

3rd SOCHUM

*Novice
General
Assembly*



TOPICS: Child Labor in Asia

CHAIRS: Aidan Tacinelli, Stella Traylor

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Child Labor in Asia Recent Updates

In the last decade there have been around 122 million children around the age of 5 and 14 years old in the Asia-Pacific region that have been forced to work.¹ There has been an immense lack of education services available for these children as more than a third don't attend school. In South Asia, there are around 26.3 million children associated with child labor. These children work in many different environments, where 70% work in agricultural services when the other 30% are seen in factories and domestic services.² A fair amount has also been seen in the informal sectors, forcibly becoming soldiers or victims of sex trade. Children are completely denied their fundamental rights of attending school or getting health care.

COVID-19 has had a major effect on child labor in Asia, and has put millions of kids to be at risk of not only disease, but of further integration into the work force.³ The pandemic exacerbated impoverished conditions for 360 million children across South Asia, and increased poverty has forced more children into the workforce.⁴ Asia has one of the largest child laboring groups in the world, and with COVID-19 starting in China, a lot of Asia including child laborers have been greatly affected.⁵ This is something that has happened since pre-COVID-19, and all

¹*Child Labour in Asia and the Pacific - International Labour Organization.*
<https://www.ilo.org/asia/areas/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>.

²Reid, Kathryn. "Child Labor: Facts, Faqs, and How to Help End It." *World Vision*, 8 July 2022,
<https://www.worldvision.org/child-protection-news-stories/child-labor-facts>.

³"Covid-19 May Push Millions More Children into Child Labour – ILO and UNICEF." *UNICEF*,
<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/covid-19-may-push-millions-more-children-child-labour-ilo-and-unicef>

⁴Johnston, Geoffrey P. "Children in South Asia suffering during pandemic." *The Kingston Whig Standard*, 3 September 2020,
<https://www.thewhig.com/opinion/columnists/children-in-south-asia-suffering-during-pandemic>.

⁵*Child Labour in South Asia*, 19 Aug. 2014,
https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/areasofwork/child-labour/WCMS_300805/lang--en/index.htm.

the methods used to ⁶decrease the number of children involved with child labor in Asia have had little effect. This later made the count of child laborers rise and made it hard to protect children that were exposed to COVID-19 and at risk of getting it.

From May 15th to the 20th, the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour was held in Durban, South Africa. This meeting targetted meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7, or elimination all forms of child labour by the year 2025. This committee recognized that the largest contributor to child labour rates, particularly in Asia, was the agricultural industry, with 70% or 112 million child labourers working in that sector. This conference succeeded the Food and Agriculture Organization's conference, Global Solutions Forum—Acting Together to End Child Labour in Agriculture, which was held in November of 2021 and emphasized the need for multifaceted and urgent action. A major reason why the agriculture industry has been so hazardous for child labourers is because of climate change. Climate change increases surface temperatures and children labourers are more susceptible to heat stroke, exhaustion, and dehydration than adult labourers. An IUF submission in 2014 showed an increase in kidney disease by sugar workers in Central America because of heat stress and dehydration. Overall, even farming jobs traditionally seen as safe for children could become more and more hazardous as the earth keeps heating up.

⁶Greenfield, Muhammad Hidayat. "An Urgent Need to Reassess Climate Change and Child Labour in Agriculture." The Lancet Planetary Health, Elsevier, 16 May 2022, [www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(22\)00118-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(22)00118-8/fulltext).

Works Cited

Child Labour in Asia and the Pacific - International Labour Organization.

<https://www.ilo.org/asia/areas/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>.

Child Labour in South Asia, 19 Aug. 2014,

https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/areasofwork/child-labour/WCMS_300805/lang--en/index.htm.

“Child Labour.” *UNICEF*, <https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-labour>.

“Children in South Asia.” *UNICEF South Asia*, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/children-south-asia>.

“Civil Society Consultation Report on Child Labour in Asia Pacific.” *Asia Pacific | World Vision International*,

<https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/asia-pacific/civil-society-consultation-report-child-labour-asia-pacific>.

“Covid-19 May Push Millions More Children into Child Labour – ILO and UNICEF.” *UNICEF*, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/covid-19-may-push-millions-more-children-child-labour-ilo-and-unicef>.

Reid, Kathryn. “Child Labor: Facts, Faqs, and How to Help End It.” *World Vision*, 8 July 2022, <https://www.worldvision.org/child-protection-news-stories/child-labor-facts>.

Greenfield, Muhammad Hidayat. “An Urgent Need to Reassess Climate Change and Child Labour in Agriculture.” *The Lancet Planetary Health*, Elsevier, 16 May 2022, [www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(22\)00118-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(22)00118-8/fulltext).

Johnston, Geoffrey P. "Children in South Asia suffering during pandemic." *The Kingston Whig Standard*, 3 September 2020,

<https://www.thewhig.com/opinion/columnists/children-in-south-asia-suffering-during-pandemic>.

Joseph, Ben. "No Way out for South Asia's Child Laborers - UCA News." Ucanews.com, www.ucanews.com/news/no-way-out-for-south-asias-child-laborers/94892.