partner to Protect Filipino Migrant Fishers.” *Ship to Shore: ILO, EU, Stella Maris Partner to Protect Filipino Migrant Fishers*, 2 Aug. 2023, [www.ilo.org/manila/public/pr/WCMS\\_888794/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/manila/public/pr/WCMS_888794/lang--en/index.htm).

Specifically regarding the Philippines, there is a large demographic of migrant fishers because of their geographical location. On average, over 4,300 Filipinos leave for commercial fishing across national borders. They are typically prone to abuses and trafficking while on foreign seas. The ILO and organizations such as Stella MARis in the Philippines have attempted to conduct surveys and gather information regarding their merchant trips. They need to require this information to develop a pre-departure orientation and a comprehensive package that describes, addresses, and analyzes the human trafficking and labor that they are vulnerable to.

The Philippines places a large emphasis on combating the criminal sector that falls under the category of the unregistered labor economy. A large number of migrants who face exploitation attempt to leave poorer countries, such as the Philippines, to wealthier ones because of a better socioeconomic environment. However, the Philippines suggests that a basis of the informal sector is related to crime and the “shadow economy”. This economic state is centered around illicit and illegal trafficking but this comes with a multitude of underlying issues. For example, the economic activities that result in trafficking of participants may be legal or illegal. But the shadow economy can be identified through three different categories such as the criminal, informal, household, and the irregular. This further exacerbates national governments to enact laws in regards to the social protection of laborers. The criminal sector of the shadow economy focuses on the production and distribution of illegal goods and services. Which is a large demographic of workers in the Philippines.

Still, the prominence of human trafficking in the Philippines has not resided. The cultural and social factors leave the recovery and reintegration process much worse for women and girls.

But the general trends of under-development such as poverty, lack of education, and social inequality lead to their high vulnerability in the informal economy.

## **V. Guiding Questions:**

1. How can countries keep their human trafficking laws updated and operational when trafficking and informal labor is rapidly increasing?
2. How can the United Nations ensure the prevention of human trafficking in the informal labor sector without imposing on a nation's sovereignty?
3. How can nations handle trafficking victims and reunite them with families after they have been found and recovered?
4. How can the International Labor Organization address the international human trafficking problem while simultaneously preventing it within the informal labor force?
5. How will nations stop the process of child human trafficking in the informal labor force while it is already in motion and how will this be a long term solution?
6. How will you ensure legislation regarding social protection won't benefit those who abuse and criminalize the informal labor sector?



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## Topic B: Addressing Child Labor in Latin America

### I. Background:

Child labor has been an ongoing issue since decades prior to the Industrial Revolution. The transatlantic slave trade is internationally recognized as one of the earliest examples of child labor specifically in Central and South America.<sup>23</sup> Children quickly became employed and underpaid in industrial factories and were forced to fit into heavy machinery to fix. These dangerous conditions facilitate an environment of unhappiness and extremely poor living standards. In Central America, 8% of children are forced to participate in child labor where 4% have to do so in South America. Not only are workplace conditions dangerous, but child labor robs children of their childhood and education. This is a direct violation and restriction of a child's fundamental rights.

The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) was founded in 1904 and advocates to prevent child labor and improve legislation. The NCLC dedicates their mission to “promoting the rights, awareness, dignity, well-being and education of children and youth as they relate to work and working.”<sup>24</sup> The committee documented numerous photos which showed children unhappy and forced to work in factories. These photos were an early attempt to gather public support and attention to the horrific issue. Additionally, the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor is the largest international cooperation initiative on preventing child labor. This

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<sup>23</sup>“A History of Child Labor Explained.” *BORGEN*, 8 July 2016, [www.borgenmagazine.com/history-child-labor/#:~:text=The%20modern%20history%20of%20child](http://www.borgenmagazine.com/history-child-labor/#:~:text=The%20modern%20history%20of%20child).

<sup>24</sup>Natanson, Barbara. “National Child Labor Committee Collection - Background and Scope - Prints & Photographs Online Catalog (Library of Congress).” *Loc.gov*, 2019, [www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/nclc/background.html](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/nclc/background.html).

has been implemented in Peru in two major mining regions, and worked to help remove 1,000 children from dangerous conditions. Additionally, a sexual exploitation prevention project has been implemented in numerous countries such as Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Dominican Republic to ensure commitment to ratifying the ILO Convention of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (C.182). Also, in Guatemala, IPEC has prevented over 2,000 children from entering dangerous industrial sectors in Guatemala City and in surrounding areas.<sup>25</sup> From 2012 to 2016, the number of children involved in treacherous employment sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean has decreased 35%, however, there is a significant amount of work left to be done. The Covid-19 pandemic made the situation worse, as it increased the dependence on children to search for employment to provide for their families. ECLAC and ILO recognize that the pandemic could force 300,000 adolescents to drop out of school and find employment. This will also affect the overall well-being of a household and the mental and physical health of a child.<sup>26</sup>

Latin America, or Central and South America, comprises 31 countries and shows an estimate of nearly 8.2 million children in child labor. Two thirds of those children or 5.5 million are in hazardous work that halts their development and endangers their lives. The International

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<sup>25</sup>[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_decl\\_fs\\_50\\_en.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_decl_fs_50_en.pdf)

<sup>26</sup>[www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/crisis-resulting-covid-19-could-cause-significant-increase-child-labour-latin-america](https://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/crisis-resulting-covid-19-could-cause-significant-increase-child-labour-latin-america). Accessed 5 Oct. 2023.

Labor Organization estimates that 246 million children aged 5-17 are involved in child labor and 179 million of them are trapped in the most dangerous employment conditions.

Furthermore, South and Central America are hotspots for human trafficking, especially for children. Human trafficking for forced child labor and slavery is common in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Human trafficking rings often operate from Eastern Europe to Central and South America due to the location of the child labor market.<sup>27</sup>

Statistics from the International Labor Organization (ILO) in 2012 record that around 5.5 million children are working in slavery. These children are often exploited, trafficked, and threatened with numerous forms of violence.<sup>28</sup> Child slaves throughout the globe are often forced to work on dangerous farms, industries, and mines. These conditions result in extreme amounts of stress and exhaustion on children. Typically, these children are not paid and more than 22,000 are killed every year due to the lack of safety standards.

The United Nations Development Goals target numerous ways to end modern day slavery by 2030. Unfortunately, this goal is becoming elusive due to social pressures and issues such as the pandemic and economic situation in South and Central American countries. Target 8.7 focuses on the immediate measures to end child labor, human trafficking, recruitment of child

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<sup>27</sup> *Transnational Organized Crime in Central America and the Caribbean*. 2012.

<sup>28</sup>“The World Counts.” *W*[www.theworldcounts.com](http://www.theworldcounts.com),  
[www.theworldcounts.com/challenges/people-and-poverty/child-labor/child-slavery-facts](http://www.theworldcounts.com/challenges/people-and-poverty/child-labor/child-slavery-facts).

soldiers, and all forms of exploitation.<sup>29</sup> Human trafficking of children results in extreme susceptibility to the labor market.

The issue of child labor is also accompanied by the lack of education. Factory owners would force children to work 12-18 hours per day while attempting to justify themselves through providing basic necessities to their employees. The importance of education must be underscored and emphasized throughout the international community. Children are coerced to drop out of school and instead provide for their family. Attendance rates of children in non-hazardous child labor are significantly lower than those not involved in labor markets. Human trafficking and slavery also eliminates the right to education and limits all forms of opportunity. This compromises a child's ability to enter career sectors as well as their knowledge of the world and the environment. Outside of the classroom, it is extremely difficult for children to find the resources, teachers, and materials provided in a school setting. An ILO study showed that 5-11 year olds in normal conditions have a 92.3% monthly attendance rate, while children in hazardous work environments have 79.6% monthly attendance.

## **II. United Nations Involvement:**

The UN has preceded multifaceted action plans in an attempt to prevent further expansion of child labor in Latin America and internationally. One of their significant action plans focuses on education and its role in developing children to be less susceptible to child employment. Throughout Latin America, the ILO has created online and in-person learning

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<sup>29</sup> United Nations. "Sustainable Development Goals." *United Nations : UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific*, [www.unodc.org/roseap/en/sustainable-development-goals.html#:~:text=Target%208.7%20%2D%20Take%20immediate%20and](http://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/sustainable-development-goals.html#:~:text=Target%208.7%20%2D%20Take%20immediate%20and).

programs focusing on sustainable economic development and the increase in green jobs. Green jobs being the focal point of this initiative was crucial because of the large population of child workers in the agricultural economy in Central America. In Honduras, 40% of the working class of children perform in the agriculture sector while in Guatemala and El Salvador it averages to 66%<sup>30</sup>. This project is the ILO's Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) which is the main connection between the ILO and sustainable development, which simultaneously maintains the rights of child laborers. ACTRAV was focused on shifting policy development through open-dialogue to promote the rights of laborers. Rather than focusing on the growth of green jobs, this initiative focused mainly on the improvement of workers' rights through workers' organizations. This initiative was ultimately deemed ineffective because of their lack of decision-making through the overarching and governing organizations that utilize child laborers.

With over 5.5 million children being exposed to hazardous work, precautions through the ILO have been further improved to reduce that amount<sup>31</sup>. Another action and set of guidelines implemented through the ILO is the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labor. This is a set of guidelines agreed through an inclination of 31 Latin American nations to achieve a new period of children who are free from excruciating labor. These states have worked alongside other national organizations to promote and fund the

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<sup>30</sup>*ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and Its ...*, [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/normativeinstrument/wcms\\_716594.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/normativeinstrument/wcms_716594.pdf). Accessed 23 June 2023.

<sup>31</sup>"Latin America and the Caribbean Seeks to Accelerate Efforts to Eradicate Child Labour." *World Day Against Child Labour: Latin America and the Caribbean Seeks to Accelerate Efforts to Eradicate Child Labour*, 9 June 2023, [www.ilo.org/americas/sala-de-prensa/WCMS\\_884867/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/americas/sala-de-prensa/WCMS_884867/lang--en/index.htm).



cooperation such as the International Employers' Organization (IEO) or the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Through this initiative, it provided a forum for these countries to further open-dialogue regarding this issue, and along with the promotion from the AECID, they have mapped out a vision for the future. This vision includes an emphasis on the dehumanization of child labor through an educational process hoping to shift fundamental public policies regarding human rights in these countries.

Along with this, certain methodology has been imposed to graph and produce maps where child labor use is most prevalent through trends and patterns. This methodology has been successfully applied in 11 countries where it holds 75% of the population, allowing for a larger demographic on the child worker population<sup>32</sup>. Despite this intuitive attempt to bridge the gap between these Latin countries it has failed to uphold rights of child workers. This forum has not initiated direct action because of their lack of attentives to the hazardous working conditions regardless of the implemented methodology.

### **III. Topics to Consider:**

#### **A. Education**

Low literacy and graduation rates are prevalent in areas that have a child labor dependent economy. A lack of education leads to the decreased chance of a child entering a preferred stable career choice or making informed decisions. When children are forced out of school and into employment in the informal and formal labor force, they are exposed to poor health, shorter

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<sup>32</sup> *Global Estimates of Child Labour - International Labour Organization*, [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575499.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575499.pdf). Accessed 23 June 2023.

lifespans, and exploitation. Additionally, children who enter the workforce and drop out of school are significantly less likely to re-enroll and instead continue with their current occupation.

Currently, 39% of the international community have no formal education and are forced into the economic sectors. Throughout the globe, 15 million girls will never have the chance to learn basic literacy skills compared to 10 million boys. Long and unhealthy hours of work forced upon them interfere with academic achievements and take immense time out of studying. Additionally, students who are forced to work are often too exhausted to come to school and are much more susceptible to tardies, detention, lower grades, and absences. Today, over 114 million young adults lack basic educational skills and 63% are women.<sup>33</sup> Due to lack of enrollment, literacy rates reach as low as 22.3% in underdeveloped countries such as Chad, South Sudan, and Guinea. In 2015, Latin America was recorded to be 2.5 years of schooling behind the OECD and UN necessary average.<sup>34</sup> Education in Latin America has increased for children in primary and secondary school, but Covid-19 decreased enrollment.

## B. Health

Child labor working conditions are often far from the standard of basic human rights. Dangerous machinery, small spaces, and long hours jeopardize a child's health and well-being.<sup>35</sup> A study in Ecuador proved that workers, as young as 6, were exposed to lead poisoning from the

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<sup>33</sup>“Education Facts - Compassion International.” *Compassion.com*, 2015, [www.compassion.com/poverty/education.htm](http://www.compassion.com/poverty/education.htm).

<sup>34</sup> *EDUCATION GAP in LATIN AMERICA – Educando*.

[educando.org/education-latin-america/#:~:text=Latin%20America%20is%20falling%20behind](http://educando.org/education-latin-america/#:~:text=Latin%20America%20is%20falling%20behind).

<sup>35</sup> Momentum. “Child Labor: What Are the Health and Social Implications?” *Baylor College of Medicine Blog Network*, 19 Oct. 2021,

[blogs.bcm.edu/2021/10/19/child-labor-what-are-the-health-and-social-implications/#:~:text=Many%20implications%20follow%20child%20labor](https://blogs.bcm.edu/2021/10/19/child-labor-what-are-the-health-and-social-implications/#:~:text=Many%20implications%20follow%20child%20labor).

work of constructing roof tiles and working near ceramic objects. These levels reached 7x the safe limit and caused short and long term issues for all workers. Air pollution in factories also causes a higher risk of dangerous chemicals and pollutants. Children are exposed to an innumerable number of toxins such as benzene and asbestos in construction, agricultural sectors, and in oil industries.

Due to the unsafe operations and youthfulness of workers, children are prone to numerous injuries such as amputations, burns, fractures, broken bones, and electrocutions. Young children are vulnerable to lacerations and abrasions due to the fragile and growing bones. Additionally, studies have displayed that long working hours can damage a child's physical appearances and health.<sup>36</sup> Children who are forced into the labor market are often exploited or abused which will leave lasting mental and physical effects.

Currently, 38% of 5-11 year olds and 61% of 12-14 year olds in Latin American child labor are in hazardous conditions that endanger their development. The majority of child labor is present in the agricultural sector and about 59% of children in these conditions are 5-17.

### C. Legislation

In Latin America, the federal regulation is 14, however there is an exception for children as young as 10. Although these laws are in place, the informal labor force has children as young as 5 working due to lack of government regulation. Thus, there is an extreme need for new and

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<sup>36</sup> Ibrahim, Abdalla, et al. "Child Labor and Health: A Systematic Literature Review of the Impacts of Child Labor on Child's Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries." *Journal of Public Health*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2 Feb. 2018, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6459361/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6459361/), <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdy018>.

improved legislation to prevent child labor<sup>37</sup>. The ILO Convention No. 138 established a minimum wage in 1973 and the ILO Convention No. 182 improved these laws and addressed the current laws of informal child labor. This Convention works to ensure progressive elimination of child labor laws. Additionally, it ensures 14 is the minimum age for youth in working conditions while simultaneously protecting them from hazardous situations.

Additionally, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) created “an impartial and technical evaluation of the state of application of the ratified Conventions.” This branch focuses on observing hotspots of child labor and ensuring prevention of it.<sup>38</sup>

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), created in 1989, Article 32, addressed child labor throughout the international community. The CRC focuses on the issues of the exploitation of children and the increased number of children in the informal labor force due to human trafficking. The CRC focuses on ensuring protection of children from orphanages, refugee camps, and previous conflict zones. It focuses on the protection of children from torture, abuse, punishment other forms of exploitation. This law is applicable to every child under eighteen years of age, but unfortunately there is still an extreme gap in the number of countries that truly follow its regulations compared to those who don't.

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<sup>37</sup>Lee, Thea. “3 Ways the Pandemic Exacerbates Child Labor | U.S. Department of Labor Blog.” *Blog.dol.gov*, 29 Sept. 2021, [blog.dol.gov/2021/09/29/3-ways-the-pandemic-exacerbates-child-labor](https://blog.dol.gov/2021/09/29/3-ways-the-pandemic-exacerbates-child-labor).

<sup>38</sup>“Child Labour in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPEC).” *Ilo.org*, 2019, [www.ilo.org/ipsec/Regionsandcountries/latin-america-and-caribbean/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/ipsec/Regionsandcountries/latin-america-and-caribbean/lang--en/index.htm).

## IV. Case Study: Brazil

Brazil is a prominent hotspot for child laborers, where workers are subjected to the most intensive conditions and worst forms of labor. These forms of labor in Brazil are gateways into sexual exploitation and commercialization leading to the inevitable expansion of human trafficking throughout these regions. This is due to the country's large dependence on agricultural resources and are mainly engaged in the agricultural sector because of Brazil's poverty rates. While there was moderate economic recovery in 2017, it was shown that the numbers of Brazilians that lived under 1.90 was over 9.3 million by 2018 and has only grown<sup>39</sup>. The agricultural dependence Brazil has on agriculture exports, such as Coffee, has only exacerbated the conditions of the youth in this field. They have exported over 6 billion US dollars in 2021 alone, which further shows rural susceptibility to the disregard of moderate national economic progress.<sup>40</sup>

Along with this, a prominent practice that heavily employs child servitude is tobacco farming. Family industries that hire children have a common thread of largely related respiratory and cardiovascular health issues. It was reported that over 24.5% of workers in 79 family farms said they had experienced Green Tobacco Sickness<sup>41</sup>. Some stated they had experienced some type of pesticide poisoning due to freshly picked leaves of tobacco and the lack of adequate

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<sup>39</sup> Sources: *WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for National Poverty ...*, [databankfiles.worldbank.org/public/ddpext\\_download/poverty/33EF03BB-9722-4AE2-ABC7-AA2972D68AFE/Globa\\_POVEQ\\_SLV.pdf](https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/public/ddpext_download/poverty/33EF03BB-9722-4AE2-ABC7-AA2972D68AFE/Globa_POVEQ_SLV.pdf). Accessed 23 June 2023.

<sup>40</sup>“Brazil Trade.” *WITS*, [wits.worldbank.org/countrysnapshot/en/BRA/textview](https://wits.worldbank.org/countrysnapshot/en/BRA/textview). Accessed 22 June 2023.

<sup>41</sup>Krishnan, Arunkumar, et al. “Covid-19: An Overview and a Clinical Update.” *World Journal of Clinical Cases*, 6 Jan. 2021, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7809683/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7809683/).

clothing and equipment. The danger of harvesting tobacco is rooted into many familial structures because of the long-term dependence on this crop. When adolescents are employed in this field it has been seen through surveys conducted by UNICEF that they are more prone to chemical reactions because of their lack of growth, therefore interfering with their hormonal balance and respiratory issues. Thus, it prompts a series of long-term health issues for people under the age of 18. But overall, Brazil is the world's second largest exporter of tobacco with over 600,000 tons exported internationally. This only worsens the situation, as the labor needed to process tobacco exports leads to a prevention of sustainable education and employment opportunities. According to Brazilian Law, this issue is said to be a violation of human rights because it continues the cycle of poverty and brings disregard to sustainable career pathways and development.

Despite the masses of people affected by the slavery of these children, Brazil's action against the issue has not been seen as successful in the long term. A main cause for the ineffectiveness of the initiatives and acts passed by the Brazilian government is their lack of rapid development in government. Due to historical events, Brazil was not seen as a quickly developing country and had a high inability to protect public financial stability. Despite this, in 2018, multiple reforms were taken into account regarding the efficiency of identity based documents for children entering schools. With this, the Brazilian Education Committee approved the removal of birth certificates when registering schools due to inefficiency and delay. The International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) has been a major platform in Brazil and Latin America because of Brazil's participation since 1992, making it one of the

earliest members<sup>42</sup>. This program was designed to strengthen open-dialogue and the capacity of the 88 participating countries regarding the extermination of child labor. This program played a crucial role in the support for Brazil through the international recognition regarding this issue along with the mobilization of campaigns that promote the elimination of this practice.

## **V. Guiding Questions**

1. How can the government implement contemporary regulations regarding Covid-19 and its effect on the closure of schools?
2. How can the ILO amend the working conditions child laborers face while also attempting to eradicate the issue?
3. How can the rights of female workers be upheld in the given location?
4. How can the informal labor sector be addressed as a gateway into child labor?
5. What role does globalization play in utilizing children for manual work?
6. How can the root causes of child labor be addressed specifically through legal migrations pathways and educational opportunities?

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<sup>42</sup>Gustavo Augusto-Vieira. "The Brazilian Battle Against Child Labor." *ATLANTICO*, 28 Nov. 2018, [atlanticonline.com/en/the-brazilian-battle-against-child-labor/](http://atlanticonline.com/en/the-brazilian-battle-against-child-labor/).

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