



AHO Strategy and Plan of Action for Child Protection

Africa Health Organisation (AHO)

Waleed Shahid, MA International Development,
University of East Anglia, the United Kingdom.

9/7/20

Info@aho.org

Partners:



Table of Contents

AHO Strategy and Plan of Action for Child Protection.....	3
1. Introduction and Key Definitions:	3
1.1. Child Labor:	3
1.2. Child Abduction:.....	4
1.3. Child Trafficking:	4
1.4. Medically Neglected Children:	6
1.5. Children in Environmentally Sensitive Regions of Africa:	7
1.6. Children Out of Schools in Africa:	8
2. Situational Analysis:	9
2.1. Child Protection Laws in Africa:	9
2.2. Threats of Climate Change:	11
3. Course of Action:	12
3.1. Goals and Objectives:	13
Goal 1.....	13
Objectives:	13
Goal 2.....	14
Objectives:	14
Goal 3.....	15
Objectives:	15
Goal 4.....	16
Objectives:	16
4. Financial Implications:.....	17
5. References:.....	21

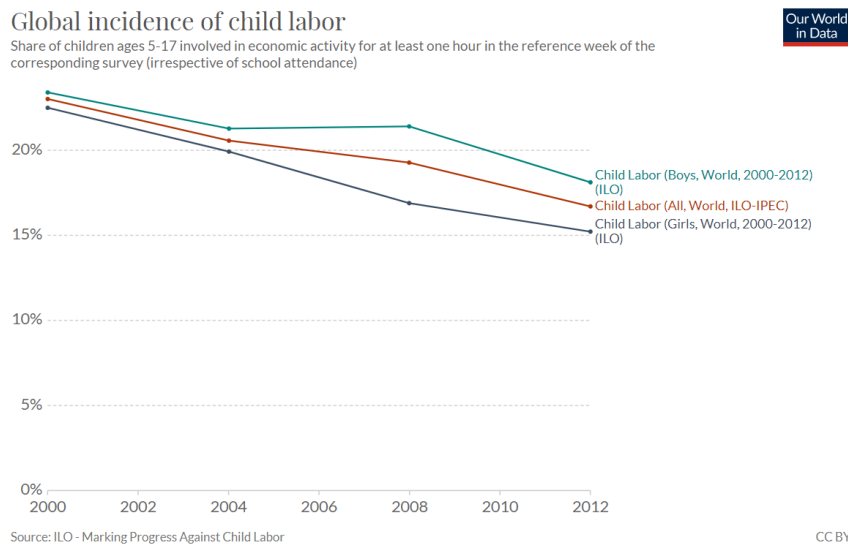
AHO Strategy and Plan of Action for Child Protection

1. Introduction and Key Definitions:

Child protection in the contemporary world is a prevalent issue. This issue is especially predominant in Africa. AHO sees child protection in cases where children below the age of 18 are vulnerable and exposed to trafficking, sexual and physical abuse, violence and other crimes. AHO identifies the following areas and practices that compel the need for child protection plan: child labour, child abduction, child trafficking, medically neglected children, and children in environmentally sensitive regions and children out of school in Africa.

1.1. Child Labor:

AHO defines child labour as a phenomenon in which children under the age of 18 are made to work in exploitative industries which in turn deprives them of the right to education, right to a healthy lifestyle and insinuate harmful impacts over their natural physical growth (e.g. requiring them lift-up heavy boxes and facilitate their loading). Child labour involves intensive physical and mental work that is beyond a child's natural capacity (International Labour Organization, n.d.). The industries that often feature child labour are porn industry, prostitution, drugs, chemical factories and factories in general where children are emotionally and ill-treated.



Available at: <https://ourworldindata.org/child-labor>

Furthermore, it is extremely hazardous to a child's health working in chemical industries as their body externally and internally is not immune to such environment. As a result of this lack of awareness within the African communities, many governments of countries do not strictly

enforce that the children should be enrolled in schools. This might prove to be beneficial in the short-term, but the lack of education for children causes adverse effects for the economy in the long-term.

1.2.Child Abduction:

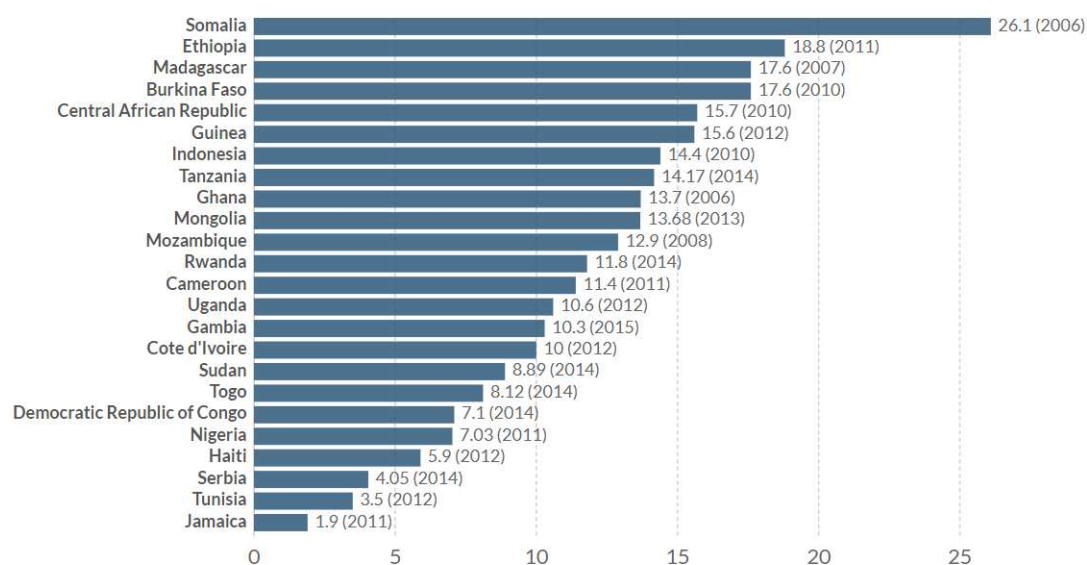
The phenomenon of child abduction can also be referred as kidnapping by members of abduction networks, where a child is either trafficked outside the safe zone for sex slavery or is physically abused in order for them to be either recruited to militia groups or to work as drug dealers. Such activities are often performed by mafias and interest groups that run an illegal underground network of abduction and thus facilitate crime.

Average weekly working hours of children

Average weekly working hours for children ages 7-14 who are involved in an economic activity for at least one hour in the reference week of the corresponding survey (irrespective of school attendance).



+ Add country



Source: World Bank

CC BY

Available at: <https://ourworldindata.org/child-labor>

1.3.Child Trafficking:

When particularly focusing upon the concept of child trafficking, it is important to understand its exact meaning as child trafficking is the abduction or procurement of children for forced labour or sexual exploitation. When it comes to trafficking the most vulnerable people are usually targeted and this includes migrants and individuals who are forcibly displaced. Child

trafficking in Africa in particular is an issue that has been marked with an increase based on reliable statistics from many sources. AHO's strategy plan finds that AIDS is among the five leading causes for deaths among young people. Sexually transmitted infections affect one in 20 adolescents a year and the common kind of sexual diseases includes Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea and Syphilis.

Moreover, there have been many instances of pregnancy among adolescent girls. This results in an increase in the risk of developing premature and infants with low birth weights. As a result of these adolescent pregnancies, the risk of cancer and HIV increases. Around 7.8 million individuals are enslaved in sub-Saharan Africa. Thus, 19% of the total global population is enslaved. In Africa, in addition to child labor, forced child marriages have become a common practice as well. According to a source, it has been found that Africa accounts for 8% of child sex trafficking in the world. Hence, for Africa to be more economically stable, it needs to make sure that children do not have adult responsibilities entrusted in them.

We must understand the root cause of such labor in Africa and when we consider the root cause of such heinous actions being committed against children and what they are being forced to do. Only then can the solutions be investigated because the crux of the problem can be discovered through all of this. Eritrea, Burundi and South Sudan have significant statistics provided for each of them. Now we can understand that economic conditions, violence and crisis contribute to the scenario that has occurred. It is painstakingly difficult to accept how children are exposed to the torture that they must go through because of such problems so we need to find a way to curb these complications first to slowly and steadily provide a significant decrease to such heinous activities.

Numerous statistics provide and deal with the number of enslaved children in African countries. The total number of children enslaved in Ghana is estimated to be 133,000 which is 0.48% of the total enslaved population. In Kenya, enslaved children account for 0.96 % of the total population. In Cameroon, it accounts for 0.69% of the total population. There are a lot of warning signs about when a child is being trafficked and these should be paid attention to. Such signs include bruises and unexplained absences.

UNICEF also provides an interesting statistic that currently about 300,000 children under the age of 18 are currently being exploited in more than 30 armed conflicts and this seems to be happening across the globe. An important aspect that we get around right now is that trafficking

can take many forms and another includes child sex tourism which appears to be quite disturbing as there are people who travel from their own country to another to engage in sexual acts with children because they cannot do so in their own country as such acts are illegal and abhorrent. This not only deteriorates the image of a particular country which is host to these crimes, but also deters companies from setting up in the country over fears of garnering criticism.

About violence being a source of child trafficking in the form of slavery, another extreme form of it can be looked into and this extreme form concerns particularly child soldiers. There have been several cases where even the government forces could be caught engaging in such activities but by large, such recruits are part of various rebel groups.

1.4.Medically Neglected Children:

Medical Neglect deals with not being able to provide the necessary care for children that concerns in particular medical care. When it comes to child sexual abuse in Africa, it is the responsibility of doctors to diagnose and identify such cases in instances when family of the child is unable to inform the authorities. However, medical care professionals lack the ability with regard to African emergency centres, as such centres lack the appropriate guidelines to identify child sexual abuse. One of the guidelines to be provided could include pregnancy in a child aged less than sixteen years of age. As we have seen the occurrence of sexually transmitted diseases in children, this seems to be another guideline to build upon.

However, the complications that can occur when it comes to identification is when we understand female genital anatomy and the variations that occur with it as well as other pubertal changes. Unexplained rectal bleeding can also be considered a cause of sexual abuse. One interesting point to consider is that injuries to the hymen heal remarkably quickly, thus cancelling out any evidence for past trauma that may have been experienced by the child.

McCann provided a reminder that healing of accidental and non-accidental injuries from pubertal girls was around one hour and included 3 days after the actual injury had happened. This shows that there is an increasing difficulty when it comes to extracting evidence when children are abused as the time frame capable for such extraction.

Unexplained vaginal bleeding is another factor through which sexual exploitation and abuse can be identified by individuals. Sexualized behaviors by children can also be something that can be considered as it means children are aware of such sexual activities.

1.5.Children in Environmentally Sensitive Regions of Africa:

It needs to be understood that the resources a country can provide is a significant factor that needs to be considered when dealing with children who are facing multiple health hazards. There are a lot of reasons that contribute in particular to the environmental sensitivity of children and these include the respiratory mechanisms in terms of children having a higher rate of respiration as well as children possessing metabolic systems that have not been fully developed as of yet.

The number of children dying all around the year globally from certain diseases is a lot and the causes are in fact preventable. It should be noted that a strong percentage of such deaths from preventable causes come from the poorest countries among the world and thus Africa can be considered. With air pollution, poor sanitation as well as lack of quality housing children are left exposed and the release of harmful gases in the air to which children are exposed as a result of playing or engaging in activities outside their home means that they suffer from diseases that contribute to their death.

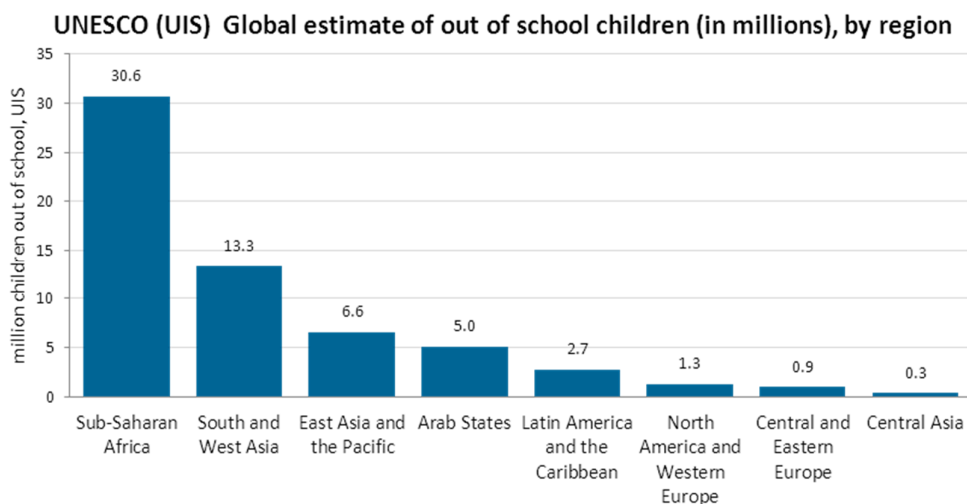
Pesticide exposure is another factor that comes to mind and proves to be a significant one as children would be playing in fields that have been sprayed and where pesticide applications as well have occurred. It has also been found that a prevailing presumption exists that pesticide exposure largely occurs in agricultural area. Pesticide poisoning incidents seem to be increasing. It can be understood that main elements to focus on include water and sanitation as it is required for them to be significantly improved so that the probability of death, morbidity and under nutrition can be significantly reduced as improved sanitation would mean that children would be able to properly be cleaned and have access to healthy drinking water as significant benefits arise as a result of it which include the creation of saliva, flushing out toxins from your body and maximizing physical performance.

As it is also capable of boosting one's immune system, it can once again be observed that the benefits are significant as many health hazards can be prevented through a stronger immune system. One can say that the apartheid system had a lot to do with the distress and difficulties that had occurred.

Such a system brings about racial segregation in the form of institutionalized racial segregation as there were four particular population groups in South Africa and the population was designated in a particular way to each of them with white, Indian, coloured and Black African with white population in particular benefitting significantly.

1.6.Children Out of Schools in Africa:

UNESCO Institute for statistics finds that 263 million children have been out of school and this includes 61 million children of primary school age, 60 million of lower secondary school age, and this also has included the first ever estimate of those of upper secondary school age at 142 million. This shows that the numbers have increased significantly. African countries these are in fact poor countries and poor countries and poverty is a major factor that results in children being deprived of education because it is an ongoing process to be educated as it has been found through statistics that 15-17 year old are four times more likely to not be in school than children who are between the ages of 6 and 11.



Available at: <https://www.epdc.org/node/1479.html>

It is common knowledge that as one ages education becomes more and more expensive and thus there is a consistent problem of poverty that is correlated and directly proportional to the lack of education that is attained by children in African countries. Similarly, children who have been deprived of these opportunities more significantly than others, is in certain African countries where there are armed conflicts. When considering conflicts, events in Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Nigeria and Sudan come to mind.

Furthermore, the International Poverty Line is \$1.90, and statistics provide that poverty rates are high in Africa as such rates are above 30%. Even though progress has been made with regard to increasing the number of children enrolled in institutions there is a strong likelihood that the African Union provides that this increase covers up a lot of inadequacies and

inequalities without providing an adequate solution to deal with them in the first place. Both secondary and tertiary enrollments have been suffering as they are not as much as compared to the number of primary enrollments. Tertiary enrollments refer to the enrollment of students into secondary schools meaning university level education.



There is a great stress on the education of children in Africa by various NGOs. This is because with more children enrolled in educational education, there would be a greater chance of them not ending up having to take part in dangerous or illegal activities in order to make money. Moreover, the increase in the enrollment also allows for the introduction of workers that have technical skills that would build core competencies rather than work in informal business that are not legally recognized.

2. Situational Analysis:

2.1. Child Protection Laws in Africa:

When we focus on the laws that protect children in Africa this includes the Children's Act. According to the constitution of South Africa, children are defined as people who are below the age of 18 and section 28 of the Bill of Rights provides every child with the right to family care or parental care, basic nutrition and health care services, be protected from exploitive labour practices and also be protected from maltreatment as well as abuse and degradation. The

section further provides that children should not be required to perform work services that are not appropriate for a child of a certain age and their wellbeing, educational, physical or mental health should not be placed at any sort of risk. The section further provides in subsection (2) that the interests of the children should be of paramount importance. One of the cases to consider when dealing with this section is the famous Grootboom case which in its full form is known as the Government of the Republic of South Africa v Grootboom and others. Despite the crux of the matter in this case being concerned with the relationship between everyone's right to housing and the right of children to shelter. However subsidiary principles of relevance were also established through the decision in this case. Yacoob J had referred this as maltreatment, degradation and abuse of children.

The commentary of this case provided that the state appears to be directly responsible for bringing about the fulfillment of this right. This calls for laws to be passed and enforcement mechanisms to be created. It has also been established that the right to social services is not to be equated with the right to nutrition, health care and shelter as it specifically deals with those children who have been removed from family surroundings. Another view that has been advanced is that the right against degradation and maltreatment is one which is directly enforceable against the state.

Corporal punishment is another area that can be looked into and in particular international law should be given focus where the case before the European Court of Human Rights comes to mind and that one is A v United Kingdom where it was established that the repeated beating of a 9-year old boy by his stepfather does in fact amount to degradation and abuse. Judge Schaeck was another judge who found a lot of support for the perspective that corporal punishment in educational institutions was a violation of the dignity of a child.

However, the case we have concerned ourselves with is still in effect an international case and it would be more appropriate to focus on cases within Africa in order to further explore the concepts of degradation and abuse within Africa. A plethora of cases come to mind, and these include Christian Education South Africa v Minister of education where the Minister referred to provisions of the CRC, stating that articles 37, 19 and 28(2) of the treaty concerning South African schools provided that corporal punishment should be abolished in institutions. The provisions and other laws show that there are various measures that seek to protect children.

However, it needs to be emphasized that the existence of provisions is worthless if there is a lack of implementation. However, for now the focus was on South Africa but other African

countries that include those that come under sub Saharan Africa must also come under focus. UNICEF has aimed to start projects to set up regulations for the protection of children in sub-Saharan African countries like Sudan and Somalia.

2.2.Threats of Climate Change:

Global Warming is a worldwide issue and its magnitude is felt throughout the globe and Africa can be considered to be one of the world's most environmentally sensitive regions and very much susceptible to climate change. Climate change is a phenomenon primarily concerned with an increase in global temperature. It is a complication which has resulted in significant steps being taken to counteract it as the global temperature has been on the rise with recent years recording some of the highest temperatures the world has ever experienced.

According to Business Insider, Bill Gates has stated that 'the best way to counteract climate change is to help the poorer countries survive it' (Wood, 2020). Thus, the focus can be brought about on Africa, as the continent does suffer from the adverse effects of climate change. Dan Shepard in his article on African Renewal has provided statistics that significantly raise concern. He provides that the IPCC projects in the Western Sahel Region will experience the strongest drying and an increase in the lengths of dry spells. West Africa has been identified as an area subject to significant climate change happenings in terms of significant reductions in crop production and yields because of it.

The temperature of waters has continued to rise, and it should be understood that this is not only a complication and issue for costal and marine systems, but it is also one for humans as well through fishing that takes place in rivers that have been acidified. Projections provide that there is a high probability that such increases will more likely continue for many years in the future. Since we are dealing with child protection, we need to consider the global harm that climate change poses to children worldwide and if we are looking at it worldwide that will of course in particular include Africa (Pretoria, 2011).

Children have faster heartbeats as well as respiratory rates when compared to adults. A healthy adult's heartbeat is between 60 to 100 beats per minute whereas when it comes to kids it can be as low as 60 during sleep and exceed the 100 to about 220 beats per minute during excruciatingly exhausting physical activity. Children are therefore more exposed the harmful gas emissions that occur on a global scale and are likely to be capable of suffering more harm. It was found according to a report in the United States in 2017 that young athletes were dying as a result of heart related illnesses.

However, when particularly focusing on children in Africa it may seem that such children who are used as soldiers and are forced to work as labour because of the ability for productivity to be cheap would mean that children will suffer as a result of being exposed to the weather and gas emissions that seem to be occurring. As children represent a significant percentage of the population of Africa these problems of malnutrition and diarrhoea have a correlation to the problems arising due to climate change. Also, pesticide exposure with children playing in fields is possible and as a result, further escalating the issue.

3. Course of Action:

It is important to consider a proposed solution and different programmes that can be undertaken in order to provide a solution to the problem. AHO can draw inspiration from UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) and WHO (World Health Organization) both of which have taken steps to improve the situation in Africa. The former has aided in accessing social grants as well as increasing the strength of care services that can act as an alternative to children who are being neglected as well as deprived of adequate care. The Marrakech Climate Conference held in 2016 had announced an “African package for climate-resilient ocean economies” which concerned helping to cope with the climate change situation by optimizing carbon sequestration. Through this carbon dioxide can be stored and this can deter climate change which includes further decarbonization as a result of storing other forms of carbon and also early warning systems can be improved upon (World Health Organization, 2020).

Moreover, it was estimated that by 2020 which is the current year, around 800 million dollars will be allocated for aid in tackling climate change in order to protect children and keep them safe in a better environment (Early action and scale-up of emergency response, 2019). First through social media and international conventions the issue can be raised, and funds can be collected for significant allocation. Fisheries and oceanic observation systems must be established as these systems will help monitor the healthy development of marine life. In order to curb the issue of child soldiers the stronger countries of the world like the United States can be encouraged by AHO to help in discouraging these practices.

Over 150 countries in the world are provided military aid by the United States and many countries are in a certain way dependent on that aid. Following the suit, AHO can appeal the Trump administration to re-impose sanctions that would prevent certain countries from using

child soldiers from receiving U.S. military assistance and weapons as well as any financial form of military aid. Unfortunately, President Trump waived CSPA (Child Status Protection Act) prohibitions for five of the eight countries identified on the State Department's child soldiers list which meant 1.4 million of assistance was provided to countries guilty of child recruitment.

AHO must make a deal with the Trump administration to re-impose such sanctions. Guidelines must also be provided to medical institutes and other healthcare providers within African countries upon the basis of which child abuse can be identified and children can then not be medically neglected and be properly cared for. Such guidelines include the identification of early-stage pregnancies and bruises which is a common occurrence when concerned with child abused. A lot of fundraising activities need to be set up with funds being allocated to healthcare professionals to effectively improve medical care and improve water supply as well as sanitation to help curb deaths due to preventable diseases within the region.

3.1. Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1

Goal 1: To raise awareness regarding child labor.

The initiation point and bedrock of any child labor project is to enlighten those most proximately associated with the issue, also the broader society, of the presence and repercussions of child labor and the role of education in overcoming it.

Objectives:

- 1.1** Call all governments in Africa to set up mobile education centres such as those set by NDS in Bangladesh, which reached out to the target areas, enhancing children's awareness of various types of child labour and basic children's rights and motivating them to pursue a better future through education as well as training programs.
- 1.2** Call AHO to develop community focused assemblies, for the training projects to equip children with skills pertaining to education, that stay active beyond the life of the projects.
- 1.3** Call AHO to provide mediums of free education or with costs counterbalance for destitute families.
- 1.4** Call all media to cover programs on TV that enable messages to reach a huge proportion of individuals. This can be accomplished through awareness enhancing activities, such as the newspapers, broadcasting, television, and digital media. If, for instance, the target

audience is an uninformed and isolated community, radio broadcasts will be the most apposite choice.

- 1.5** Call all policy makers to concentrate on the hazardous kinds of labour, and such a concentration delivers a starting point to tackle all child labour conditions. Hazards often go unnoticed because the damage, cognitive and psychological, pertaining to child labour may initially be imperceptible. Expert assessments of the real hazards to child labour can be a strong tool for stimulating change amongst children, parents, and policy makers.

Indicators, Baselines, and Targets:

Percentage of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour at the time of the survey, by region of Africa:

	2019 (Baseline)	2025 (Target)	2030 (Target)
Sub-Saharan	29%	24%	19%
West & Central	31%	26%	21%

UNICEF global databases, 2019, based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and other national surveys, 2010-2019.

Available online: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour/>

Goal 2

Goal 2: To reintegrate children who return after the conflict of child abduction or trafficking.

The primary goal to combat the aftereffects of child abduction or trafficking is to increase community awareness undertakings, comprised by collection, evaluation and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned, in accordance with reintegration and recreational programs.

Objectives:

- 2.1** Call all governments in Africa to initiate reliably funded reintegration programmes to equip children with the essential aid to recuperate their lives and enable them to reintegrate into the community. Children can become positive agents of change; therefore, ensure that all children suffered by conflict of child abduction or child trafficking can access reintegration programs for an apt duration.
- 2.2** Call all community donors to upkeep the incorporation of international child rights display unit in regions where child abduction or child trafficking is prevalent.
- 2.3** Call AHO to implement an action plan to culminate and inhibit the employment of children by armed forces, after the incorporation of three remarkable measures, comprising of

execution of standardized operation processes on the release and relinquishment of children linked with armed forces, community based complaint structure to notify children recruitment, and an instigation of awareness campaign on all detrimental violations associated with child abduction or child trafficking.

2.4 Call all communities to denounce all seizure of children for any reason, such as use as militaries, labourers or for sexual services.

2.5 Call all communities to welcome children returning from conflict of abduction or trafficking for they are prone to the risk of re-recruitment for an absence of contingencies, stigmatization for an absence of settlement and denunciation to a life in which survival takes antecedence over ambitions for an absence of education.

Indicators, Baselines, and Targets:

Child victims of trafficking in person, by sex, in Sub Sahara Africa

	2014 (Baseline)	2025 (Target)	2036 (Target)
Female	199	179	161
Male	351	316	284

Source: Ministere de l'action sociale et de la solidarite nationale.

Goal 3

Goal 3: Incorporate collaborative research and advocate it to eradicate child health issues.

The basic goal to tackle child health and environmental issues is to fortify intersectional cooperative research on children's health. Then, endorse, apprise and execute policies to guard children from environmental risks.

Objectives:

3.1 Call all governments in Africa to cultivate a national research outline for children's environmental health, which includes but is not restricted to an enumeration of high precedence research questions and prospective research projects, by initiating a sequence of foremost training centres comprising of pertinent experts.

3.2 Call all governments of Africa to establish regional laboratory accommodations for research on child health.

3.3 Call AHO to endorse amplified grants for children's health research as a venture for disease deterrence.

3.4 Call all media to arrange for a medium for the collective proposals of research studies regarding children health and sharing of findings amongst various studies on a larger level.

3.5 Call all researchers to carry out cost studies to approximate the cost of illnesses and disabilities from diseases connected to the environment and the upsides to anticipated measures and share the results to policymakers.

3.6 Call all policymakers to assimilate child's health into prevailing public health and environment plans and procedures where apt.

Indication, Baselines, and Targets:

Percentage of child mortality (number of deaths per thousand child births) in South Africa of children under five:

	2016 (Baseline)	2025 (Target)	2034 (Target)
Child Mortality	43%	34%	25%

Available online: <https://southafrica-info.com/infographics/infographic-child-mortality-in-south-africa-from-1974-to-2016/>

Goal 4

Goal 4: Inculcate policies that accommodate both weak learners and mentally challenged children.

Dearth of education can be combatted by provision of mediums of free education or with costs counterbalance for destitute families. The learning disabilities of children should be factored in which outlining a scheme that augments education in rural as well as urban areas.

Objectives:

4.1 Call all governments in Africa to highlight disadvantages of lack of child education from early juvenile years. Difficulties linked with poverty disturb learning much before children start primary school. To take full advantage of education, children need to also start school at an early age. A report (Sabates, 2012) highlighted those regions in sub-Saharan Africa, with authorised entry age is commonly six years old, the deprived kids are particularly probable to begin school late; and over-age kids are less keen on learning than other kids in the same class grade.

4.2 Call all educational institutes in Africa to make sure that teaching is at the right speed for slow learners. Educational interferences pointed at rudimentary learning and proficiency abilities for kids who fall short on academic anticipations display that these kids can advance quickly with the true support.

4.3 Call AHO to hold training workshops focused on enhancing skills for teachers. Insufficient training programs for teachers are holding back not only the teachers but also weak learners.

4.4 Call all volunteer programs to reach out to teachers to attend rural schools where they are needed the most. Teachers of mentally disabled or slow learner children must be less often, deliver feedbacks more frequently, and be awarded with an “excellent teacher” rank.

4.5 Call all world leaders to implement actions to safeguard children’s indisputable right to innocuous and non-violent platform for quality education and to safeguard the distinct shelter allotted to kids in regions of conflict.

4.6 Call all governments of Africa to motivate parents and societies to hold institutes and legislators to account. Governments must inculcate determined restructurings pointed at levelling the education of the unprivileged.

Indication, Baselines, and Targets:

Percentage of children between the ages of 15 and 17 that are not in school in Sub-Saharan Africa:

	2016 (Baseline)	2025 (Target)	2034 (Target)
	60%	54%	49%

Available online: <https://borgenproject.org/10-facts-about-education-in-africa/>.

Percentage of children in school not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading in Sub-Saharan Africa:

	2015 (Baseline)	2025 (Target)	2035 (Target)
	38%	34%	30%

The following table represents the percentage of adolescents in school not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading:

	2015 (Baseline)	2025 (Target)	2035 (Target)
	82%	73%	65%

Available online: <http://uis.unesco.org/en/blog/learning-crisis-causing-skills-crisis-heres-why>

4. Financial Implications:

For children’s education to combat conflicts such as child labour:

A report published by UN agency's Montreal-based Institute for Statistics underlines the total money spent on education in each of the Sub-Saharan African countries. It presents the most recent data on the amount spent on various levels of education. The research found out that in

Sub-Saharan African countries such as Burundi and Mozambique, sum spent on education increased by an average of 12% yearly throughout the last decade. Also, for all the countries considered, only one country, the Central African Republic, alleviated expenditure on education since 2000.

Another study (Cuaresma, 2013) highlighted that the international education growth in the 20th century has led to a remarkable alleviation in child education inequality across the world. During the period 1960-2010 the inequality in education plummeted each year, for all age groups in all regions across the globe. The most recent approximations of education inequalities throughout age groups underlines that more alleviation in children education inequality is still expected in developing countries.

AHO endorses that African government's total expenditure on education ought to be 7% of the national GDP. This figure is stipulated in accordance to the resources allocated is dependent on circumstances, and that there might be exceptions and requirements. In a gist, the total expenditure of the government depends on education structures, arrangements and capabilities that should be developed to guarantee that all children obtain an excellent education.

In contrast to these findings, government's spending on education as share of GNP improved in most of the Sub-Saharan African countries, amid 1999 and 2004, but remains below 5% in most of these countries. Furthermore, almost all Sub-Saharan countries with available data, the portion of pre-primary education in the aggregate expenditures on education is as low as 2% (UNESCO). Henceforth, the estimated amount needed from 2020 – 2030 is USD 890 billion with spending USD 89 billion each year as opposed the current spending of USD 12 billion each year.

AHO cannot implement this plan on its own. Collaboration with other bodies, associations and organizations is vital for its execution.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation:

In order to reduce child labour there has to be check and balance mechanisms in place that record and track the effectiveness of tools applied to achieve positive outcomes. Apart from assessing the effectiveness of tools, monitoring and evaluation framework will also help in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the tools applied. The indicators can prescribe the following:

- a) Raising awareness regarding child labour:

- i) Monitor the content and approach of campaigns facilitating awareness for child labour. Also, understanding the need to alter the mode of awareness in various context specific situations.
- b) To reintegrate children who return after the conflict of child abduction or trafficking:
 - i) Evaluating the curriculum for different age groups of children returning from the conflict prone areas.
 - ii) Looking at the response rate to tailor intervention trainings. Further, assessing the retention rate of children which will help understand the rate of progress.
- c) Incorporate collaborative research and advocate it to eradicate child health issues:
 - i) The number of countries that have incorporated specialized researchers to enable evidence-based advocacy.
- d) Inculcate policies that accommodate both weak learners and mentally challenged children:
 - i) The number of countries that have capacitated themselves with trained personnel to deal with weak learners and mentally challenged individuals.

Although, the measures taken incite positive and hopeful expectations for the results, but field researchers and support staff need to be stringent and vigilant with gathering data. There may be instances when the right data is not reported due to the on-ground complexities, thereby it is significant to resort to measures which mitigate the crisis at hand.

6. References:

- Cuaresma, J. C. (2013). Age-Specific Education Inequality, Education Mobility and Income Growth. *WIFO*.
- (2019). *Early action and scale-up of emergency response*. UNICEF. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/wca/reports/early-action-and-scale-emergency-response-2018>
- International Labour Organization*. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>
- Pretoria. (2011). *UNICEF*. Retrieved from https://www.unicef.org/childsurvival/southafrica_60750.html
- Sabates, R. (2012). *Who gets what? Is improved access to basic education pro-poor in Sub-Saharan Africa?*
- UNESCO. (n.d.). *FACT SHEET SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA*. Retrieved 4 26, 2020, from https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/gem-report/files/fact_sheet_ssa.pdf
- Wood, C. (2020). *Business Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.businessinsider.com/bill-gates-helping-poorer-countries-survive-climate-change-best-way-2020-2>
- World Health Organization*. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/climate-change>