



JMUNESCO'20



SPECIAL FOCUS 2: CHILD LABOUR





ISSUE: Focusing on ensuring the safety and education of child workers in West Africa.

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Introduction:

In West Africa, the percentage of children still attending school is still very low. This number is even lower for young girls who can face hate and discrimination. Due to the disputes against the modern schooling system and especially sexism schools are being attacked and used as bases by armed groups. Students, teachers and other individuals in the education sector are being targeted. Teachers are having to run away from schools giving the children no opportunity to be educated. Another factor that affects this percentage are finances. Even though education is free students have to pay for their own supplies and uniforms causing a lot of children to not be able to afford education. Some children can not go to school due to the fear of physical and sexual abuse at school.

This lack of education is also due to child labor in the cocoa production sector. Even though it has been attempted to be solved a lot of progress was not made. There have been multiple reports released addressing the worst forms of child labor that takes place in West Africa. In West Africa, orphaned children are being put into human trafficking, child labor and even forms of sexual abuse. Not just orphaned children but a lot of children that hope to earn money are being forced into labor and overworking.

Due to this lack of education, children have a higher risk of being hired by armed groups and girls face hate crime and discrimination. Families who want to give their children education opportunities send them to relatives in other countries putting them at risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Definition of key terms:

Human trafficking: The action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation.

Child labour: The action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation.

Hate crime: A crime, typically one involving violence, that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or other grounds.

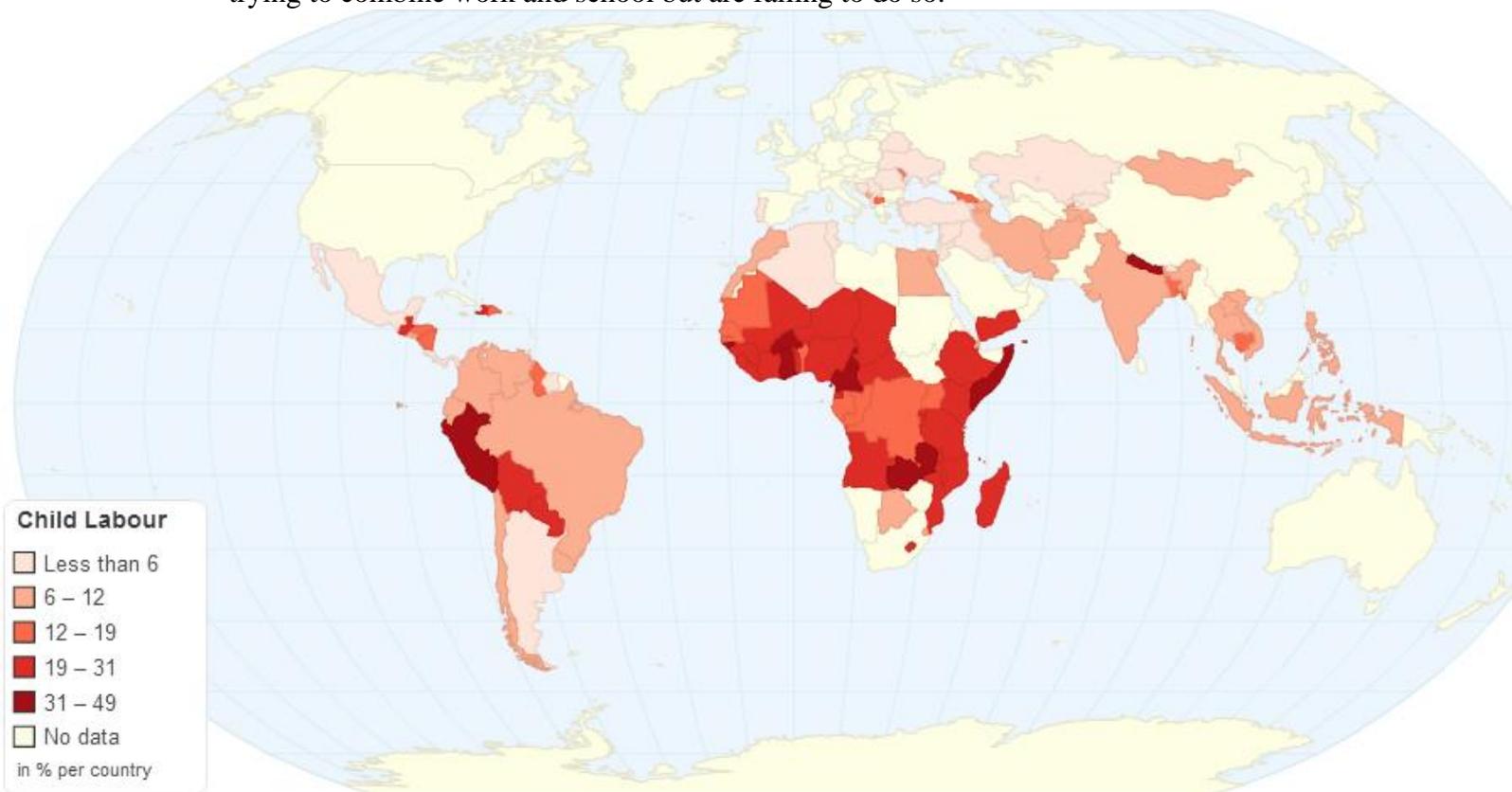
Discrimination: The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.

Prejudice: Preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.

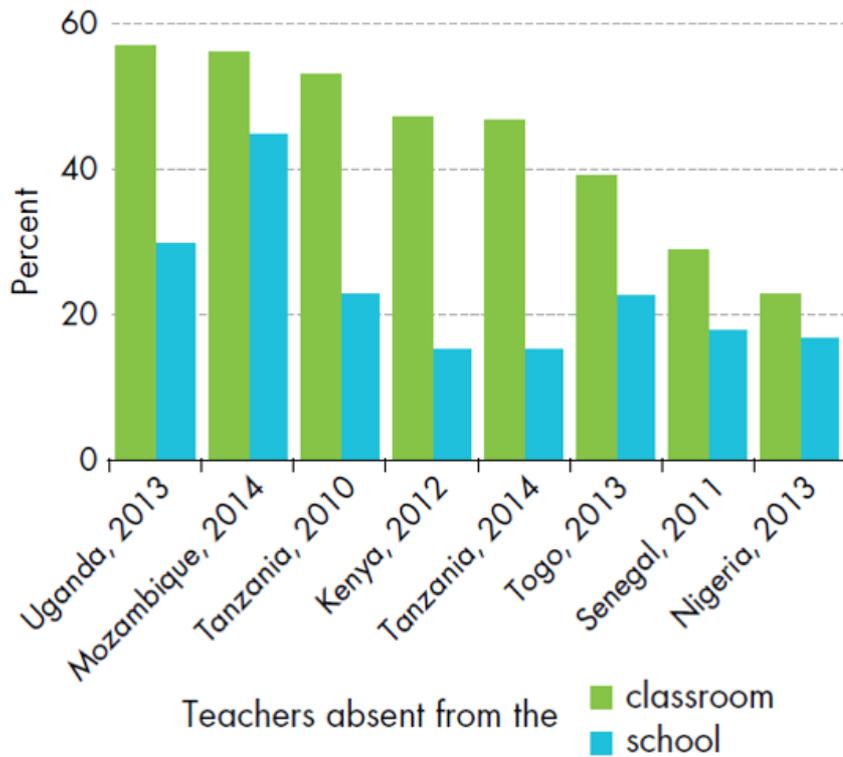
Background Information:

In parts of the African region where countries are Sub-Saharan and in the West are where we see the lowest numbers of child education. This region includes countries such as Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Togo, Ghana, and Gambia. In these countries, the education level can reach critical numbers. Over 20% of children between the ages of 6 and 10 never go to school and 60% of kids between the ages of 15 and 17 don't go to school. These numbers are even worse for girls. 9 million girls never go to school. The quality of education is also very important. Many children can not afford proper schooling or do not have high-quality education available to them so even if they are able to go to school they can not learn to their full potential.

One of the factors affecting child education the most is child labor in cocoa production. A lot of countries are using children in their fields using them in very dangerous work putting them at the risk of serious injury. The children that are being put to work most are in Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Togo. Below is the graph representing these numbers. As we can see at the places where child labor is the most matches the places where education levels are the lowest. Most children in Togo are trying to combine work and school but are failing to do so.



The main reason for such low numbers in education is also prejudice. A lot of armed groups and governments are against the modernized Western education system and are attacking schools and mostly young girls for it. These disputes are taking place mostly in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. They are using schools as bases and causing teachers and other officials to run away. The graph below shows the number of teachers that are absent from classrooms or schools due to this.

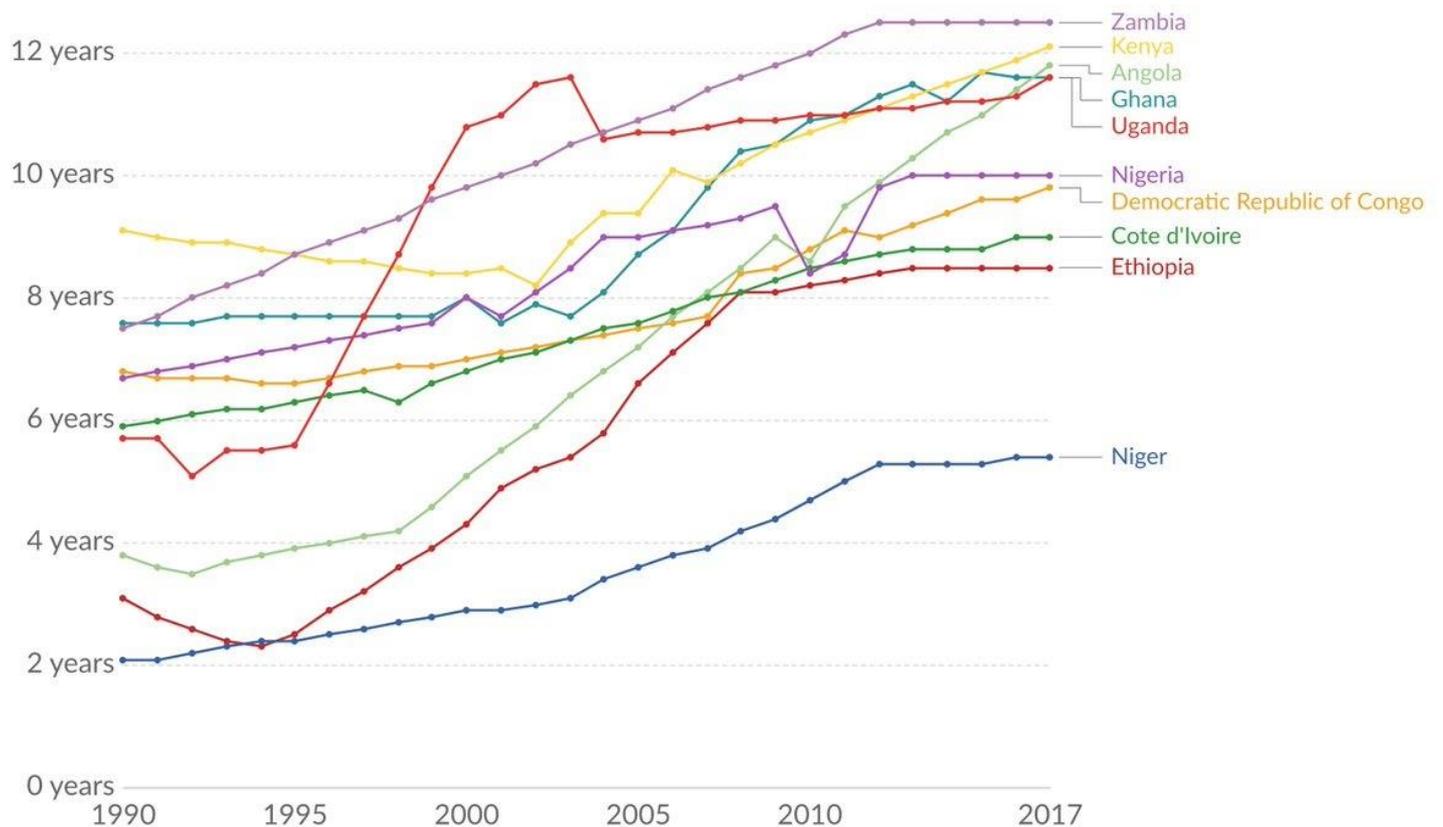


Children are refusing to go to school due to the fear of being sexually or physically assaulted. Families who are sending their children to other countries in hopes of

Expected Years of Schooling

The number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if the current age-specific enrollment rates persist throughout the child's life by country.

Our World in Data



providing them with proper education are putting them at risk of human trafficking and sexual assault.

Overall, in terms of solutions, throughout the years, many treaties and documents have been created as well as organizations and committees, but none of these have helped to understand the issue and allow for countries to disapprove of it, but none of them actually help to stop the issue as a whole. There has however been an increase in education. Even though this increase is very low in sub-saharan Africa there is still a significant increase in other areas. And in African countries we are starting to see the increase in years of education.

Involved countries and organizations:

UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund): A United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children around the world. They have been working on child labor and education.

ILO (The International Labour Organization): A United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social justice and promote decent work by setting international labour standards.

ILAB (Bureau of International Labor Affairs): The operating unit of the United States Department of Labor that deals with child labor in countries such as Africa.

Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast: The countries with the highest numbers of child labor.

Human Rights Watch (HRW): Human Rights Watch is an international non-governmental organization, headquartered in New York City, that conducts research and advocacy on human rights. They have released multiple articles about the child labor and education issues in West Africa.

Africa Educational Trust: An NGO(non-governmental organization) that is creating many projects to increase education levels and equality in education.

Timeline of events:

1905	A member of the Anti-Slavery Society was sent by William Cadbury to investigate to cocoa plantations
2001	Under the pressure of the U.S., the chocolate companies promised to end all child labor by 2005 but they failed to keep this promise
2001	The Togolese government arrested 10 people for child labor only some of them were prosecuted.
2001	Harkin-Engel Protocol, also known as the Cocoa Protocol was signed to eradicate child labor
April 2003	A 79-page report was released by the Human Rights Watch
2009	Many companies started taking action to stop child labor

2010&2016	The Ivory Coast government passed laws for penalties of child labor
2010	After the deadlines of 200, 2008 and 2010 could not be met a new deadline was set for 2020 to reduce child labor by 70%
2017	Action was taken by the government in Togo to reduce child labor

Previous attempts to solve the issue:

1. The ILO DWCP: Designed to support the goal of helping working women and men, it also featured NAP'S (National Action Plans) to combat child labour. Created by the ILO, this programme helped to keep the issue on a wide scale level in order to aid child workers. Currently, it is still in use.
2. The CRC: The United Nations created the convention on the rights of the child contained a range of rights for children. Article 39 addresses child labour by creating laws for the sale of children and the implementation of children in armed conflict.
3. The PRSP: The poverty reduction strategy paper created a country programme in order to reduce poverty and obtain funding from the International Monetary Fund and World bank. The policies involved had a direct impact on child labour in Africa and it allowed for the problem to be reduced. This solution helped to create a balance for the issue, allowing for any solutions to be funded.
4. The committee of child rights: This committee was mandated to monitor and report on the implementation of CRC protocols. The committee then provides the concluding observations. This solution allowed for the issue to be monitored and understood, providing a closer view on the issue as a whole.
5. The GPE: The global partnership for education is a partnership that seeks to ensure accelerated progress in developing countries caused by complete education systems to accommodate all children by 2030. This allowed for more schools to be built, and education to be on a widescale level, decreasing the amount of child workers.

Possible solutions:

1. Schools: With the proper funding, much needed schools and education systems could be built in the involved areas. This would allow children to get the education they desperately need.
2. Monitoring: By monitoring jobs such as cocoa production, the life quality and safety of children could be controlled and ensured, providing safety for child workers.
3. Funding: As well as schools and education systems, child workers should be provided with food and water, available through different fundings such as charities or bank agreements.
4. Protect schools: By protecting students and teachers, education as a whole can be supported, allowing for child labour to decrease as well as violence against schools.

Useful links:

- <https://www.unicef.org/child-alert/education-threat-west-central-africa>

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Africa
- <http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/education-africa>
- <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5bd05af612.pdf>
- <https://www.du.edu/korbel/hrhw/researchdigest/slavery/africa.pdf>
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2003/04/01/west-africa-stop-trafficking-child-labor>
- <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/togo>
- <https://africaeducationaltrust.org/>
- <https://ourworldindata.org/global-rise-of-education#school-life-expectancy-captures-the-years-of-schooling-children-can-expect>

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