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TRAFFICKING FOR FORCED LABOUR

Despite the fact that many people believe that slavery no longer exists, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that there are some 5.5 million children in slavery or practices similar to slavery [1]. They are all in child slavery, as defined by the 1956 UN Supplementary Slavery Convention. In these cases, as well as being in a hazardous situation, there is an intention to exploit these children for someone else's gain. According to the ILO, however, there are over 200 million child labourers around the world. Child labour is not slavery, but nevertheless hinders children's education, development and future livelihoods. For example, children who are used by others who profit from them, often through violence, abuse and threats, in prostitution or pornography, illicit activities, such as [forced begging](#), petty theft, and the drug trade;

Forced child labour, for example in agriculture, factories, construction, [brick kilns](#), mines, bars, restaurants or tourists environment;

Children who are forced to take part in armed conflict. They don't only include child soldiers but also porters or girls taken as "wives" for soldiers and militia members.

According to UNICEF there are about 300,000 child soldiers involved in over 30 areas of conflict worldwide, some even younger than 10 years old. Children involved in conflict are severely affected by their experiences and can suffer from long-term trauma [2].

[Child domestic workers](#), many of whom are forced to work long hours, in hazardous and often abusive environments, for little or no pay, and often far from home.

There are 168 million child labourers aged between 5 and 17 years old (ILO 2014). This is considerably less than estimated 215 million in 2008.

Around five per cent of child labourers are estimated to be in the worst forms of child labour (ILO 2014).

Worldwide, 5.5 million children are in slavery, trafficking, debt bondage and other forms of forced labour, forced recruitment

for armed conflict, prostitution, pornography and other illicit activities (ILO 2014).

Global efforts to control human trafficking has led to a number of new international antitrafficking instruments, the most noteworthy of which is the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, (the "Palermo Protocol"), which supplemented the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), and the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005). The Palermo Protocol contains the following definition of trafficking, which is now almost universally accepted: "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. "We say "no" to exploitative labour practices and to any associated criminal conduct.

Child trafficking has a significant negative impact, first and foremost on the trafficked children and their families, but also on their communities and on the nation as a whole. A thorough understanding of the human and economic costs should provide the arguments for the allocation of sufficient government resources to address child trafficking effectively, and to mobilize all those who can make a difference [3].

At a national level, economic development is stymied both by the lack of educational development and also because potentially productive future workers are lost to the economy. Children and adults who return from trafficking with injuries or diseases also put a financial burden on their families and on the country, not least because the young and middle-aged people who are trafficking's most likely victims are unable to work and support the older people who depend on them.

The secret to effective anti-trafficking activity is mobilizing a range of relevant partners who can all bring their specific expertise

and experience to bear on the problem, and this in a coordinated way that minimizes repetition and overlap and maximizes strengths and resources. This is often called a 'multi-sectoral' or 'multidisciplinary' approach. Typically, the national actors who will participate in coordinated action include government, law enforcement, judiciary, employers' and workers' organizations, NGOs, other civil society actors.

Reference list

1. ILO, A Future without Child Labour, 2002 (www.ilo.org/declaration).
2. OSCE, Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance, 2005.
3. UNHCR, Recommended principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 2002.