



Partnership Against
Child Exploitation



**Protecting children from the
worst forms of child labour**

The Partnership Against Child Exploitation (PACE) is a ground-breaking partnership of private sector, academic, media development and civil society organisations working together to combat the exploitation of children in the worst forms of child labour.

Working in some of the world's most challenging places for children, PACE aims to identify the most effective approaches to tackling the worst forms of child labour through a combination of innovation and tried and tested methods.



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How can we protect children from the worst forms of child labour?

Millions of children across the world are working today. Much of this work – helping parents around the home, earning money in school holidays, learning new skills through an internship – is seen as positive; a normal part of growing up.

For many children, however, the experience of work is not a positive one. 'Child labour' is defined by international standards as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. It is typically exploitative and in contravention of their rights.

Though the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Member States are committed to eradicating child labour by 2025. Yet, it is estimated that more than 150 million children are still engaged in child labour today. In Africa alone, this equates to roughly one in every five children.

What are the 'Worst Forms of Child Labour'?

The worst forms of child labour (WFCL) are defined by the International Labor Organization (ILO) under its 182 convention, adopted in 1999. Ratified by 186 of the ILO's 187 member states, the convention defines the forms of child labour deemed most damaging and detrimental to children's wellbeing and holds signatories responsible for the prohibition and elimination of the exploitation of children in the worst forms of child labour.

The worst forms of child labour are defined as:



all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict



the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances



the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties



work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children



About PACE

PACE is a holistic, multifaceted programme designed to identify the most effective strategies for combating the worst forms of child labour across four main areas of work.

One of the first partnerships of its kind, PACE brings together international NGOs, the private sector, a renowned university, a corporate foundation and media development agency.

The programme is supported with funding from the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID). DFID leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty, tackling the global challenges of our time including poverty and disease, mass migration, insecurity and conflict. Through its work, DFID aims to build a safer, healthier, and more prosperous world. The PACE programme is part of DFID's wider UK Aid Connect programme, which seeks to convene non-traditional partnerships of organisations to tackle the world's most complex development challenges.

Focus areas



Supporting children's agency to resist exploitation

PACE will empower children to resist exploitation by raising awareness of their rights and the dangers of child labour, and promoting positive social norms among families and communities.



Helping children and their families access suitable alternatives to the worst forms of child labour

PACE will work with families and their communities, local authorities and employers to identify suitable alternatives to the worst forms of child labour – helping children and families into decent employment, vocational training or education, and reducing the reliance on harmful child labour practices for survival.



Supporting policy makers, law enforcement and the justice sector to prevent child labour and hold perpetrators accountable

PACE will strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and justice professionals to investigate and prosecute those who exploit children in some of the worst forms of child labour.



Working with the private sector to map supply chains and strengthen due diligence

Led by consortium partners Fifty Eight and UN Global Compact Network UK (UNGC UK), this focus area will support the private sector to strengthen their supply chains to prevent the use of child labour.



Countries

PACE is active in three countries: the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Ethiopia.

All three countries have significant numbers of children working in some of the worst forms of child labour, including being recruited into armed groups, prostitution, forced labour or hazardous work.



Supporting children's agency to resist exploitation

PACE will empower children to resist exploitation by raising awareness of their rights and the dangers of child labour, and promoting positive social norms among families and communities.

This first element of PACE is focused on building awareness among children and young people of their rights regarding child labour, and particularly the difference between legitimate child work – for example, supporting parents with household tasks – versus exploitative child labour. This knowledge will help children to protect themselves, and to be confident to raise the alarm in instances where they are at risk.

Working with parents, caregivers and local communities, we will also seek to foster supportive environments where children are safe and protected. Raising awareness at community level of child labour laws, and why the worst forms of child labour are particularly hazardous for children, is a key first step. This will be reinforced by the project's engagement with local media (see Focus Area 3).

Finally, mechanisms to protect children from the worst forms of child labour, and to enable children to report and respond to violations, will be promoted and, where necessary, instigated by us to ensure families and communities are able to leverage the support of law enforcement in protecting children and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Focus area 1



Helping children and their families access suitable alternatives to the worst forms of child labour

PACE works with families and their communities, local authorities and employers to identify suitable alternatives to the worst forms of child labour – helping children and families into decent employment, vocational training or education, and reducing the reliance on harmful child labour practices for survival.

PACE will conduct 'labour market assessments' in all three countries – mapping available safe employment and training opportunities in the target locations. The outcomes of these assessments will determine the options promoted to children and their families later in the project.

Vulnerable children will be supported to start or return to school. World Vision and War Child will work with targeted schools to help them take in more vulnerable children, with support such as small grants to improve school facilities, or school gardens to provide food for pupils at lunch time. In Ethiopia, tutoring programmes will be set up to support children who have been out of school to catch up, and to encourage others at risk of dropping out to stay in school.

Focus area 2



Other activities will be targeted at young people who, for various reasons, may not be able to return to school. For example, the provision of vocational training will help teenagers and young adults access safer forms of employment, or increase their earning potential so that informal employment or signing up to armed groups aren't seen as viable options. The project will establish 'employment hubs' for children aged 15 years and over, offering a range of services and opportunities.

Similar opportunities will be extended to the parents and caregivers of working children, enabling them to earn better incomes so that they no longer depend on their children's wages. Local savings and loans schemes will also be established to improve family access to financial support.

The project will work directly with local employers and business owners to provide these opportunities, while also supporting improvements to workplace conditions and occupational safety.



Supporting policy makers, law enforcement and the justice sector to prevent child labour and hold perpetrators accountable

PACE will strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and justice professionals to investigate and prosecute those who exploit children in some of the worst forms of child labour.

Prevention starts with awareness. With support from consortium partner the Thomson Reuters Foundation, media outlets in our three focus countries will raise awareness of child labour, its damaging effects on children, and how the issue is addressed in law.

We will also work with law enforcement bodies, social services and civil society to strengthen referral mechanisms and ensure it is clear where to report cases of child labour, and the services and support available to affected children.

At an institutional level, the Thomson Reuters Foundation will work with government-mandated agencies to train local police, prosecutors and justice professionals on the investigation and prosecution of child labour cases, their legal obligations, and the unique skills required to support children in contact with the law. We will also bring together the same bodies to devise and implement national action plans to reduce the incidence of child labour in their respective countries and protect more children from exploitation.

Working with the private sector to map supply chains and strengthen due diligence

Led by consortium partners Fifty Eight and UN Global Compact Network UK (UNGC UK), this focus area will support the private sector to strengthen their supply chains to prevent the use of child labour.

Initial 'labour market assessments' will be conducted in each country to identify how both local and global businesses can help provide pathways to safe and decent alternatives to the worst forms of child labour (see also Focus Area 2). The findings from these assessments will also inform how the private sector can best eliminate the worst forms of child labour within their own operations and beyond.

PACE partner Fifty Eight will map supply chains of key commodities entering international markets: gold in the Central African Republic, sesame in Ethiopia, and tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold (also known as the "3TGs") in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The mapping will be conducted from the bottom-up, in contrast to today's more standard practice of mapping supply chains from the top-down. This will make it easier to pinpoint where materials produced using child labour enter global markets, as well as provide new insights into how companies and organisations can reduce child labour and improve traceability.

Focus area 4



UNGC UK will convene a series of business roundtables in the DRC and Ethiopia to build greater awareness of the worst forms of child labour and serve as a forum to identify and share best practice for how to combat this problem. Coupled with interviews with targeted companies, PACE aims to generate evidence for a better model of due diligence which can be replicated by companies around the world.

Internationally, UNGC UK have launched a Child Labour Working Group, alongside a Private Sector Strategic Advisory Panel to further identify good practice at a global level and ensure the project benefits from existing expertise among some of the world's largest companies.

Central African Republic

How is PACE helping?

Children who are currently exploited in the worst forms of child labour will be supported to return to school, while older children will be offered vocational training opportunities. Economic support will also be provided to some of the most vulnerable families – including job opportunities with private sector organisations, skills training and access to local savings and loans schemes.

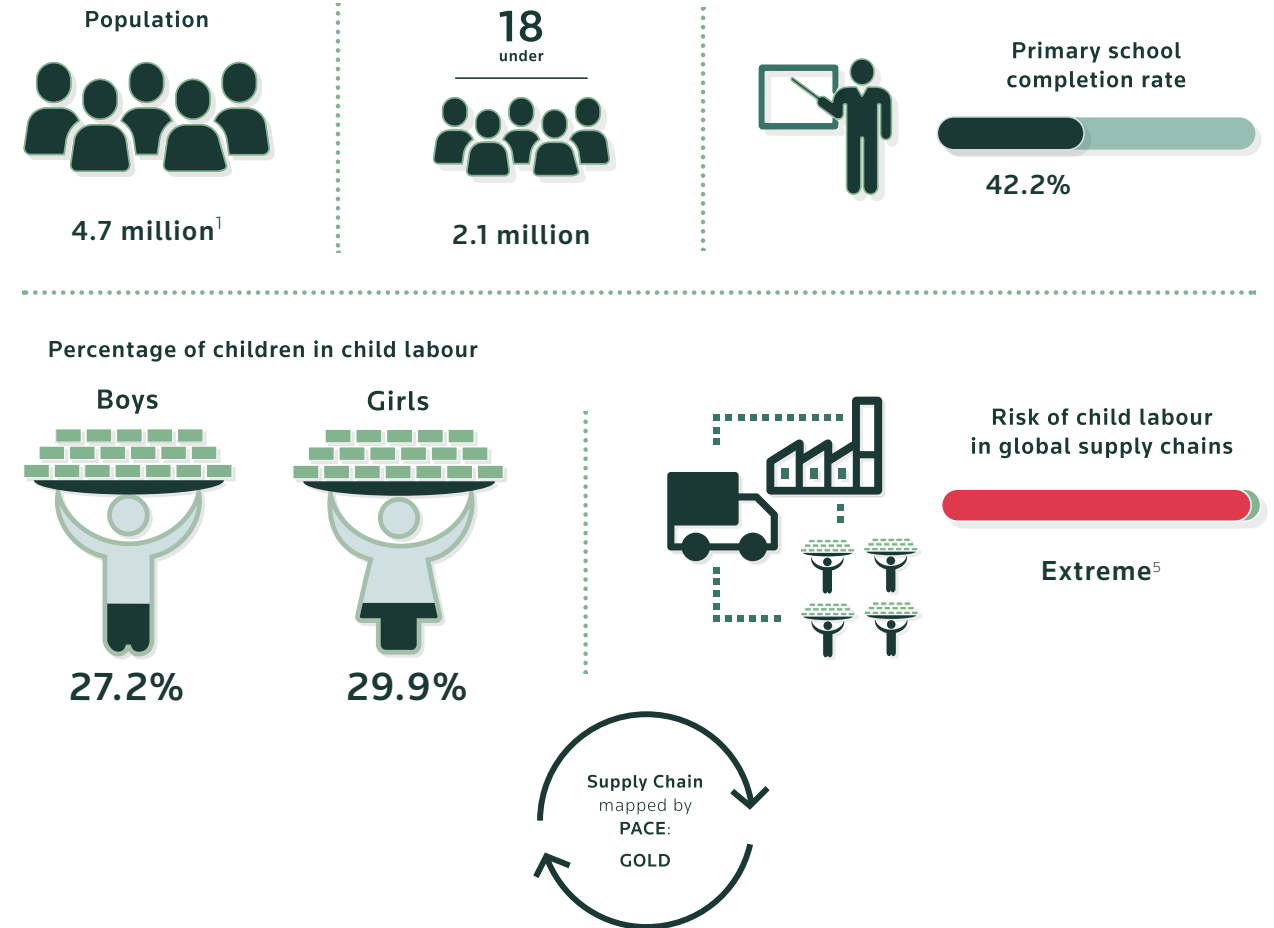
In CAR specific attention will be paid to the demobilisation and rehabilitation of children associated with armed groups. Taken together, these interventions will make it easier for families to reject child labour as a viable coping strategy.

Our in-county partners, War Child and World Vision, are well established in CAR and will work with the government and relevant bodies, the private sector, armed groups and local community actors to raise awareness of existing child labour law and the services available to children. The supply of gold to international markets through CAR will also be mapped to identify where child labour takes place, and how additional measures could help combat it.

Where are we working?

In CAR, World Vision operations will be delivered in Bocaranga, a sub prefecture in the prefecture of Ouham Pende in the west of the country. The area is known for mining activity, including diamonds and gold. Both World Vision and War Child are also operating in the Ouham prefecture, with World Vision focusing operations around Batangafo, and War Child in Bossangoa. Operations in these areas will focus on children affected by armed conflict, including those recruited into armed groups or at risk of being recruited.

Focus country



Democratic Republic of Congo

How is PACE helping?

Children who are currently exploited in the worst forms of child labour will be supported to return to school, while older children will be offered vocational training opportunities. Economic support will also be provided to some of the most vulnerable families – including job opportunities with private sector organisations, skills training and access to local savings and loans schemes.

In the DRC special attention will be paid to children working in mines, sexual exploitation, and children associated with armed forces and groups.

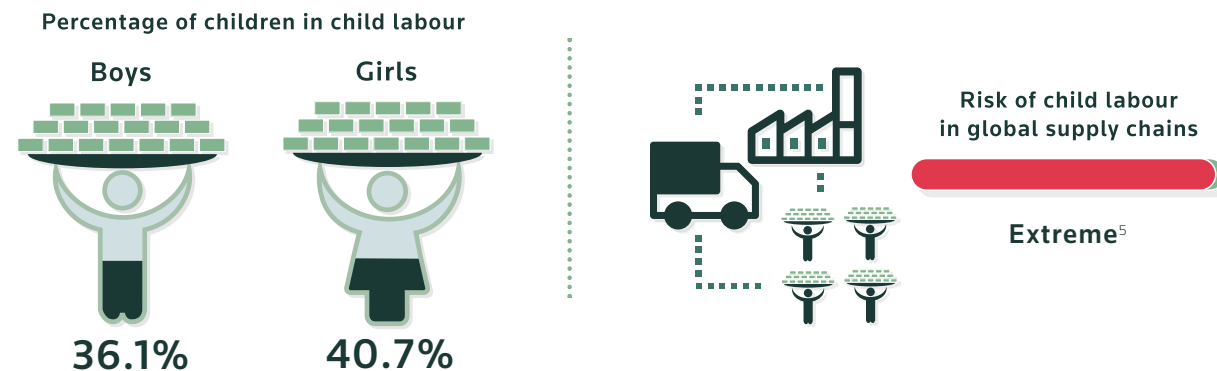
Our in-county partners, War Child and World Vision, are well established in the DRC, and will work with the DRC Government and regional line ministries, law enforcement, local media, the private sector, armed groups and local community actors to raise awareness of existing child labour law and the services available to children, while building local capacity among many of these stakeholders to combat the exploitation of children.

The supply of gold, tantalum, tungsten and tin to international markets will also be mapped to identify where child labour takes place, and how additional measures could help combat it.

Where are we working?

Project activities in the DRC will be managed out of the War Child and World Vision offices in Goma and Bukavu – the provincial capitals of North and South Kivu, respectively. Community-based interventions will be focused on the territories of Masisi in North Kivu (led by War Child), and Walungu in South Kivu (led by World Vision).

Focus country



Ethiopia

How is PACE helping?

In Ethiopia children who are currently exploited in the worst forms of child labour will be supported to return to schooling, while older children will be offered vocational training opportunities. Economic support will also be provided to some of the most vulnerable families - including job opportunities with private sector organisations, skills training and access to local savings and loans schemes.

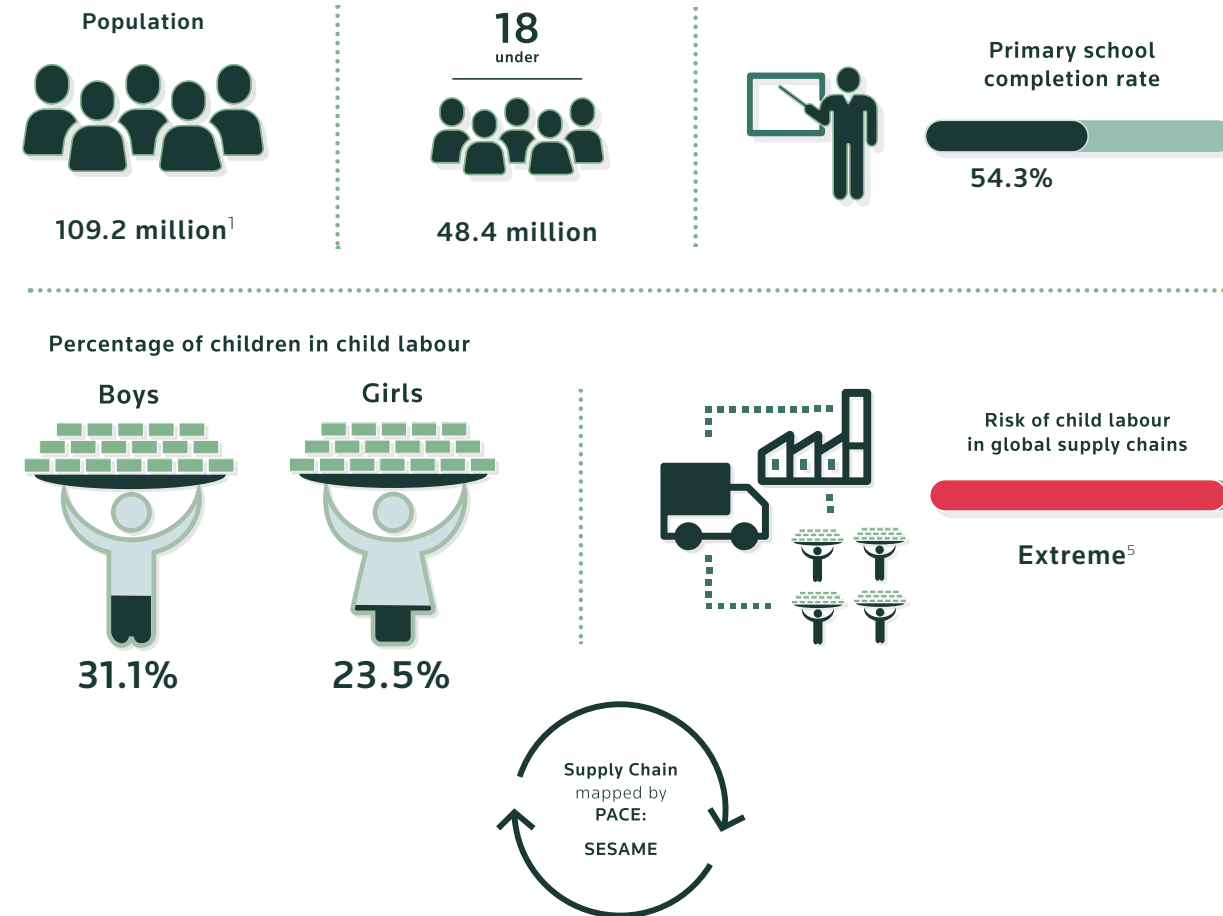
Project partners will also work with the Ethiopian Government and relevant bodies, the private sector, national and regional media, and local community actors to raise awareness of existing child labour law and the services available to children. The supply of sesame to international markets through Ethiopia will also be mapped to identify where child labour takes place, and how additional measures could help combat it.

Where are we working?

Project activities will be focused in three areas of the northern Amhara Region: Gondar Zuria, Libo Kemekem and Dera. The child labour rates in Amhara are among the highest in the country, and World Vision Ethiopia has existing programmes in the region that enable us to work with some of the area's most vulnerable communities.

Activities with media and legal professionals will also be implemented in Addis Ababa. We will work with federal legislators and the police service to strengthen law enforcement capacity and will support national broadcasters to report on child labour issues.

Focus country



PACE partners

World Vision UK

World Vision believes that by working together with children, their communities, and our supporters and partners the lives of the world's most vulnerable children can be transformed. We are an international child-focused Christian organisation, and part of an international partnership working in close to 100 countries around the world.

Role in PACE: Through its country offices in CAR, the DRC and Ethiopia, World Vision is responsible for delivering community-based child protection, education and livelihood assistance to prevent children engaging in the worst forms of child labour. As the consortium lead partner, World Vision is also supporting other consortium partners with their work on legal and media capacity strengthening, international supply chain mapping, capturing evidence and learning, and managing overall programme coordination.

Care and Protection of Children (CPC) Learning Network

The Care and Protection of Children (CPC) Learning Network, housed at the School of Public Health at Columbia University, convenes academics, policymakers and practitioners to promote innovative research, nurture communities of learning, and build the next generation of researchers and advocates for children and families worldwide.

Role in PACE: Columbia University are leading the programme's monitoring, evaluation, and applied learning (MEAL) strategy, which will include gathering global evidence and best practice from the field operations on how to combat the worst forms of child labour.

Fifty Eight

Fifty Eight partners with organisations and companies to develop research, training and practical solutions that enhance quality of life, free from exploitation. We bring together insights across the breadth of supply chains, from boardrooms to grassroots communities.

Role in PACE: Fifty Eight, alongside programme partner UN Global Compact Network UK, is focused on enabling the private sector to strengthen supply chains to reduce and prevent the worst forms of child labour. Fifty Eight will also work with consortium partners to drive private sector engagement to offer children and families safe and decent alternatives to child labour.

Thomson Reuters Foundation

The Thomson Reuters Foundation is the corporate foundation of the global news and information services company. Through journalism, media development, free legal assistance and convening initiatives, we combine our unique services to advance media freedom, raise awareness of human rights issues, and foster more inclusive economies. Our mission is to inspire collective leadership, empowering people to shape free, fair and informed societies.

Role in PACE: Within the consortium the Thomson Reuters Foundation leads the programme's media and legal capacity strengthening interventions with a focus on the DRC and Ethiopia. Through its editorial team and digital expertise, the Foundation is also leading much of the programme's public-facing work.

UN Global Compact Network UK

Launched in 2000 by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the UN Global Compact is a voluntary initiative based on the commitments of companies to implement universal sustainability principals and take steps to support UN goals. The Network provides a framework of ten principles in four areas – human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption – within which companies are invited to manage their business operation.

Role in PACE: The UN Global Compact Network UK will use its global convening power to engage the private sector and share best practice in preventing and reducing WFCL. UNGC UK will also lead on the work being done to better understand and document how the informal sector feeds into formal supply chains, with a view of how this potentially undermines any positive impact of private sector efforts to eliminate WFCL.

War Child UK

War Child UK's mission is to protect, educate and stand up for the rights of children in war. We work with children affected by war in 9 countries and helped 123,000 children in 2018. Our main objective is to increase the scale of our work and reach more children in conflict areas.

Role in PACE: Within the consortium, War Child UK is responsible for delivering protection, education and livelihood assistance to prevent children engaging in the worst forms of child labour in CAR and the DRC. War Child is also leading the programme's work with children associated with armed forces and groups.



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