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Canadian Development Economics Study Group
CDESG

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, Pearson Boardroom

Overview

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.

The Government of Canada is providing support to the ILO's Understanding Children's Work (a joint ILO-UNICEF-World Bank initiative), which provides a global platform for child labor policy dialogue, partnership building, and research cooperation. 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.

Closing the Evidence Gap on Interventions to Address Child Labor Workshop

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 - 9.45 **Guest Speaker**
Kathleen Flynn-Dapaah
Deputy Director, Child Protection
Global Affairs Canada

9.45 - 10.15 **The Effects of Public Policy on Child Labor: Current Knowledge, Gaps, and Implications for Program Design**
Ana Dammert
Professor
Carleton University

10.15 - 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 USDOL, UNICEF, Save the Children, and Save the Children-Canada to showcase flagship interventions and identify key areas where evidence is critically needed.

12.30 – 13.30 *Lunch*
