Closing the Evidence Gap on Interventions to Address Child Labor

Workshop

Time: 9 am- 1:30 pm, September 29, 2016

Venue: IDRC, 150 Kent Street, 8th floor

Overview

According to the most recent ILO estimates, 215 million children are trapped in child labor worldwide, of which 115 million work in hazardous conditions while 6 million are victims of forced labor.

Child labor is a complex phenomenon influenced by a multitude of factors, and is often exacerbated by situations of fragility, conflict and violence (FCV), where social protection systems might be at their weakest or non-existent.

While a large set of policy instruments can be used to tackle child labor, predicting the impact of such interventions is far from straightforward. Indeed, limited evidence exists on the impact of policies and programs on child labor therefore hampering policy efforts to address the child labor issues.

To help close this evidence gap, the Canadian Development Economics Study Group, World Bank’s Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) and the ILO’s Understanding Children’s Work (UCW) Programme are organizing a workshop to take stock of existing evidence on the efficacy of policy interventions to address child labor, with a particular focus on FCV settings. The workshop also aims to experiment with promising policy interventions that might have higher returns and to foster dialogue between practitioners and academic experts on child labor policies.

The two key objectives of the workshop will consist of: (i) discussing and validating findings from a review paper on the state of knowledge and gaps on the effects of different child labor policy interventions; and (ii) formulating a research agenda to investigate how public works programs might influence child labor outcomes in developing and fragile contexts.
## Preliminary agenda

### 9.00 – 9.15 Welcoming Remarks
Edgar Rodriguez *(to be confirmed)*
Senior Program Specialist  
*International Development Research Centre*

### 9.15 – 9.30 Introductory remarks
Furio C. Rosati  
Director  
*ILO’s Understanding Children’s Work Programme*

**What we know and don’t know about policies that might influence (indirectly) child labor outcomes?**

*This module will provide an overview of policies and interventions which might indirectly affect child labor outcomes and discuss the available evidence and gaps on their effectiveness*

### 9.30 - 10.00 Key note address
Kathleen Flynn-Dapaah *(to be confirmed)*
Deputy Director, Child Protection  
*Global Affairs Canada*

### 10.00 - 10.30 The Effects of Public Policy on Child Labor: Current Knowledge, Gaps, and Implications for Program Design
Ana Dammert  
Professor  
*Carleton University*

### 10.30 - 11.00 Gender Equality and Child Labor
Furio C. Rosati  
Director  
*ILO’s Understanding Children’s Work Programme*

### 11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break

### 11.15 – 12.30 Panel discussion / Questions and answers
*The panel discussion will bring together representatives from the World Bank, USDOL, UNICEF, Global Affairs Canada, and Save the Children-Canada to showcase flagship interventions and identify key areas where evidence is critically needed.*

### 12.30 – 13.00 Lunch