

Global March Against Child Labour calls for action

KEEP YOUR PROMISES

to the world's children

One in seven children is a child labourer: that's nearly 14 per cent of the children in the age group 5-14 years.

One in five children do not go to school – this is nearly 18 per cent of the children in the age group (primary school).

Most of them (57 percent) were girls! Huge numbers of them work as child labourers.

There are over 238 million young people living on less than one dollar a day.

07 July 2007 (07.07.07) marks the midway to the international community's commitments for creating a better world for its citizens. It has been 7 years since the world leaders committed to the 8 Millennium Development Goals, the commitments for Education For All (Dakar Framework of Action), and 8 years since the ILO Convention 182 of the worst forms of child labour was unanimously accepted by the world. Overall progress on these commitments has been slow and patchy.

There are so many pressing human needs - it is hard to prioritise them. We

need to combat HIV and other epidemic diseases, as well as terrorism, drug trafficking, and military conflicts. We need clean water, sanitation, health care and immunisations, and adequate nutrition - not to mention environmental protection and an adequate standard of living. The list goes on and is daunting. But, we ought to think of not only how many human rights issues are linked to child labour, but how many of these issues can be addressed by redirecting millions child labourers to school - for example, HIV education, immunisations, nutrition, etc. Quality education can make an important contribution to a culture of global tolerance and world peace and security.

Think About It: Broken Promises

8-year-old Hari works in a zari unit in Delhi. His work involves attaching beads and zari to clothes, which are then sold at high prices in the markets. The beads are small and the work causes eyestrain. But he is paid about Rs.10 a month, if at all. He works in an ill-lit small room with many more children like him. All of them eat there and sleep there at nights. At summers the temperature is high and they often suffer from heat boils. They are not allowed to go out. If anybody tries to run away, he is beaten severely.

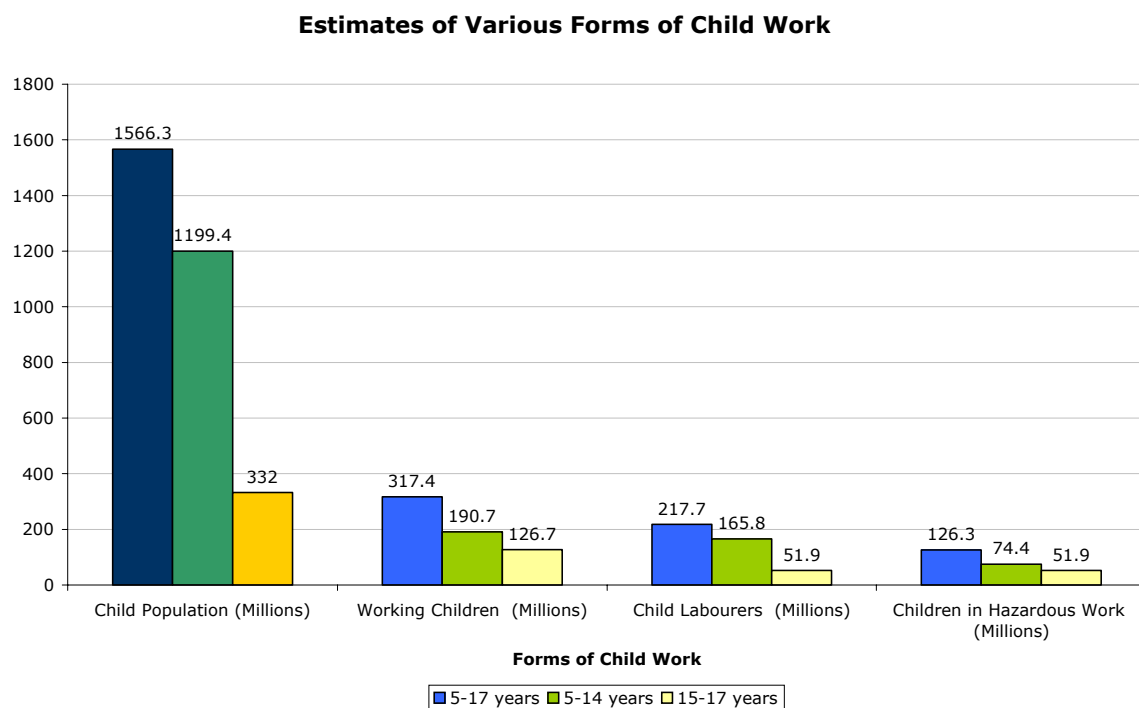
Child Labour:

While the ILO Convention 182 has been ratified by an overwhelming 163 countries making it the fastest ratified convention. One out of seven children in the world today is involved in child labour that is damaging to his or her mental, physical and emotional development. This translated to 218 million children toiling in the world

and 126 are engaged in the undeniably worst forms of child labour. There are 22 million fewer child labourers in the world than in 2002.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the greatest incidence of economically active children – 26.4 per cent of all 5-14 year-olds, compared to 18.8 per cent for Asia and the Pacific and 5.1 per cent for Latin America. It ranks second behind Asia in absolute terms, with 49.3 million children working. All are children who have no fair chance for a real childhood, an education or a better life. Child labour persists even where it has been declared illegal, and is frequently surrounded by a wall of silence, indifference and apathy. The persistent challenges of widespread and extreme poverty, high population growth, the AIDS pandemic, recurrent food crises, and political unrest and conflict clearly exacerbate the problem.

Graph 1: Estimates of various forms of child work

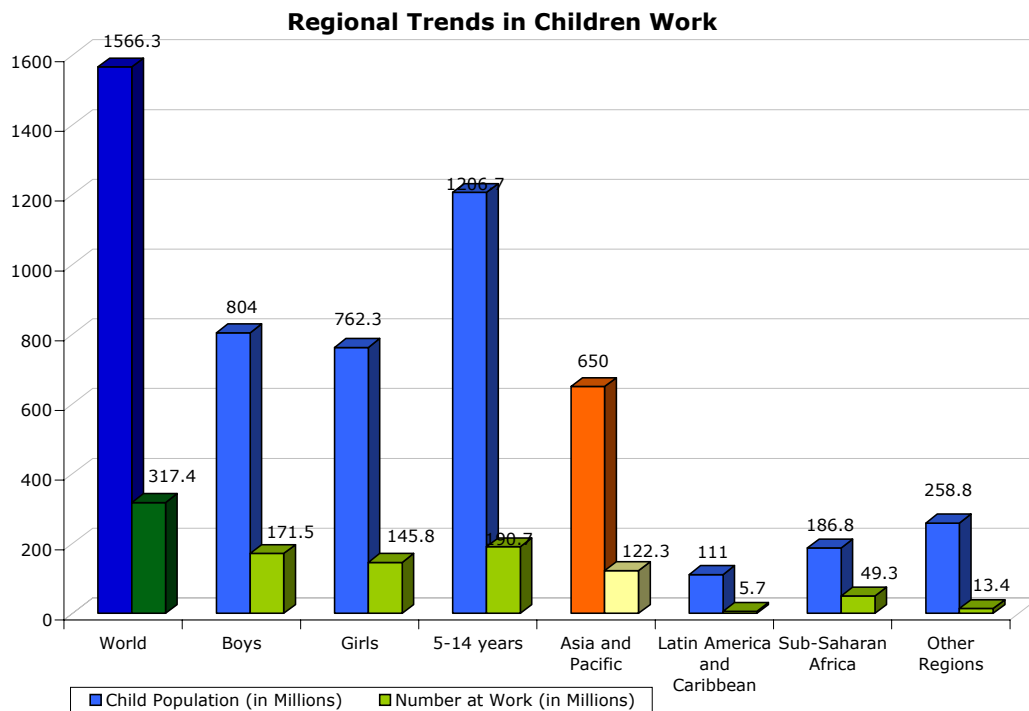


There are some 317 million working children in the world in the age group 5-17 years, an incidence rate of more than 20 per cent of the child population in the age group. **Unsurprisingly, in the fragile conflict ridden Sub-Saharan Africa one in every four children below 14 years of age is economically active which is also home to nearly half the worlds out-of-school children.** This is the only region where the number of children workers has actually increased since 2000. There has been progress in eliminating child labour, but it is still modest.

Boys slightly outnumber girls amongst working children in the world in the ILO estimate. In fact it is generally accepted that the number of working girls is often underestimated by statistical surveys; however, reality says that a large proportion of

children involved in child labour are girls, especially when the unregulated, informal sector such as domestic work is concerned.

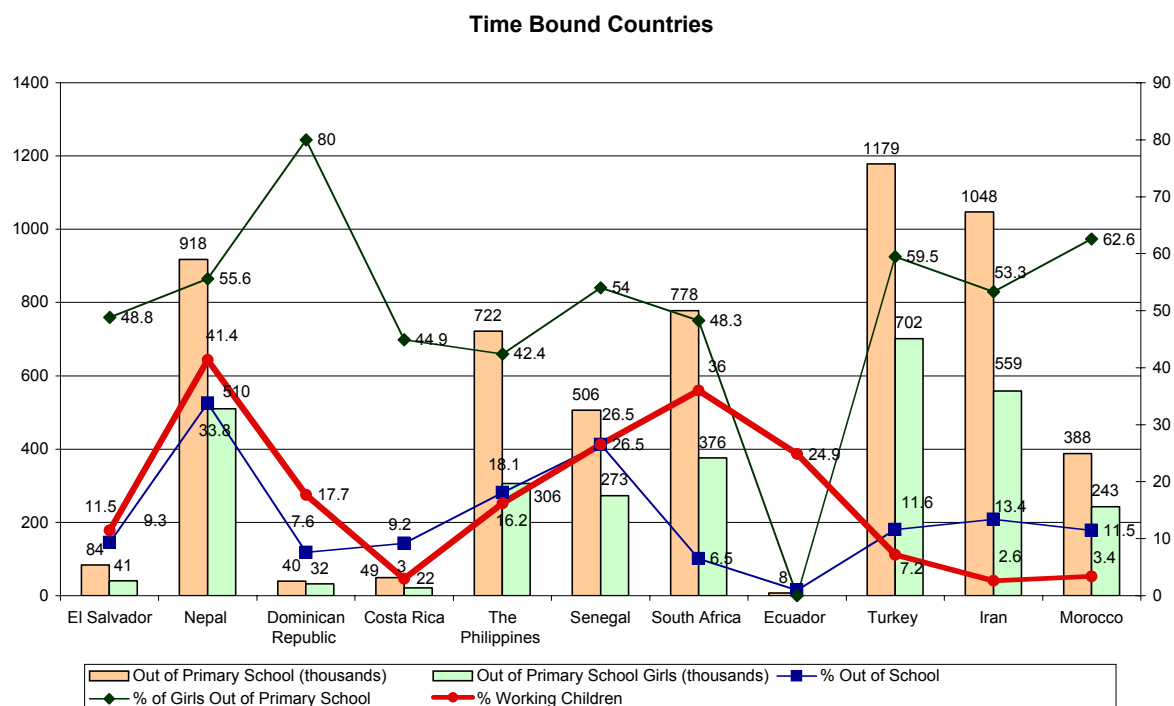
Graph 2: Regional trends of children’s work



The graphs 1 and 2 clearly depict the gravity of the child labour situation in the world. Approximately, 40 per cent of all working children in the age group 5-17 years and 5-14 years are engaged in the most hazardous forms of child labour that is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing. Further, one in three child labourers are in hazardous occupations.

El Salvador, Nepal, and the United Republic of Tanzania were the first three countries to implement Time Bound Programmes for the elimination of child labour. Three other countries, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and the Philippines, started implementation during 2002-03. Several additional countries have since begun the process, including: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mongolia, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, and Yemen. More than 30 ILO member countries have already set time bound targets to abolish the worst forms of child labour.

Graph 3: Children out-of-school and child labour: Snapshot of ILO Time Bound Countries



ILO study on the costs and benefits of eliminating child labour says that economic benefits would outweigh costs by nearly seven to one. Reduction of child labour is expected to help both the child's educational achievements including the efficiency and capacity of the education system, and help reduce poverty. This does not include the incalculable social and human benefits of eliminating the practice: nearly three-fourth of working children are engaged in the worst forms of child labour, including trafficking, armed conflict, slavery, sexual exploitation and hazardous work. Thus, tackling child labour will have positive effects beyond the individual child.

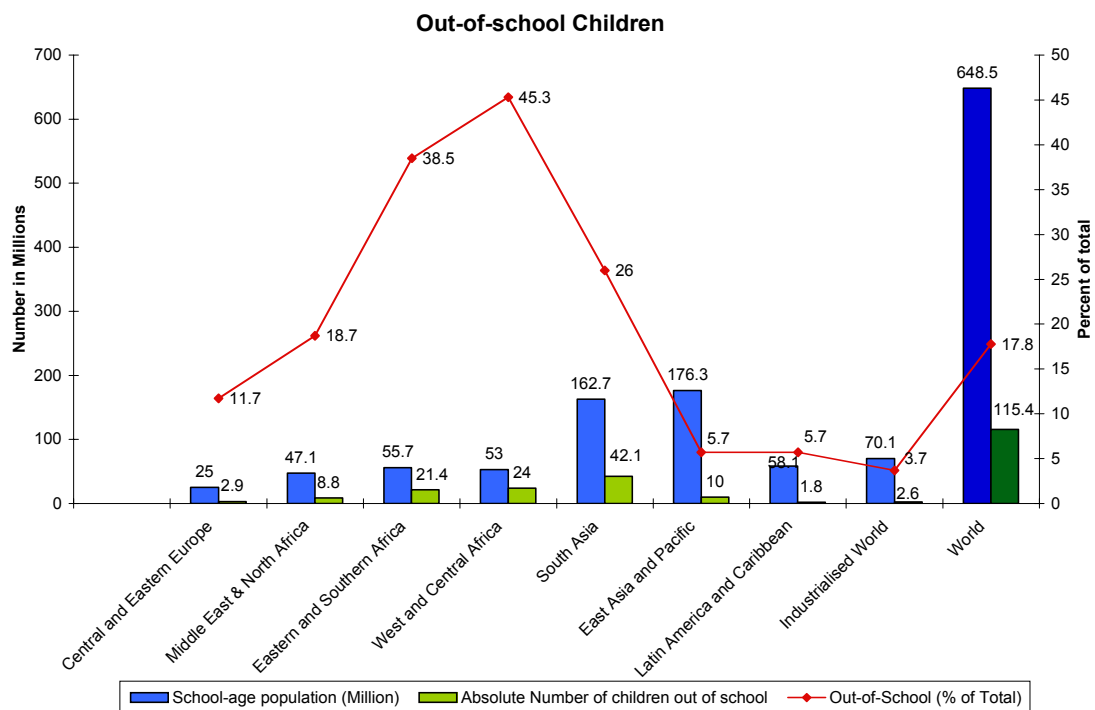
Recent work from ILO, building on the initiative of Global March on triangular paradigm of development that child labour perpetuates poverty empirically concludes that, child labour can be eliminated and replaced by universal education within 20 years at an estimated cost of US\$760 billion. The benefits of eliminating child labour within the next two decades will amount to an estimated US\$ 5.1 trillion for both developing and transitional economies, where most child labourers are found.

An average cost of USD 55 billion per year during the first decade of the global child labour elimination programme amounts to a mere 11 per cent of the USD 493 billion of global military spending or 5.5 per cent of the USD 1 trillion in debt services. During the second decade, the average of USD 136 billion equals 28 per cent of the annual military expenditure and 14 per cent in debt services.

Education:

Education – and in particular, education of good quality up to the minimum age for entering into employment – is a key element in the prevention of child labour. At the same time, child labour is one of the main obstacles to Education for All (EFA), as involvement in child labour is generally at a cost to children’s ability to attend and perform in school. **77 million children across the globe are not going to school, majority of them are working children. This number is almost one in four - of the children worldwide in this age group.** And many of the children who are in school may never complete their primary education or finish it without attaining even basic literacy skills. And, many more are dropping out before they complete primary school, in contradiction with the goal of EFA and Universal Primary Education.

Graph 4: Regional estimates of out-of-school children



In developing countries 1 child in 3 does not complete 5 years of school, the minimum required for basic literacy.

Think About It: Broken Promises

"I am Abou. I was abducted by the armed forces and now I am forced to work on the diamond mines in Koidu. I dig in search of diamonds. The work is tiresome and I also sustain many bruises due to digging with sharp instruments. If I find any, I have to return them to the soldiers, otherwise I shall be beaten badly. I don't want to do this work, I wish I could go home. I have never been to school, I would really like to". Abou is only 12, some children as young as seven working in diamond mining in Sierra Leone.

Today there are 43 million children out of school in conflict affected fragile states, majority of the fragile states are in Africa. Africa has the largest number of children who are out of school: 38 million. Four countries are home to the largest numbers of out of school children - India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Ethiopia (a total of 22.8 million out of school children).

Globally, more than one in five girls of primary-school age are not in school compared with about one in six boys. Of most concern are the wide gender gaps in primary education in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia where almost 80% of the world's out-of-school children live. In sub-Saharan Africa 42% of primary school age girls are out of school compared with 38% of boys. In South Asia the gap is wider with 29% of primary-school age girls out of school compared with 22% of boys.

At the current rate of progress, at least 75 countries will not achieve universal primary education by 2015 – many of them are so off-track that they would need nearly a century to catch up with their counterparts.

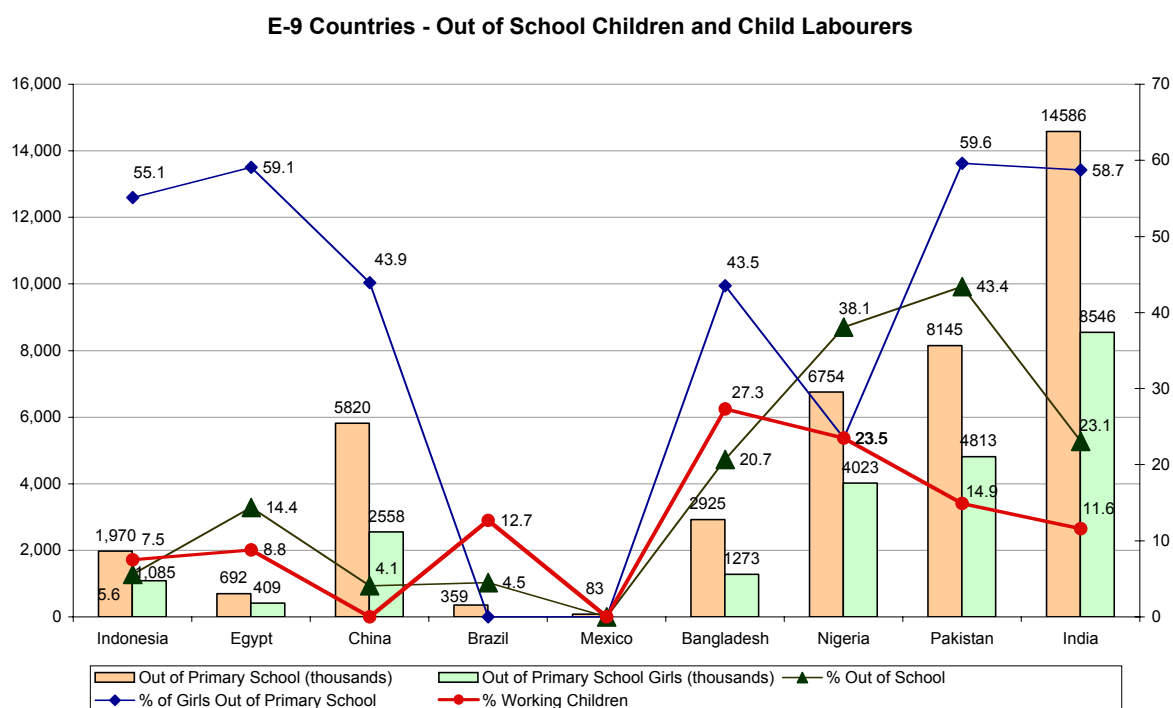
By 2015, approximately 19 million children in Sub-Saharan Africa will still be out of school if current trends continue. Africa's share of the global out of school population will have increased to 40 per cent. Progress towards gender equity in primary education has been mixed. Of the 14 countries in the world where girls account for less than 80 per cent of primary school attendance, 11 are in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the current progress rate, Africa is off track the goal by more than a generation!

Table 1: Child Labour and Child out-of-school – A Brief Review

S.No.	Country	Out of Primary School (thousands)	Out of Primary School Girls (thousands)	% Out of School	% of Girls Out of Primary School	% Working Children
1	Indonesia	1,970	1,085	5.6	55.1	7.5
2	Egypt	692	409	14.4	59.1	8.8
3	China	5820	2558	4.1	43.9	--
4	Brazil	359	--	4.5	--	12.7
5	Mexico	83	--	--	--	--
6	Bangladesh	2925	1273	20.7	43.5	27.3
7	Nigeria	6754	4023	38.1	23.5	23.5
8	Pakistan	8145	4813	43.4	59.6	14.9
9	India	14586	8546	23.1	58.7	11.6
10	DR of Congo	5306	2686.5	--	50.6	24.2
11	Ethiopia	5780	3126	69.4	54.1	85
12	Burkina-Faso	1398	756	72.4	54.1	41.9
13	Gambia	44	23	47.2	52.3	26.9

14	Ghana	1,323	--	24.9		27.7
15	Guinea	455	272	60.3	59.8	30.5
16	Guyana	1	1	3.5	100	27
17	Honduras	132	61	12.6	46.2	15.4
18	Kenya	2030	1010	22.5	49.8	17.4
19	Madagascar	511	254	37.7	45.8	35.7
20	Mauritania	145	74	55.9	51	21.7
21	Moldova	53	29	1.6	54.7	37.1
22	Mozambique	1171	616	50	52.6	32.1
23	Nicaragua	124	62	19.6	50	17.7
24	Niger	1218	668	69.6	54.8	70.1
25	Vietnam	544	--	12.4		22
26	Yemen	997	701	45.4	70.3	18.5
27	Tanzania	1635	849	51.1	51.2	39.6
28	Albania	12	7	2.8	58.3	31.7
29	Bolivia	66	31	8.3	46.9	26.4
30	Uganda	--	--	21.1		34.2
31	Zambia	666	339	32	50.9	11.5
32	El Salvador	84	41	9.3	48.8	11.5
33	Nepal	918	510	33.8	55.6	41.4
34	Dominican Republic	40	32	7.6	80	17.7
35	Costa Rica	49	22	9.2	44.9	3
36	The Philippines	722	306	18.1	42.4	16.2
37	Senegal	506	273	26.5	54	26.5
38	South Africa	778	376	6.5	48.3	36
39	Ecuador	8	--	1	--	24.9
40	Turkey	1179	702	11.6	59.5	7.2
41	Iran	1048	559	13.4	53.3	2.6
42	Morocco	388	243	11.5	62.6	3.4

Graph 5: Children out-of-school and child labour: Snapshot of E-9 Countries

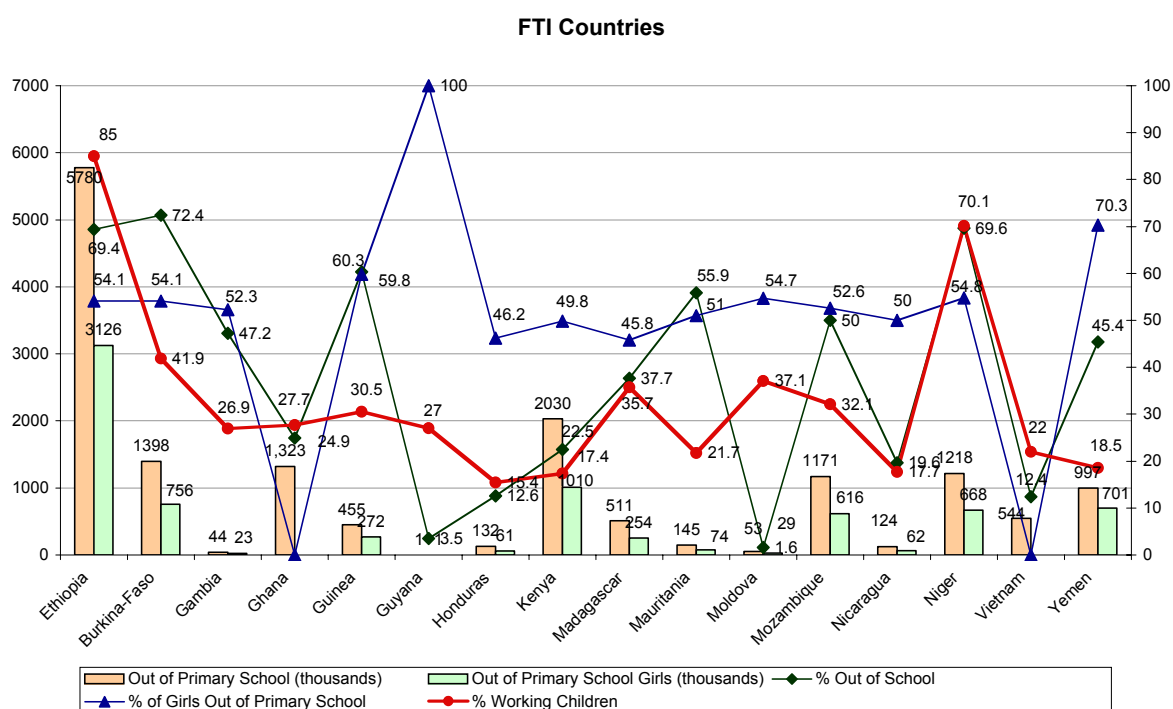


E-9 (nine most populous countries in the world) members are Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan. The population ages 0-14 in the E-9 countries, as a per cent of world total (2001), is 54.5 per cent, which means more than half of the world's concerned population is concentrated in the E-9 countries. 94 per cent of out-of-school children live in developing countries (least developed alone account for over one third) and 47 per cent are concentrated in the E-9 countries.

Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo - are home to 57 percent of the children who do not attend school in the world.

Among the E-9 countries, the percentage of girls out-of-school varies from 44 per cent (China, Bangladesh) to 60 per cent (Pakistan).

Graph 5: Children out-of-school and child labour: Snapshot of FTI Countries



It is estimated that USD 9 billion external aid per annum in order to achieve the primary education goal and USD 11 billion to achieve all the EFA goals – this would require a tripling in aid for basic education in low income countries over the next 2-3 years. The total aid required is equivalent to around USD 13 per child in the developing countries. This is a small price for an investment that will last more than a lifetime in the history of mankind.

However, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) report shows that total aid commitments to basic education actually fell from a high of USD 4.4 billion in 2004, to somewhere below USD 3 billion in 2005. No signs as yet of reversing the

trend with the recent lack of education aid by the farcical “Keep Our Promises” conference in the Brussels in May 2007.

Table 2: TBP, Big 5, E-9 and FTI Countries – Overlapping NOT

ILO Time-Bound Countries	Big Five Countries with large out-of-school populations	E-9 Countries with the largest populations	FTI endorsed countries
			Burkina Faso
			Ethiopia
			Gambia
			Ghana
			Guinea
			Guyana
			Honduras
			Kenya
			Madagascar
			Mauritania
			Moldova
			Mozambique
			Nicaragua
			Niger
			Vietnam
			Yemen
El Salvador			
Nepal			
Tanzania			
The Dominican Republic			
Costa Rica			
The Philippines			
Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	
<i>Brazil</i>		<i>Brazil</i>	
Ecuador			
<i>Indonesia</i>		<i>Indonesia</i>	
<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>Pakistan</i>	
Senegal			
South Africa			
Turkey			
		Egypt	
		China	
		Mexico	
	Nigeria	Nigeria	
	India	India	
	D.R. of Congo	D.R. of Congo	

Of the countries with high percentage of child labour and out-of-school children not a single country has an overlap of time bound programme and fast-track action! As we know, it is mostly the out-of-school children who are child labourers or are at risk of becoming child labourers, thus making it imperative for a holistic approach to address the issue.

One significant achievement in this regard is the institution of the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education, an inter-agency collaboration by the UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, The World Bank and Global March. The Task Force aims to work

together to find ways to better integrate work on child labour and education, with particular regard to seeing how education policies and programmes can help in tackling child labour. It is a beginning to mitigate the current situation of policy incoherence.

POLICY INCOHERENCE:

- Only two of the Big Five countries are among the 14 time-bound countries – Pakistan and Bangladesh
- Only four of the E-9 countries are among the 14 time-bound countries – Brazil, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh
- Ten of the 14 time-bound countries (El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia, South Africa and Turkey) have out-of-school populations of less than 20 percent.
- Only two of the 14 Time-Bound countries are also both Big Five and E-9 countries.
- Three of the five countries invited to the FTI have out-of-school populations of less than 20% - Albania, Bolivia, and Uganda
- Five of the 16 FTI countries have out-of-school populations of less than 25%
- None of the Big Five Countries are on the FTI
- None of the E-9 Countries are on the FTI

Poverty:

Two of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relate directly to education. MDG 2 aims to achieve universal primary education by 2015, ensuring that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. MDG 3 - to promote gender equality and empower women - seeks to eliminate gender disparity in education. Its first target was to get as many girls as boys into school by 2005. The Zedillo panel report estimated that achieving these two goals would cost \$12 billion per year. This is less than double the amount spent annually on ice cream in the US.

- The first MDG target – to get as many girls as boys into primary and secondary school by 2005 – was missed in over 90 countries. In countries such as Niger and Burkina Faso, only one in three girls go to school at all.
- In 2006, failure to reach the 2005 MDG gender-parity target will result in over 1 million unnecessary child and maternal deaths. Educated women have greater knowledge about health issues and greater bargaining power in the household, which has a positive impact on their own health and that of their children.
- HIV/AIDS infection rates double among young people who do not finish primary school. If every girl and boy received a complete primary education, at least seven million new cases of HIV could be prevented in a decade.
- In many countries, school fees are a major barrier that prevents children – especially girls – from going to school. When school fees were abolished in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya, seven million additional children – many of

them girls — entered school in these three countries alone.

- Well-trained and well-supported teachers are essential to providing good-quality education for girls and boys. However, there is currently a global shortage of two million teachers, and at least 15 million new teachers will be needed between now and 2015 in order to achieve education for all.
- Globally, an extra \$7-17 billion per year is still needed to enable all girls and boys to receive a quality primary education.

The poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) is commonly viewed as the roadmap towards the MDGs: while the latter sets the destination, the former elaborates the strategies, policies and programmes to get there. Poverty has often been considered the key reason for perpetuation of child labour. However child labour is the primary cause of poverty, as it pushes children early to premature work thereby denying children the opportunity to acquire the education and skills they need to obtain decent work and incomes as adults. The elimination of child labour is an essential pre-requisite to eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

The MDGs and child labour are intimately linked. The links are mostly straightforward and tend to run both ways. Poverty and lack of education provision constitute the principal common grounds. Indeed, it is poverty associated with social injustice and social exclusion that is most closely related to child labour. Even in countries or regions of countries, which are not rich there are examples of governments which have made the political decision to invest above all in the key public services of health and education ensuring education for all.

Think About It: Broken Promises

Erique, 14-year-old, is working on banana plantations in Las Fincas in Ecuador since he was eleven. “We often use sharp knives and machetes to cut yellow leaves off banana plants, and curvos-short, thick, crescent-shaped blades with wooden handles-to cut bananas off their stalks, to cut plastic bags used to cover banana stalks, and for other tasks”. Asking about the work conditions, he described that dragging the heavy fruit from fields to plants caused back injuries to children. In addition, stalks of bananas or wheels on the cables sometimes fall off and strike children, causing serious injuries. Erique says, “I have 4 younger brothers and sisters, my mother is a housemaid, I work to feed my family. My father left us long ago, I don't remember when”.

A review carried about the World Bank from August-September 2005 found that of the 70 countries that have prepared a PRSP, only 12 dealt with child labour. Some notably examples of policy integration are:

- In Ghana and Tanzania, child labour concerns are covered in their Poverty Reduction Strategy.

- One of the seven objectives of the new Labour and Employment Policy in Nepal is to eliminate child labour
- In Sri Lanka, Zambia, Cambodia, Philippines, Costa Rica, Indonesia, child labour concerns have been reflected in the national policy planning.

More disturbingly, populous countries such as DR Congo, Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria, the Philippines and South Africa, with a significant number of child labourers provide no explicit treatment of child labour issues in the key poverty reduction documents.

AIDS MENACE

In 2001, 14 million children had already lost one or both of their parents to AIDS. Because of the difficulty of obtaining antiretroviral therapy, many more children will be affected. In fact, one estimate projects that the number of AIDS orphans will increase by approximately 150 percent by the year 2010, leaving 20 million children to raise themselves – a situation most likely to force them to work and drop-out of schools! School enrolment rates in sub-Saharan Africa are dropping and poverty increasing as the death toll from AIDS continues to rise.

LOST COMMITMENTS

In 1970 almost all of the rich countries of the world promised to provide 0.7 per cent of their national income (GNI) in aid. Today – 37 years later – only 5 countries fulfill this commitment. Even though 21 of the 22 OECD donor countries signed up to the 0.7 per cent target for aid in 1970, in 2005 these countries together provided only 0.33 per cent of their collective national income in development assistance!

The total aid required is equivalent to around USD 13 per child in the developing countries to reach the goal on education. It would cost around 30 US cents per child per day to meet the goal.

Decisions are to be made to ensure that development that meets the needs of the present generation will also meet the needs of the next generation. Sadly we see that even now, almost 220 million members of the "next generation" are being exploited to meet the economic demands of today. The widespread practice of child labour is one of the single greatest threats to any poverty eradication program. The child labourers of today are the generation on which sustainable development depends, but they are at risk of becoming a forgotten generation.

Sustainable development requires participation by every nation and every person for it to be successful, and successful development cannot leave anybody behind.

In a world that generates \$30,000,000,000,000 every single year, it is absurd that young children must work for their very survival, or that poor children must end their education when they cannot pay minor fees. The real test of the world's commitment to children is if it will pledge the resources needed for all children's rights.

We thus call for:

- **Universal ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention 182 [worst forms of child labour] and Convention 138 [minimum age of employment]**
- **A commitment from the international community to financially support the efforts of national governments to set and achieve time-bound targets for the progressive elimination of child labour**
- **A renewed, time-bound commitment to achieving the UN target of allocating 0.7% of the GNP of developed countries as official development aid to promote sustainable social and economic development and ensure universal human rights**
- **A pledge that, at the very least, 0.1% of the GNP of developed countries be dedicated to official development aid exclusively for meeting the basic needs of children in the developing world**
- **A commitment by governments to allocate at least 6% of GNP for education, with two thirds earmarked for primary education**
- **A reaffirmation of the promise that no country serious about achieving complete elimination of child labour and education for all will fail for lack of resources**

We believe that in adopting and implementing the above recommendations, the world community can make an enormous difference for the children of today and tomorrow. These recommendations are not simple, cheap, or easy, but they are nothing less than what is required to ensure the rights of all children. Sustainable development depends on educated, healthy and empowered children. They are our only hope for the future.

The first step will be to recognise the fundamental importance of investing in children as the future of our world. This must then be translated into concrete commitments for development aid, debt relief, and budgetary allocations for children. These are straightforward steps but they will make a profound difference in the lives of countless young people today and in the hope for humanity tomorrow. When we endeavour to build a fair and just world, the very best way to begin is by caring for all children.

There is still time to reverse this situation, but only if there is urgent and concerted action by civil society and governments. Our voices are ever more critical to remind political leaders that we have not forgotten the commitments their governments

made in 2000, and that now more than ever we are demanding that they deliver on them.

Now, is the time to come down to the ground and make sure that the promises made equal the actions taken.

ACTION GUIDE

We invite the Global March National Coordinators and Partners to join in the celebration and organise activities to mark this campaign and mobilise the local, national and international leaders! The call for the campaign is to remind them to ***Keep Your Promises***.

We invite Global March National Coordinators, partners and concerned citizens to join the ***Keep Your Promises*** Campaign:

E-Campaign: Visit the “Keep Your Campaign” section on the Global March website www.globalmarch.org. Learn more on the issue and submit an ***e-petition*** to the Head of your country and UN Secretary General. You can also modify the petition to reflect your country scenario!

Country Highlight: Fill the questionnaire on the website (www.globalmarch.org) and help us get more information about your country’s commitments to children. Each week we will highlight one country based on the information provided by you. We will compile a report on the basis of all the information collected and submit it to the UN General Assembly.

Children’s Message Board: Have a large blank board in a visible public place for children to write messages of support in the fight against child labour. You can substitute the board with slates, balloons, T-shirts, and other materials depending on the event. Send the materials to us and we will collate and send them along with the compiled report.

Press Conference: Organise a Press Conference, inviting key government contacts, representatives from UN agencies, Global March national partners, and former child labourers.

A sample press release and PowerPoint presentation have been prepared for this purpose.

Celebrity Support: Ask for support messages and words of encouragement from celebrities in your country for the worldwide movement against child labour.

If you already have support messages from celebrities in your country, please send a copy to the International Secretariat to be shared with other partners.