



**JOINT STATEMENT ON OCCASION OF
WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR 2020
THEME: COVID-19: PROTECT CHILDREN FROM LABOUR NOW MORE THAN EVER
BY EMPLOYERS FEDERATION OF PAKISTAN AND
PAKISTAN WORKERS FEDERATION**

The Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) and Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) have unanimously decided to adopt the following declaration on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) 2020 with this year's international theme "COVID-19: Protect children from labour now more than ever" in order to combat against child labour. The declaration proposes as follows:

1. That EFP and PWF are key constituents of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
2. That World Day 2020 is part of the ILO's efforts to draw the attention of the ILO constituents and other partners to the need of redoubling efforts to achieve the elimination of all forms of child labour by 2025. We need to protect children from child labour, now more than ever. (official World Day slogan)
3. That the global data shared by the ILO shows:
 - a. 152 million children are still in child labour. 88 million (58%) are boys, 64 million (42% are girls). Girls are realizing much more domestic and care work.
 - b. This figure is almost 100 million less than 20 years ago, but it still means one out of ten children around the world is working below minimum age or in hazardous work which is affecting their health or even puts their life at risk.
 - c. 108 million (71%) are in agriculture, some in commercial agriculture (plantations), but the major part working in the context of their own families, contributing to a household income of low-income families.
 - d. 73 million (48%) are in hazardous child labour
4. That various report shows that child labour will further increase in Pakistan due to closure of schools, poverty, closure of industries, unemployment, etc owing to COVID-19 pandemic crises.
5. That ILO further shared that this might happen because of:
 - a. Unemployment: People lose their jobs or suffer wage cuts. They might bring in their children to compensate for the loss of family income;
 - b. Poverty: With poverty comes child labour as households use every available means to survive. Some studies show that a one percentage point rise in poverty leads to at least a 0.7 per cent increase in child labour.
 - c. Livelihoods: Vulnerable groups such as smallholder farmers, informal sector workers, rural youth and migrant workers are likely to see their livelihoods severely impacted by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those already facing hunger and extreme poverty, needing humanitarian assistance face particularly dire conditions.
 - d. Debt: People desperately look for credit and accept conditions that may lead to exploitation or enslavement of family members (bonded child labour);
 - e. Education: Temporary school closures have affected 1,6 billion students (equivalent to 90% of all students). With schools closed, the threat of child trafficking, debt bondage and all forms of child labour are huge. Even when classes restart, some parents may no longer be able to afford to send their children to school and they will drop out permanently.

- f. Social protection: Where social security systems are weak or inexistent, health or income shocks become existential and puts economic pressure on families to include their children into the workforce. This is particularly relevant in the context of rural household economies.
 - g. Migration: With the reduction of the number of migrants due to lockdown measures and restrictions of mobility, the opportunities for income generation activities are limited. Migrant families might need to use their savings and cannot afford to send the same amount of remittances to their hometowns. The reduction of remittances might induce receiving families to recur to child labour to compensate for the loss of household income.
6. That the fight against child labour requires strong partnerships at the national, provincial and district level as our target to end child labour in all its forms is by 2025.
7. EFP and PWF will continue to work with our constituencies and support actions to eliminate child labour so to protect children from neglect, abuse and violations. Moreover, EFP and PWF agree to make joint efforts for the elimination of child labour from all occupation, especially hazardous occupations. EFP and PWF are committed and prepared to support policymakers in their efforts to progressively prevent and eliminate child labour and achieve the set target under SDG 8.7 (elimination of all forms of child labour by 2025).

For and on behalf of EFP



Zaki Ahmed Khan

Vice President & EFP Focal Person
Employers Federation of Pakistan

For and on behalf of PWF



Zahoor Awan

General Secretary
Pakistan Workers Federation