

## The Nexus between Child Labour in Agriculture and the Future of Jobs

Kingsley Kwame Gyamera Abrokwa  
FAO, RAF  
[abroxky@gmail.com](mailto:abroxky@gmail.com)

The Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 has been set for the year 2025 to eliminate all forms of child labour. 2021-ILO and UNICEF estimate that, globally, there are 160 million children in child labour. Out of this, 70% are found in hazardous activities mainly in agriculture. What is more devastating is that, in sub-Saharan Africa, 80% of child labourers are found in agriculture.

Agricultural experts have proposed that, to address poverty and hunger the main causes of child labour, there should be a deliberate increase in investment into agriculture i.e mechanisation and capacity building. Others are of the view that, the fourth industrial revolution, urbanisation, and the changes in the future of jobs can potentially create an ecosystem that may discourage the labour exploitation of children and lead to exponential decline in incidence of child labour.

The 2020 Future of Jobs Report by the World Economic Forum indicated that, the sector that is less at risk to lose jobs is the agriculture. The COVID pandemic has led to changes in job roles and discoveries of new career pathways in sectors in the rural and gig economy. With the rate of mechanisation and urbanisation in sub-Saharan Africa, it is important to understand the nexus between the child labour phenomena in agriculture and how the incidence of child labour may manifest.

Achieving SDG 8.7 is significantly dependent on how stakeholders in the agri food system can escalate efforts to eliminating child labour by leveraging on the global job evolution particularly in the rural economy by providing universal social protection and informed data.