

Defining **Child Labour**

SAI Platform follows the definitions given by conventions 138 and 182 of the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** and in the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC)**.

These conventions recognise that some child work is acceptable but use the term 'child labour' for **work that exposes children to harm or abuse** because

(a) it is **likely to impede the child's education and full development** (due to the child's age);

and/or (b) it **jeopardises the physical, mental or moral wellbeing of a child** (due to the nature of the work).

The purpose of this guidance document is to facilitate the development of SAI Platform's Members' policies.

The information in this document is based on public sources, an expert consultation¹ and discussion in SAI Platform's Horizon committee.

The suggestions in this guidance document are essential elements to a proper child labour policy.

SAI Platform Members are direct or indirect buyers of agricultural raw materials, so the link to the farm can be direct or multiple tiers upstream.

Regardless of their position in the value chain, Members share the view that child labour and trafficking are serious challenges facing many supply chains, in particular those that originate in developing countries.

¹Steve Jennings, consultant and former OXFAM advisor in SAI Platform's Advisory Council.

ILO distinguishes 'child labour'
- 'work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity,
and that is harmful to physical and mental development' -
from 'worst forms of child labour'
(related to slavery, prostitution and drugs)².



According to ILO research, the agricultural sector hosts the majority of all child labour.

SAI Platform Members share the view that conditions in which child labour occurs are of a diverse nature, therefore a diversified approach is needed.

Ultimately, our Members' business depends on farmers and communities that benefit from and see a positive future in agricultural production.

Child labour has no place in this future.

²See Annex.

Developing and implementing your **Child Labour Policy**

In order to set up and implement a child labour policy, SAI Platform encourages Members to consider the following elements:

1 Have an approach that commits to eliminating child labour from operations and supply chains, with the definition of 'child labour' following that of the ILO.

3 Track and report progress on eliminating child labour.

2 Evaluate supply chains with regard to child labour at farms and factories in the supply chain.

4 Actively pursue improvement and solutions on a regional basis, in the awareness of the complex economic, political and social conditions that 'breed child labour'.

Adopt as a minimum, a risk-based approach to prioritise action and focus on areas and/or crops where the highest incidence of child labour is reported or expected.

If possible and applicable, join in collaborative efforts with regard to specific crops and/or regions to address child labour and seek eradication of it.

When evidence of child labour is found, act with further investigation and, if necessary, time-bound corrective action that puts the best interests of the child first, with suspension of business as a possibility if corrective actions cannot be undertaken or if the worst forms of child labour are being practiced.

5 (within SAI Platform or elsewhere, eg. :

<http://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/files/Publications/2016-CGF-Social-Sustainability-One-Pager-Complete.pdf>)

ANNEX - from www.ilo.org

What is Child Labour?

Considerable differences exist between the many kinds of work children do. Some are difficult and demanding, others are more hazardous and even morally reprehensible. Children carry out a very wide range of tasks and activities when they work.

Defining Child Labour

Not all work done by children should be classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination.

Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive. This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays.

These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience, and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

The term 'child labour' is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

It refers to work that:

- › is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and
- › interferes with their schooling by:
 - » depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
 - » obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
 - » requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age.

Child labour distribution by branch of economic activity

Whether or not particular forms of 'work' can be called 'child labour' depends on the child's age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries.



* The agriculture sector comprises activities in agriculture, hunting forestry, and fishing.

** The services sector consists of wholesale and retail trade; restaurants and hotels; transport, storage, and communications; finance, insurance, real-estate, and business services; and community as well as social personal services.

*** The industry sector includes mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, and public utilities (electricity, gas and water).

The worst forms of child labour

Whilst child labour takes many different forms, a priority is to eliminate without delay the worst forms of child labour as defined by Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182:

(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

(c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

(d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Labour that jeopardises the physical, mental or moral well-being of a child, either because of its nature or because of the conditions in which it is carried out, is known as 'hazardous work'.



Guidance document on **Child Labour**

By and For SAI Platform Members

Graphics and illustrations used in this document

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Data source: ILO Global Estimates 2012 (2013)