

education and child labor



the facts

- Approximately 218 million children around the world are engaged in some form of labor.
- 73 million working children are less than 10 years old.
- Every year 22,000 children die in work-related accidents.



CARE's Response

Every child deserves the right to learn. Yet according to the International Labor Organization, millions of children worldwide are engaged in some form of economic activity every day. CARE's official Organizational Policy Regarding Working

Children and Hazardous Child Labor demonstrates our unparalleled commitment to fight exploitative child labor. We work closely with communities to prevent child labor, and to reintegrate child laborers into quality education programs. Our child-centered approach to empowering communities addresses the underlying causes of child labor and poverty. We know from experience that educating children in formal and non-formal settings and involving parents and community leaders is key to sustaining lasting change. CARE's program approaches to child labor seek to:

Influence public policies and policy reform at the local, national, regional and international levels. By arming lawmakers with information on the hazards of child labor, CARE promotes child-centered policies that target the specific needs of at-risk youth and those already engaged in child labor.

Build public sentiment through advocacy on child labor abuses and the denial of basic human rights to children. CARE recognizes that increasing community accountability and awareness are major steps toward preventing child labor and realizing positive change.

Promote economic alternatives to the worst forms of child labor for families and children. CARE's programs help children and families develop vocational skills from the onset, offering sustainable solutions to ensure that children don't re-enter the labor market.

Enhance education quality and relevance of formal and non-formal educational programs. These interventions focus on making educational systems more attractive, viable alternatives to child labor. Through greater parental involvement in schools and teacher training initiatives, CARE aims to not only enroll more vulnerable children in school, but to also keep children in the classroom until they complete their education.

Increase the capacity of our partners at various levels to protect all children from exploitive child labor that denies them the right to learn, grow and play.

Education and Child Labor Highlights

The following are the highlights of CARE's current work in education and child labor:

In West Africa, CARE focuses on helping children at risk of being trafficked, and reintegrating them into quality education programs. CARE is working in Mali to curtail child trafficking from rural to urban economic centers, and in Ghana to provide quality, relevant educational opportunities for children engaged in cocoa production. We also target girls who are trafficked from rural areas to urban centers, who often fall victim to prostitution and child domestic servitude. In Togo, a CARE project aided the government in developing and adopting a new anti-trafficking law based on our experiences.

In Haiti, a CARE-supported community network brought together local authorities, police, families and parents' associations to support children in domestic service and improve their living conditions. Through the reinforcement of a local youth club, the project also helped support vulnerable children's well-being.

In Cambodia, CARE worked alongside partners to reduce the number of children who fall victim to trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The program provided at-risk children with educational opportunities in programs relevant to their needs and rights.

In Latin America, CARE projects focus primarily on specific economic sectors and policy reform. We are leading a six-country, multi-agency program in Central America that aims to expand child workers' access to quality basic education, strengthen civil society institutions to address the needs of working children, and prevent children from abandoning school and entering work prematurely. In Bolivia, CARE's goal is to contribute to the eradication of child labor in mining activities, to improve education services so that children complete primary school, and to provide opportunities for training in other occupations.

Contact

To learn more about CARE's work in child labor, please contact John Trew, Senior Technical Advisor in Education and Child Labor, Basic and Girls' Education Unit, CARE USA, jtrew@care.org, 404-979-9481.

CARE's child labor projects in Central America, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mali, Togo and Cambodia are funded through several cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Labor.



Where We Support Education in Child Labor

CARE has experience in preventing child labor and reintegrating child laborers into quality education programs in the following countries:

Sub-Saharan Africa

Benin, Ghana, Mali, Togo, Tanzania

Asia

Cambodia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru

